THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE



KEE-OP!

AUSTIN'S ACTION HEROES GET A LEG UP

BY SOFIA RESNICK

P.46

AND THE NEXT CITY MANAGER IS...? FRONTERAFEST SCHEDULE

THE WONDERS OF RICE BRAN OIL ERNIE DURAWA & THE MONSTAS

Vol. 27 No. 19 ★ January 11, 2008

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CHRONIC HABITUALLY UPDATED BUZZ

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Chronic is now your one-stop blog shop for buzz on politics, sports, music, film, television, gaming, technology, design, gay stuff, and – do we even need to say it? – opinion. Our blogs as you knew them still exist, but now all posts will also feed into one crazy mash-up – newest on top, just like you like it.

NEW THIS WEEK!

EARACHE!: Schadenfreude takes in the final eardrum-shattering day of **FREE WEEK**, Death Valley Nights shoots **STRAIT**, and more

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Film, TV, games, and more fun with **MOVING PICTURES**

CHRONIQUE: Putting our **MOIST STAMP** on design, one stylish week at a time

THE GAY PLACE: **NEW HAMPSHIRE**, **NEW ORLEANS**, and other new places to gay it up in the new year

NEWSDESK: City Council Notebook, the **BATPAC**'s origin story, and state and national election dispatches

THE SCORE: Andy Denham blogs on **KEVIN DURANT**, **T.J. FORD**, and **LAMARCUS ALDRIDGE**, as well as other sports blatherings and whatnot from here and there

web extra

For this week's Web extras and more Web exclusives, go to:

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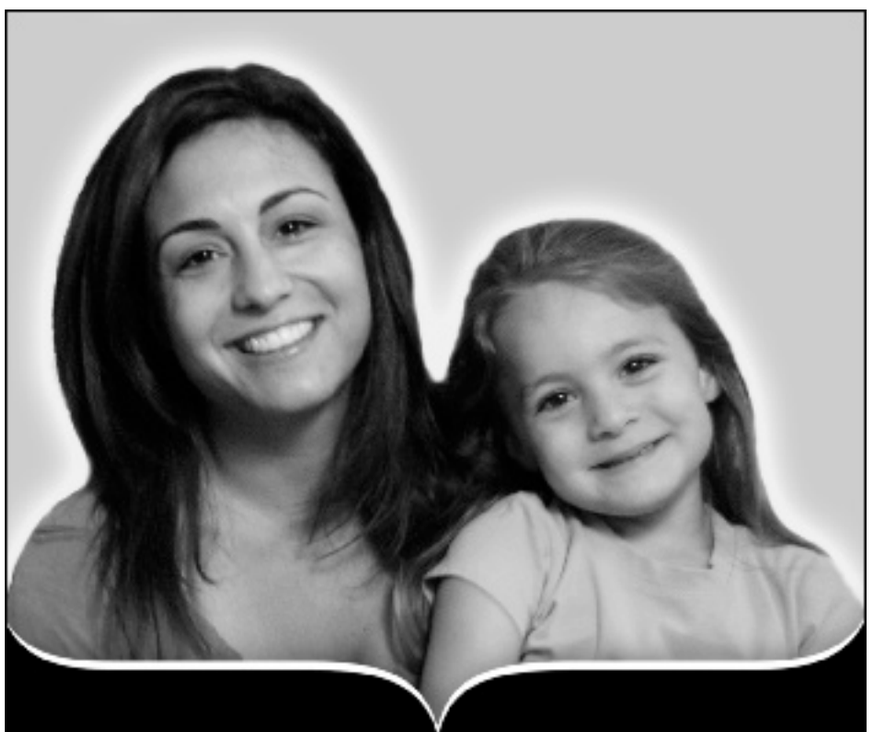
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Once in a Lifetime

Obama and Clinton are the future – a real future that is better than any fabricated past

BY LOUIS BLACK

"You will search, babe,
At any cost.
But how long, babe,
Can you search for what's not lost?"
– Bob Dylan, "I'll Keep It With Mine"

"You can't always get what you want,
You can't always get what you want,
You can't always get what you want,
But if you try sometimes, you just might find,
You just might find,
You get what you need."
– The Rolling Stones,
"You Can't Always Get What You Want"

"She knows there's no success like failure,
And that failure's no success at all."
– Bob Dylan "Love Minus Zero/No Limit"

There is currently so much discussion in the *Chronicle*'s online forums that even posts that are less than a week old are getting buried in the archives. One of the more entertaining threads has been in response to a letter headlined "Getting a Good President Now Would Have to Be Accidental." The letter is of the genre of those bitter and disillusioned with what American politics has evolved into in this modern world. As some posters point out, this is one of those water-from-rocks-in-the-desert miracles. The only way that the notion that voters' being stuck with choosing the lesser of two evils can be characterized as a late 20th century mutation is with a near-gleeful ignorance of history. As one poster suspected, "The last consensus candidate for president was Washington, George himself." Actually, to some extent this is almost ahistorical, as well, in that Washington was enormously popular, but neither his candidacy nor presidency was without substantial controversy and opposition. Not the least of this was that Washington was a strong, visionary federalist dealing with anti-federalists in literally every colony/state. Still, most of the really important political battles during Washington's presidency were between the very different visions of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Although the latter has been granted political sainthood by many historians, populists, and the public in general, for the most part it was Hamilton whose views won out.

In retrospect, it is easy to champion certain politicians and presidents while denigrating others. If you read contemporaneous press or detailed histories of damn near any period in American history, I'm sorry, but other than featuring the spectacular inadequacy of Bush and his appointments (as well as Karl Rove's parochial, partisan political strategizing), the current period is really not much of an anomaly in this country's history. Actually, the above is really a weak excuse to get in some more cheap shots at the current administration, because its spectacular ineptitude and miserably inappropriate political appointments really are not that unique. Partisan favoritism has frequently elevated loyalty over ability and expertise. Admittedly, Bush's anachronistic enthusiasm to gut the federal civil service, returning to essentially pre-Jacksonian federal feudalism, is surprising only in light of his lack of intellectual and historical curiosity.

In general, the view that this country has entered a dark age after a couple of centuries of being a republic of light and righteousness has more to do with rose-colored glasses than with any history. As the Talking Heads pointed out, "Same as it ever was …."

"And it's the same across the nation,
Black and white discrimination."
– Frank Zappa, "Trouble Coming Every Day"

My first real awareness of Barack Obama came from watching the Chicago news while visiting family in Illinois. It might have been as recently as his senatorial race or as far back as one of his previous campaigns. A local reporter approached five white women to ask them about the race.

I lived in Boston during the violent racial turmoil over busing, when stones thrown at school buses and curses hurled at schoolchildren were daily occurrences. For years, the Boston school board had known it needed to do something to integrate public schools but had always moved in exactly the opposite direction. Whenever a new school needed to be built, they would locate it deep in an ethnic neighborhood rather than near a border, thus preserving the de facto segregation. When a federal judge ordered busing, certain city neighborhoods became war zones.

During this time, I returned to Boston after making my first visit to Texas (I lived in Jamaica Plains, then a racially mixed, working-class neighborhood). Unfortunately but unsurprisingly, I had become addicted to barbecue. In the greater Boston area, not only the best but almost all barbecue joints were located in black neighborhoods. In those areas, it was not safe to stand on the corner or sit in a car if one was white (it should be noted that much of the violence then was white against black). Buying barbecue thus involved carefully planned expeditions. A friend would drop me off right in front of some place like Bucket O Ribs in Roxbury, then cruise around until I emerged and hustled into the car.

Daily TV news fare was working-class, Irish, white women screaming insults at police, bus drivers, and bused students, their faces often contorted in outrage.

Watching the TV in Chicago, I knew what the women on the news would say before they opened their mouths.

Except I was completely wrong. They talked about Barack Obama with a love and protectiveness that was unique for almost any politician. He was theirs, and they were his. His opponent, though ethnically similar to the women, was not even worth considering. In a way, it was as if they were saying, "How dare he run against Obama?" If I have ever witnessed the moments of true revolution, this was one of them.

As much as we may want to get into costumes to execute the dances of doom and despair around the center pole of "it used to be better," it never really was. The real present has trumped any tenderized, pasteurized, fictionalized version of the past. Obama's and Hillary Clinton's performances in Iowa and New Hampshire are unique. They are the future, regardless of what you think of either candidate – a real future that is better than any fabricated past. This, of course, can still pale next to the fictions of all too many who offer opinions based on personal fantasies and perceptions. But in despairing over the current state of things in the context of these versions of history, they might as well include fairies, gnomes, wizards, unicorns, and dragons in their laments.

□

"I can't help it
If you might think I'm odd,
If I say I'm not loving you for what you are
But for what you're not."
– Bob Dylan, "I'll Keep It With Mine"

"flotsam and jetsam
are gentlemen poeds"
e.e. cummings

One of the ugly secrets of publications such as this is that some of our most devoted readers, the ones who wait impatiently each Thursday for the new issue, are not attracted to writers they like or agree with but find their greatest pleasure in those whom they contemptuously regard as idiots. Ah, the dark pleasures of reading a review by someone whose taste, knowledge, writing ability, and opinions are so clearly inferior to one's own. Thinking of rebuttals to each and every inane point of the critic provides endless hours of intellectual pleasure.

Often, as I have previously discussed, mere disagreement with writers' opinions is hardly enough. Instead, readers dismiss contributors' writing abilities, attack personal heritage, deny that any thought has gone into reviews, and use every tool at hand to point out that their wrongheaded opinions are barely the tip of the iceberg of the critics' personal, intellectual, and aesthetic failings.

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JCAA

Jewish Community Association of Austin

Reading these dismissive rants is entertaining, but sometimes lines are crossed. In a recent diatribe against *Chronicle* film critic Josh Rosenblatt, a letter-writer acknowledged he had not yet seen *Sweeney Todd* but still took Rosenblatt to task for his review, sarcastically noting, "By the way, Johnny Depp got a Golden Globe nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture-Musical or Comedy for his role in this movie, but who knows? Maybe the 86 journalists who vote on these awards know less about movies than your esteemed Josh Rosenblatt."

I'm sorry: There is opinion, there is fact, and then there is sheer, uncut fantasy. The Golden Globes, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, are one of the endearing, enduring Hollywood mirages that all insist is real. Given the timing of the Globes and that they include television and film categories, the awards ceremony has become one of the industry's most star-studded events. But it isn't like anybody is fooled by what is really taking place.

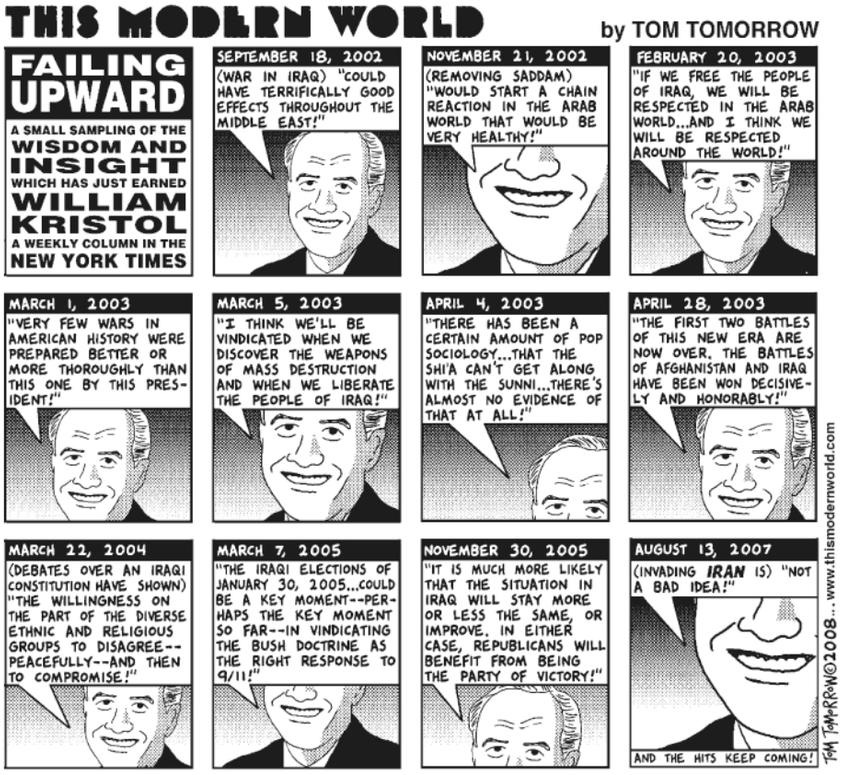
Using the term "esteemed" as a means of deriding Mr. Rosenblatt is absolutely delicious. If anyone could find 30 or 20 or even 10 "esteemed" critics among the 86 "journalists" that compose the HFPA, even the rest of the members would be astonished.

The New York Times has noted that the HFPA "functions like an exclusive club, admitting a maximum of five new members a year, though more often … accepting only one. Any single member may object to a new member, making it extremely difficult to join. The association does not represent internationally renowned publications like *Le Monde* or *The Times* of London – indeed, it has repeatedly rejected applications from a correspondent for *Le Monde*, while accepting applications from freelance writers from Bangladesh and South Korea."

Another *Times* article offers, "But the Foreign Press Association has always been a bit mysterious, even by Hollywood's slippery standards. Its members' publications are rarely listed in the phone directory. Some of the journalists don't seem to write much. And over the years several of them have reportedly also owned boutiques or worked as waiters."

Every few years, another exposé on the HFPA appears in some publication, to the point where there now are volumes of them, but the organization makes Teflon look adhesive. Recently, I was in L.A. with a friend who was going on about how well known it is that a nomination and sometimes even a win could be bought – not for cash, but by entertaining the HFPA members or giving them expensive gifts. The *Times* article recalls perhaps the most well-known example: "[T]here was that unfortunate incident in 1981 when the group heralded Pia Zadora as newcomer of the year for her performance in the flop *Butterfly*. It was later revealed that Ms. Zadora's producer (and husband), Meshulam Riklis, had flown the group to Las Vegas, Nev., before the vote for a few days of nonmoviegoing."

Now, I do not challenge any reader's opinion that any *Chronicle* writer or critic is an ill-advised hire, a pathetic amateur incapable of writing complete sentences or forming a simple thought. Instead, quite happily I find myself often included among the least gifted of this crew, many of whom are so moronic and singularly untalented that they are undeserving even of condemnation. This is not a defense of inadequacy or ineptitude. Just please don't beat us with a stick as wilted and lacking genuine respect as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. ■



POSTMARKS

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

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Whittaker's Biased Reporting

Dear Editor,

Richard Whittaker's article "Does Harry Potter Cause Sexual Violence? Only in Texas." [News, Dec. 28] failed to note key points in my testimony, including several years of law enforcement when I worked in Travis Co. as a deputy sheriff and a police officer for several cities. In the districts that I worked in Travis Co., there were several topless bars. I responded to numerous assault calls at these "gentlemen's clubs" and spoke to dozens of topless dancers who relayed histories of sexual abuse, usually beginning with incest during their childhood. This "thread" of sexual abuse and women who work in these sex-trade establishments is statistically "significant." Your reporter inaccurately portrayed my testimony by stating only my law-enforcement experience in Bastrop County, where I served as chief of police for the city of Smithville, where there were no topless bars. What is even more interesting is that Mr. Whittaker did not even get the correct name of the judge who heard this case. There is no Judge Scott Trevin in Travis County. The judge who heard this case was Judge Scott Jenkins. I am an avid reader of the *Chronicle* and enjoy many fine articles including some excellent investigative reports that far surpass any written by the *Statesman*. However, I believe if you are going to report news, your reporters have an ethical duty to report the facts correctly in an unbiased form. I will agree with the article in one aspect, though: The tax should also be imposed on all sexually oriented businesses that use and abuse women in the sex industry. Adult lingerie shops and adult bookstores should be taxed, too.

Hon. Kevin R. Madison, Esq.

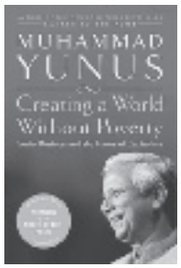
continued on p.10

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Perseus Book Group
Sunday, January 13 1 PM

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BY RAFE ESQUITH
Penguin Group USA
Wednesday, January 16 7 PM



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POSTMARKS :: FROM P.8

[Richard Whittaker responds: While Kevin Madison argues that the thread of sexual abuse is statistically significant, there was no statistical evidence offered to the court either by himself or the lawyers for the state comptroller on the connection between sexually oriented businesses and sexual assault. His evidence was anecdotal and, as was pointed out in court, based on his experiences in law enforcement more than two decades ago. As for the error on Judge Scott H. Jenkins' name, that is wholly my fault, and I apologize to the judge.]

Candidates' Ideologies

Dear Editor,

In Michael Ventura's latest editorial ["Letters @ 3AM," Jan. 4], the author laments that presidential candidates' experience appears inconsequential to the voting public at large, who primarily seems preoccupied with "change" in politics. While I would agree that political experience is important on a candidate's résumé and that talk of change often serves as euphemistic window-dressing to obscure inexperience, I disagree that job experience is itself the most important factor in picking a candidate. Mr. Ventura is correct in asserting that Joe Biden, Bill Richardson, and Chris Dodd are the most experienced. What he fails to point out, however, is that they are experienced stalwarts of the status quo.

The most prominent factor that points to what kind of president any candidate might be is his or her ideology. It is ideology that reveals motivation. And motivation shapes the alliances in Congress and the private sector that form U.S. policy. Unfortunately, ideology can't easily be ascertained by stump speeches or debates. Candidates spend millions on PR campaigns that, as Noam Chomsky puts it, sell candidates like they're selling toothpaste. Every election cycle, the same amorphous promises of "change" are uttered by every candidate of both parties. Our elections are popularity contests, and the candidates know this, which makes it easier for them all to sound the same in the absence of real scrutiny of their policy proposals and voting histories. That's the only real way to find out where a candidate is coming from: to research. Who funds them? How have they voted?

Sadly, not many people are going to spend the time to find these things out.

Every leading Democratic candidate has a proposal for an "Iraq-lite," a more palatable occupation of the Middle East. Our naivete and lack of inquisitiveness come at our own peril. And unfortunately, enlightenment doesn't look likely to occur absent more peril.

Justin Finney



Ordinance Is Not One-Size-Fits-All

Dear Editor,

Having lived in East Austin for the past eight years, I must say that "Hollywood" Henderson and I share concern about importing the McMansion ordinance east of the highway ["Hollywood vs. Ocean: Be There!" News, Jan. 4]. While the ordinance might prevent supersizing old-growth, upper-crust suburbs, I worry that the ordinance may inadvertently discourage denser development on the Eastside, which will result in fewer affordable-housing units being built in our neighborhoods.

Many lots in my neighborhood (Rosewood) have been zoned to accommodate two homes or a home with a garage apartment. For example, my house is currently 1,500 square feet and houses three people. In lieu of building a garage, behind my home is a 900-square-foot residence that houses three people. The back house sold for 26% less than my home, creating additional housing for a lower-income household, and it doubled the density for my lot. By limiting construction to 40% of a lot, many developers will simply build the one larger home (e.g., 2,000 square feet) for a high-end buyer and will not build a second structure or garage apartment suitable for students, middle-class families, or home studio/offices.

If our neighborhood (and city) is serious about promoting density and prohibiting obscene houses, we should focus on how tall the structures are and how much clearance there must be from the curb and in between houses and establish higher density thresholds for multistructure projects. Focusing on lot percentages alone will do nothing more than ensure that additional density is squashed.

Lonny Stern
Hope Street Group

Where Can We Find Bootlegs?

Dear Editor,

I loved "Girl From the North Country" on the *Nashville Skyline* album (bought the LP years ago when first published) but never knew there were more songs recorded during the session ["Page Two," Dec. 28].

I've been looking for these tracks off and on for a couple of days now with no luck, only found a couple of the songs on YouTube. Where do you buy bootlegs these days?

Thanks,
Pam Niedermayer

Top 10 Issues

Dear Editor,

Are you kidding me? *3:10 to Yuma* one of the Top 10 movies of the year ["There Will Be Film," Screens, Jan. 4]? Yeah, I'm starved for a decent Western, too, but try watching that clunker with one-quarter or more of your brain turned on. The only reason anything at all happens in it is because the "good guys" are too dumb/inept to tie up the "bad guy" well enough to make him stop killing them and getting away. Heck, *I Am Legend* is a much better written and crafted film, and I've certainly never been starved for zombie movies.

Sam Jansen

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Our Candidates Are Green

Dear Editor,

The Green Party of Texas registered with the secretary of state on Dec. 7 its required filing for political parties making nominations under Chapter 181 of the Texas Election Code [Newsdesk, News blog, Jan. 4]. The secretary's office confirmed proper receipt of this document. On Dec. 15, the Green Party of Texas Executive Committee unanimously decided to pursue ballot access. We are going for ballot access in 2008 and expect to have a complete listing of candidates for the general election in the middle of next week, as many applications were filed on Jan. 2. Please rescind your article, because it is not true, and please do not hesitate to contact me or the state executive committee if you would like correct, official statements regarding the party.

Respectfully,
Dr. Douglas Reber
Co-chair, the Green Party of Texas

[Richard Whittaker responds: The blog entry was written based on information that we believed to be correct, provided by Travis Co. Green Party Chair Bill Holloway and independent candidate David Griffin, who had intended to run as a Green.]

Conservation Is the Only Way

Dear Editor,

Thank you for recognizing the city's move of the proposed $500 million Water Treatment Plant No. 4 out of the Bull Creek Preserve as a top local story for 2007 ["Top 10 Local Stories," News, Jan. 4]. The move was critical to protecting Bull Creek headwater springs and endangered-species habitat.

In 2008 the City Council will hopefully come to see in water what they have finally understood in energy: that the only affordable, sustainable, and environmentally responsible route is to avoid building expensive new plants by investing in conservation. As a community, we waste a lot of water. It makes no sense to spend half a billion rate-payer dollars when we can spend one-tenth that much on conservation and not need a new water plant for 20 years or more.

Treating and pushing water around also consumes enormous amounts of energy. If Austin Energy is going to achieve its goal of avoiding building a new power plant, we must adopt the same goal for the water utility. Consuming less water also means we protect Lake Travis as a recreational resource and protect fish and wildlife and communities downstream. Let's stop this water boondoggle in 2008.

Bill Bunch
Save Our Springs Alliance

Pedicabs Break Laws

Dear Editor,

I believe Cmdr. Michael Jung of the Austin Police Department is incorrect with his statement that "Most of the drivers are avid cyclists and comply with traffic regulations" ["Fun, Healthy, and Green," News, Dec. 28]. I have been in the Warehouse District on many evenings and seen the pedicab drivers regularly pedal through stop signs (sometimes directly in front of APD officers at Fourth and Colorado). They also block the ramp to some sidewalks, ride through alleys, and sometimes ride the wrong way down one-way streets.

While they are not as blatant in how frequently they disobey the law as bike messengers are, they should follow the law or give up their job as drivers.

Sincerely,
Scott Johnson

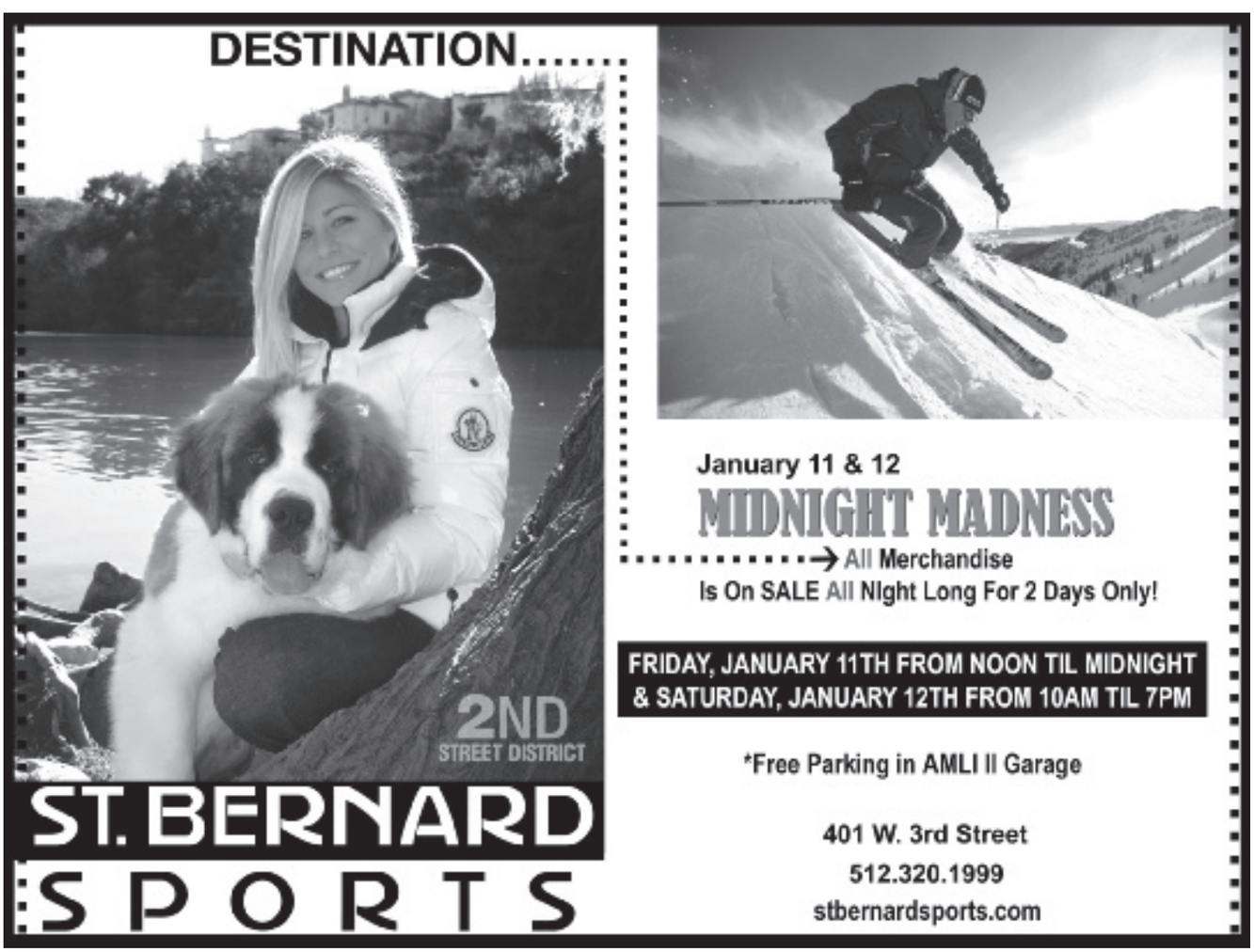
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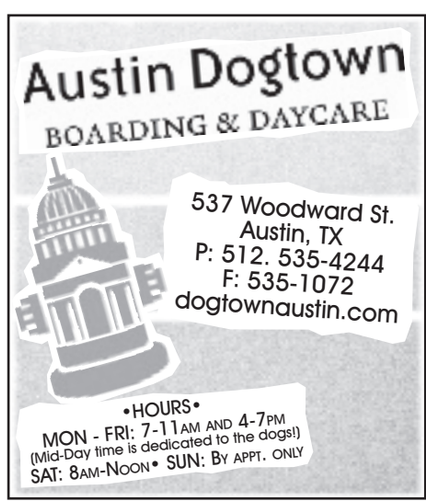
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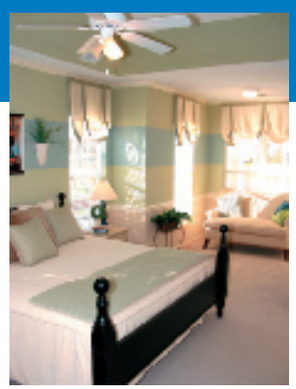
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Time to move on, Don
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Get your deposit back, Jack
Give 'em 30 days, Ray
No yard to mow, Joe
No rent to pay, Jay
No need to be sad, Brad
Come take a swim, Kim
Choose from 30 plans, Stan
You won't pay any more, Lenore
You might even pay less, Bess
Get a bigger place, Grace

Paint your home your way, Rae

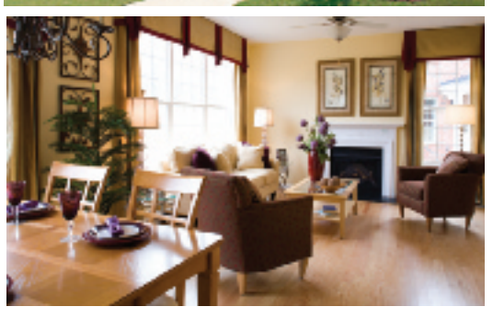


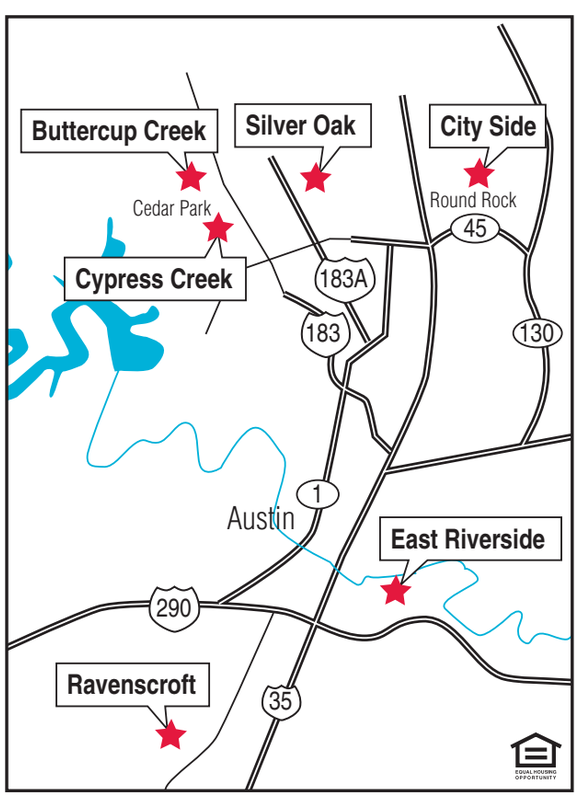
Decorate your new home in style, Lyle
Low-maintenance lifestyle, Kyle
It's really time to go, Flo
Save a few bucks, Chuck
Do not renew, Stew
Don't need to mow the lawn, Shawn
Got the perfect loan, Joan
You'll love the tree lined streets, Pete
There's a cul-de-sac in back, Jack
We got a master down plan, Jan
You'll have a place to park, Mark
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JOHN ANDERSON

NAKED CITY

- Former Austin Mayor **Gus Garcia** struck and killed a pedestrian crossing North Lamar Boulevard on Jan. 6. The traffic fatality was the first of 2008. Police say a Latino man in his mid-20s was crossing Lamar near Braker Lane in "midblock" shortly before 7pm on Sunday evening when he was struck by Garcia's Toyota traveling northbound on Lamar. The man died at the scene. Garcia, 73, said he was driving with his son to dinner when the accident happened. He told the *Austin American-Statesman* he didn't see the man who, he said, "came out of nowhere." Garcia called 911 for help and provided police with a blood sample, although police say there is no indication that speeding, drugs, or alcohol played a role in the accident. At press time, police hadn't released the name of the man killed, pending a positive ID and family notification. – *Jordan Smith*

- In recent attacks on Tax Assessor-Collector **Nelda Spears**, Democratic primary challenger **Glen Maxey** asserted Spears hasn't done enough for Eastsiders, citing a University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs study showing what he said was a disproportionate number of foreclosures on Eastside properties in 2006. For emphasis, Maxey pointed to a quote from City Manager Toby Futrell, saying the foreclosure stats caused her "shame." Spears' campaign responded that the foreclosures were almost entirely of abandoned or neglected properties that resulted in no Eastside residents being displaced from their homes. The Maxey campaign got a kick in the shins Dec. 28, when Futrell herself sent a letter saying that Spears is right. "When asked to respond on the spot that night to a foreclosure statistic I was seeing for the first time," Futrell wrote, "I said that I wanted to understand the numbers better, but if correct, it was shameful." But, "[u]ltimately in a May 11th letter to the Chief Operating Officer of the Travis County Tax Office and copied to me, [LBJ School] Professor [Robert H.] Wilson concluded that all of the East Austin foreclosed properties were vacant lots or had structures deemed uninhabitable by the City of Austin." To read the full letter, see "Futrell Refutes Maxey" at **austinchronicle.com/newsdesk**. The Democratic primary is March 4; in November, the winner will face Republican Don Zimmerman. – *Lee Nichols*

- The **Austin Independent School District** has announced two public forums to discuss the **proposed interim bond issue**, including funding for new schools, proposals for a citywide performing-arts center, and investment in technology. Citizens will be invited to give input on proposals from the Citizens' 2008 Bond Advisory Committee at 6pm on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Covington Middle School theatre, and 6pm Wednesday, Jan. 16, at LBJ High School cafeteria. The committee will make its final recommendations to the board of trustees on Jan. 28. AISD hopes to include the bond in the May 10 elections. – *Richard Whittaker*

- After repeated allegations from its retail tenants of overbilling and unresponsiveness to complaints, property management firm West Village Management Co. will no longer be running the **2nd Street District**. On Jan. 1, the Dallas-based firm transferred day-to-day operations to **AMLI Management Co.**, and tenants were cheerily informed they are now part of the "AMLI Famli." Local staff members hired to run the area have been transferred across to the new management, part of the group that owns the AMLI building on Second Street and which, through AMLI Downtown Austin LP, has always been the payee on tenants' checks. "This is uncomplicating things for tenants," said property manager Christine Miller. West Village will still be involved, as its sister company Urban Partners continues to oversee retail leasing in the district. Fred Evins, redevelopment project manager for the city's Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office, said the city is aware of the change: "We're interested in anything that better addresses the needs of the tenants." – *R.W.*

- If you've ever wanted to be an Election Day worker but recoiled at the thought of putting in 14 hours, Travis Co. Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir has a job for you. At the LBJ Library Tuesday, DeBeauvoir announced a new program called the **Early Start Team**: She's recruiting volunteers – especially young people and others who have never worked an election before – to take a shift of only two to four hours beginning at 6am to help set up one of the 200 **Election Day polling stations**. If you're registered to vote in Travis County, know your way around a computer, and can

continued on p.15

HEADLINES

- The **search for a new Austin city manager** is at full speed, with interviews ongoing and the announcement of finalists pending at press time Wednesday. See "Point Austin," right, and "Beside the Point," p.14.
- A new political action committee, Better Austin Today, or **BATPAC**, announced formation this week and its determination to be a player in spring City Council elections. See p.21.
- Hillary Clinton upset Barack Obama and the media prognosticators in **New Hampshire** Tuesday, despite polls predicting a double-digit Obama victory; John Edwards was a distant third. On the GOP side, Sen. John McCain defeated Mitt Romney, with Mike Huckabee bringing up the rear.

POINT AUSTIN

The Process

Council says: 'We're doing the hiring'

BY MICHAEL KING

Last week, it took the City Council all of half a day to select seven semifinalists for the position of Austin's new city manager, and by the time you read this, the list will have been winnowed down – via on-site council interviews – to two or three finalists. On the following page, we've provided brief summaries of the public careers of the semifinalists, which is about all you'll get in the way of advance details. Although it's been clear since last spring that incumbent City Manager Toby Futrell would be stepping down, and council members expressed the desire to have a new person selected by the end of 2007, the search itself (at least for out-of-town candidates) has begun with a lightning round, which will rapidly conclude (barring surprises) with a final selection expected next week.

There's been audible grumbling that the selection process has been insufficiently "public" and specifically that it has lacked the late-stage public forums provided for the final Austin Police Department candidates that ended in the popular choice of Chief Art Acevedo. (On Tuesday morning, the *Statesman* editorial board issued that complaint, oddly echoed later that day by the anti-establishment strange bedfellows assembled as the Better Austin Today Political Action Committee.) Early on, the council did seek public input concerning the prospective city manager "profile," and search firm Arcus Public held detailed discussions with roughly 50 "stakeholders" recommended by the council members, but – thus far – there are no forums.

Council members say the difference is entirely intentional. Mayor Will Wynn told me firmly, several times, "This City Council is going to hire this city manager." Jennifer Kim described her colleagues as united in wanting explicitly to depoliticize the position and to reaffirm that the city manager's central task is "to do the best job of carrying out [the council's] vision and policy." Noting that the council has taken plenty of heat for often being too deferential to the manager and staff, Mike Martinez argued, "We're damned if we do, and we're damned if we don't.

"We've been beaten over the head for not taking control of the city at the council level, for not being the governing body we need to be," Martinez continued. "This is the council's sole personnel decision. … So I think we took ownership of that. … We don't want to parade folks out there, make it a popularity contest or who the best actor is. We really wanted council to dig in to these guys and try to determine who we thought is the best fit to come in and lead the city."

A Level Field

The mayor also insisted, a bit testily, that all the candidates are being evaluated on a "level playing field" and that there was no "favorite" as they entered the interview stage earlier this week. He dismissed widespread rumors that the "insider" candidates have an inside lane, taking a chip shot at my high-spirited colleague Wells Dunbar for suggesting last week ("Naked City," Jan. 4) that the council might be "running away" from out-of-town candidates and thereby raising suspicion among potential applicants. (Responded Dunbar: "Since they already had their final list of applicants at that point, I think the mayor's being a little touchy.")

Nonetheless, insisted Wynn, "To a person, this council is really excited at the quality of all the candidates and is doing its absolute best to make the field as level as it can possibly be. We're excited and optimistic that such extremely well-qualified candidates have applied for the position, from within Austin and from across the country – and the entire council is very comfortable with the candidates and with the process.

"The really good news," concluded the mayor, "is that we've got a really fine group of candidates with a very wide range of different experiences and backgrounds, and all of them really want the opportunity to come and lead this great city." ■

BESIDE THE POINT City Manager Madness: The Semifinalists

BY WELLS DUNBAR

March Madness ain't for a couple months, but dust off those brackets – last Thursday, Jan. 3, after 3½ hours of consideration, the City Council emerged from executive session to name eight semifinalist candidates for Austin's city manager position: the three expected internal candidates (Laura Huffman, Rudy Garza, and a now-withdrawn Juan Garza) and five others from across the nation. The five external contenders constitute a field as diverse as it is experienced: three African-Americans, one female, three current city managers.

And just like your college-ball hopefuls, several picks won't go the distance. On Tuesday, Jan. 8, each candidate received an hourlong, one-on-one interview with each council member; on Wednesday, Jan. 9, council interviewed the applicants as a group, with the expectation they would announce two to three finalists. However, at 5pm, an apparently undecided council announced it would be recessing the search – without naming finalists – and continue deliberations at its meeting today, Thursday, Jan. 10. Council's still scheduled to interview finalists Wednesday, Jan. 16, and name a new city manager soon thereafter – but as Wednesday made clear, getting everyone on the same page is easier said than done. *– Wells Dunbar*

MICHAEL BROWN
THE ENTERTAINER



- **City manager, city of Savannah, Ga., 1995-present**
- **City manager, city of Columbus, Ga., 1989-94**
- **Assistant city manager, city of Savannah, Ga., 1980-89**
- **Town manager, city of Stratford, Conn., 1978-80**
- **City manager, city of Mount Pleasant, Tenn., 1975-76**
- **Intern/budget analyst, Charlottesville, Va., 1973-75**

Befitting his time spent in the Hostess City of the South (or is it "the Garden of Good and Evil"?), Brown has overseen an expansion of tourist-drawing destinations and capital-improvement projects, including an $800 million mixed-use river walk development and preservation and upkeep of Savannah's historic homes and architecture. (He erected similar attractions during his stint in Columbus, adding a river walk and civic arena, among other projects.) His work shepherding a merger between city and county police in Savannah could also prove relevant, as Austin plans to merge Airport and Park Police with the Austin Police Department. His résumé also trumpets "sustainable revitalization" of Savannah's blighted neighborhoods, creating thousands of affordable-housing units.

JELYNNE BURLEY
THE CIP PRO



- **Deputy city manager, city of San Antonio, 2006-present**
- **Assistant city manager, city of San Antonio, 2002-06**
- **Director, Facilities Planning and Construction; special projects manager, city manager's office; project information specialist, public works; budget and management analyst; project management specialist, San Antonio, 1984-2002**

Through her 20-plus years with the Alamo City, huge capital-improvement projects have been Burley's stock-in-trade. Her current deputy city manager position has her overseeing San Antonio's planning and development, a carryover from the work she performed as an assistant city manager. There she instituted the city's first tax-increment reinvestment zone, created a developer's incentive tool kit, and mapped a 20-year plan for the city's south side. She's also worked in infrastructure and budget departments. Burley made her bones tackling huge capital-improvement plan projects: doubling the size of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center while director of facilities, planning and overseeing the "design, coordination, and value engineering process" for the Alamodome. Go Spurs!

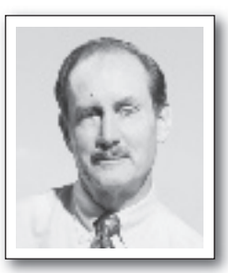
WAYNE CAUTHEN
NEW URBANIST NUMBERS MAN



- **City manager, city of Kansas City, Mo., 2003-present**
- **Chief of staff, mayor's office, city of Denver, Colo., 2000-03**
- **Deputy chief of staff, mayor's office; interim finance director; interim director, mayor's office of Economic Development and International Trade; executive director, mayor's office of Contract Compliance: city of Denver, Colo., 1993-2000**
- **Manager, small-business development program, Martin Marietta Aerospace Group, Littleton, Colo., 1986-93**

Thought Austin had a rough downturn? As city manager, having to correct a "structurally imbalanced" budget meant Cauthen had to cull $254 million in "expenditure reductions" – no mean amount of arithmetic. He augmented the cuts by garnering more than a billion dollars in revenue through bonds and voter-approved tax increases, all while managing to maintain high ratings from the bond houses. Cauthen also revamped an ailing housing authority; bargained with American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; and redrafted Kansas City's zoning ordinance with an eye toward mixed-use development, sustainability, and other New Urbanist ideals. During his time in Denver, he presided over several capital-improvement projects, including redevelopment of the Stapleton Airport, the largest urban infill project in the states, model to our Mueller.

RICK COLE
CALIFORNIA DREAMER



- **City manager, city of Ventura, Calif., 2004-present**
- **City manager, city of Azusa, Calif., 1998-2004**
- **Southern California director, Local Government Commission, 1995-98**
- **Mayor, vice mayor, City Council member: Pasadena, Ca., 1983-1995**

We might be a little biased in favor of Cole, as he helped found the *Pasadena Weekly*, a fellow alt-weekly on the Left Coast – it's part of a long career that's bucked convention. Cole served the city of Pasadena for more than a decade, ultimately becoming mayor, pitching the precepts of density, transit-oriented development, pedestrian-friendliness, and New Urbanism all the way. In Pasadena, Azusa, and Ventura – where he currently serves as city manager – he's redrafted the city General Plan to incorporate such goals. He also writes and speaks frequently on the tenets of New Urbanism and addresses his Ventura citizens on – what else? – his own blog.

MARC OTT
THE PUBLIC WORKER



- **Assistant city manager, city of Fort Worth, 2002-present**
- **City administrator, city of Rochester Hills, Mich., 1998-2002**
- **City manager, deputy city manager, assistant city manager, city of Kalamazoo, Mich., 1990-97**
- **Administrative services officer, director of management services, city of Grand Rapids, Mich., 1984-90**
- **Administrative assistant to city manager, city of Jackson, Mich., 1982-84**
- **Staff assistant, city of Ann Arbor, Mich., 1981-82**

With more than 25 years in the public sector, Ott has plenty of experience in the nitty-gritty of city service. In his capacity as Fort Worth assistant city manager, he oversees capital-improvement projects departments like water utility, transportation, public works, engineering, and aviation, as well as special projects like creating an asset management program and a CIP management system. But during his tenure in Michigan, he ran the gamut. In Grand Rapids, he prepared budgets as director of management services; in Kalamzaoo, he negotiated collective bargaining contracts and oversaw departments like public safety, economic development, and human resources.

And a brief reprise on …
The Internal Candidates

RUDY GARZA

- **Assistant city manager, city of Austin, 2004-present**
- **Budget officer, city of Austin, 2000-04**
- **Accounting supervisor, assistant budget director, budget director, city of Corpus Christi, 1992-2000**
- **Tax auditor, Texas comptroller's office, 1989-92**

LAURA HUFFMAN

- **Assistant city manager, city of Austin, 2002-present**
- **Deputy city manager, city of San Marcos, 1994-2002**
- **Executive assistant to city manager, city of Austin, 1992-94**
- **Auditor, city of Austin, 1990-92**

JUAN GARZA

And then there were two. Austin Energy General Manager Juan Garza's surprise announcement on Jan. 3, that he'd been hired to calm the waters at Pedernales Electric Cooperative, means these two assistant city managers are the only existing Austin employees still in the running. Hmmm … maybe the PEC brass read our profile of the then-three contenders ("The Insiders," Dec. 21, 2007) and decided Garza's paternal style was just what the troubled co-op needed.

(EVEN FURTHER) BESIDE THE POINT Auld Lang … Sigh BY WELLS DUNBAR

It's fun to throw on your new duds, compare holiday hauls, and break the cabin fever, but let's face facts: First days back are always a drag, right?

The city manager search may have rung in the new year, but **City Council** still parties on, noisemakers in hand. The Jan. 10 meeting – the first in four weeks – features a long, workmanlike agenda, long on nondescript consent items and zoning minutiae and short on flashy council initiatives. The only substantive item from the dais is **Brewster McCracken**'s **Austin Parking Enterprise**, where the city (counter-?) intuitively channels its coin from operating garages into pedestrian-oriented amenities like walking trails and transit hubs. In delaying the measure from December, McCracken promised a presentation and greater explanation of the program – so let's have it. Other items from council include a kick-start to **Gus Garcia Park** and making the lumps-of-coal-consuming **Trail of Lights** carbon neutral "as soon as possible."

Aside from a clutch of **vertical mixed-use opt-ins** from different neighborhoods and planning areas (Judges' Hill, Old West Austin, Bouldin, Dawson, Galindo, and Greater South River City), most of the action is reserved for future meetings. For its Thursday, Jan. 31, meeting, council is set to schedule **public hearings** on mobile food-establishment rules (né Taco Wars Redux), affordable-housing development incentives, and residential space in mixed-use buildings; **CWS Capital Partners' Waterfront Variance denial appeal** is scheduled for Feb. 14. Will it be a luxe-condo love-in? Or the Valentine's Day Massacre?

It's always New Year's Eve at **wdunbar@austinchronicle.com**.

lift 35 pounds, you're probably qualified. Tuesday was Volunteer for Democracy Day, a creation of last year's Legislature, and DeBeauvoir had Austin state Reps. Dawnna Dukes and Donna Howard at her side for the announcement. DeBeauvoir said she hopes the initiative will convince young people they may eventually want to get even more involved in the election process and supplement the AARP-ers who tend to dominate the polling place workforce. The primary election will be held March 4; deadline to register is Feb. 4, and early voting runs Feb. 19-29. To get involved, call 854-4996 or go to **www.traviscountyelections.org**. – *L.N.*

Austin Police Department Officer Scott Lando is the subject of an ongoing investigation into his alleged love affair with a woman named Denise Pfeifer, who alleges Lando paid her $70 for sex (which apparently took place in Lando's patrol car, parked at a construction site – sexy, eh?) and then took her shopping – at Wal-Mart and Payless Shoes. To top it off – perhaps to sweeten an otherwise sad, sad romance – Pfeifer alleges Lando took her to his home, let her rummage through his wife's clothes, and take whatever she wanted – which reportedly included a pair of Harley-Davidson boots and a bedazzled pair of jeans. According to the *Statesman*, Lando met Pfeifer while investigating a report she'd been assaulted; the decidedly third-rate romance allegedly lasted for four months in 2006. Lando denies the allegations, said his attorney Travis Williamson. "If she has been in his house, it was without his knowledge or permission," Williamson told the daily. Lando's wife says she was with her husband at the time the items from her closet were stolen, Williamson said. According to a police affidavit, Lando's wife said she noticed several things were missing from her closet but assumed – inexplicably – that a "neighborhood kid" had lifted them. Lando, a five-year department veteran, is on paid leave while criminal and administrative investigations are ongoing. – *J.S.*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS



JOHN ANDERSON

Envision This: City officials from Elgin made an urgent pitch to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on Monday to get their own **commuter-rail line from Elgin**, through Manor to Austin. Unused but sound tracks are in place; about half of Elgin residents commute daily to Austin. Elgin is within the five-county Envision Central Texas planning region and wants to join Leander in enjoying a booming tax base from transit-oriented development. Elgin recently purchased a large tract for a TOD, but neither CAMPO nor Capital Metro has the dough to finance another new commuter-rail line right now. Elgin City Manager Jeff Coffee said his city could help foot the $75 million to $80 million bill but can't swing it alone. One possible funding source, said Brewster McCracken and Travis Co. Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, would be revenues from planned toll-road segments on 290 East to Elgin – a neat bit of transit eco-justice. – *Katherine Gregor*

Ohio Rep. **Dennis Kucinich** and his booster **Willie Nelson** are suing the Texas Democratic Party after they refused to put the presidential hopeful's name on the March 4 primary ballot. Kucinich sent in his paperwork on Jan. 2, before close of filing, but scratched out the party-mandated pledge to support the winning candidate. He offered to sign the oath if he could alter it so that he would only have to support a candidate if he or she promised not to use war as a tool of foreign relations. The party rejected his offer. "While we respect his convictions, it's our responsibility to enforce the rules," said TDP Communications Director Amber Moon, noting that Kucinich signed the oath in 2004. However, Kucinich press secretary Andy Juniewicz called it "a blind loyalty oath to a candidate whose positions regarding war and peace are unclear." U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel will hear the suit on Jan. 11. If the court rules the oath is illegal, the secretary of state will be instructed to add Kucinich to the ballot, along with the certified list of candidates submitted by TDP. – *R.W.*

While Republicans and Democrats may not know who will be on their slate come November, at least they know they'll have one. Texas Greens may have to wait until June to know whether they have official candidates. The **Green Party of Texas** registered with the secretary of state on Dec. 7 for a place on the ballot, and its state executive committee voted unanimously on Dec. 15 that the party would pursue ballot access. The Greens now have to wait until a week after the March 4 Democratic and Republican primaries and will then have 75 days to collect and submit 43,992 signatures, equal to 1% of the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election, from registered voters who did not take part in either primary. The signatures then have to be verified. This means Greens still may not have a decision by their June 14 convention (expected to be held in Houston). "You can see why it's considered the third-worst state (after North Carolina and Pennsylvania) for ballot access," said party Chair Doug Reber. – *R.W.*

The Texas Civil Rights Project reports Doreen Anderson, daughter of executed inmate **Michael Richard**, who was put to death last fall, has intervened in a federal lawsuit charging Court of Criminal Appeals presiding Judge **Sharon Keller** with violating Richard's constitutional rights by refusing to accept his last-minute appeal only because it was filed shortly after 5pm, the court's arbitrary closing time set that day by Keller, without consultation with the other judges. Like her stepmother, Richard's widow, Marsha Richard, Anderson claims Keller violated her father's civil rights to due process and equal protection by refusing to let Richard's attorneys file an appeal that would stay his execution. The attorneys had computer problems and asked the CCA clerk's office to remain open for 20 minutes on Sept. 25, in order to give them a chance to file the appeal; Keller denied the request even though she was not the judge assigned to handle Richard's case. Richard was executed that night. For more on this, see "Closing Time?," Oct. 19, 2007. – *J.S.*

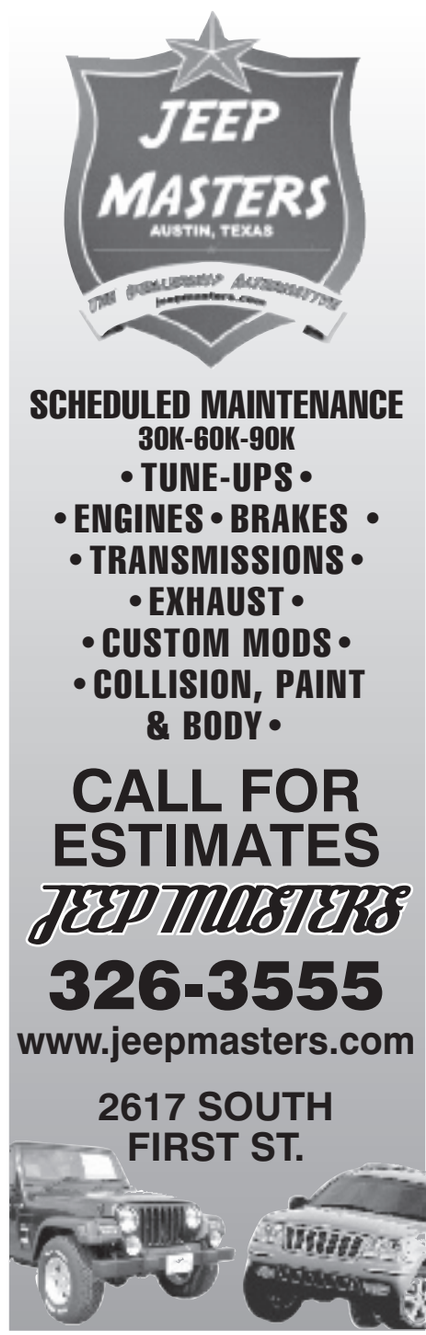
A U.S. district judge in Dallas upheld this week the Texas law that requires **public school students** to observe a **moment of silence** each morning. David and Shannon Croft, a couple from Carrollton, a suburb of Dallas, had sued Gov. Rick Perry and their local school district, arguing the law is the equivalent of school prayer and is therefore unconstitutional. The Crofts certainly had some evidence state lawmakers would like to encourage prayer. Legislators added the word "pray" to the law in 2003, but the wording also allows students to "reflect" or "meditate." U.S. District Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn disagreed that the wording is unconstitutional. "The Legislature amended the statute to provide a period of time for the full panoply of thoughtful contemplation," she said. However, Judge Lynn did leave the door open for another lawsuit if a local district is specifically encouraging students to pray during the moment of silence. – *Michael May*

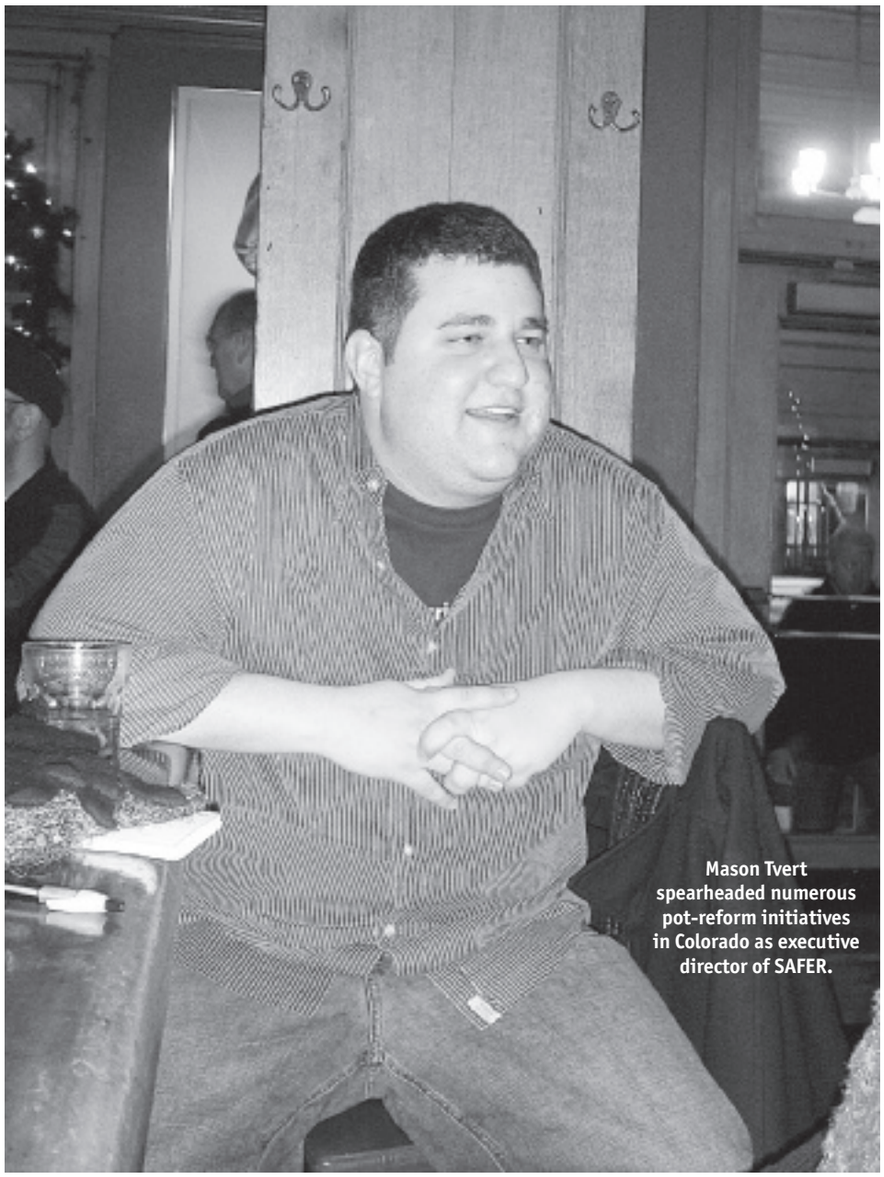
The **fire** that knocked community station **KOOP** (91.7FM) off the air last weekend was intentionally set, according to Austin Fire Department investigators. Firefighters were called to KOOP's Airport Boulevard facility Sunday morning, exactly two years to the day after the first of two fires destroyed KOOP's Fifth Street headquarters. Both of those fires were labeled accidents. This weekend's fire caused "significant damage," said KOOP President Andrew Dickens. Fire Department officials estimated the damage at $300,000. It might take several weeks before KOOP can return to the facility, but the station may make other arrangements to return to broadcasting, Dickens said. He declined to discuss the cause of the fire. In a press release, the station said: "The possibility that someone would want to cause harm to this community radio station is disturbing. … We will not allow our voices to be silenced by an attack on free speech and community radio." The Texas State Arson Hotline is offering a reward of up to $5,000 for information leading to an arrest; call 877/4FIRE45 with tips. – *Kevin Brass*

U.S. Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey will proceed with a criminal investigation, to be conducted by the FBI, into the **destruction of videotapes of detainee interrogations** by CIA personnel, the Department of Justice announced Jan. 2. "Following a preliminary inquiry … the department's National Security Division has recommended, and I have concluded, that there is a basis for initiating a criminal investigation of this matter," Mukasey stated in a DOJ press release. The NSD and the CIA Office of Inspector General opened the inquiry on Dec. 8, after CIA Director Michael Hayden admitted that videotapes had been destroyed. During the inquiry, the government argued that destruction of the tapes did not have to do with the treatment of Guantanamo Bay detainees, while lawyers for 11 Yemeni Guantanamo prisoners sought to establish a link between the two. U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg of the Eastern District of Virginia, where CIA headquarters is located, has been removed from the investigation "in an abundance of caution" to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, according to DOJ announcements. John Durham, first assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Connecticut office, will supervise the FBI investigation. – *Patricia J. Ruland*

Indigenous communities along the U.S.-Mexico border are banding together to halt a U.S. Department of **Homeland Security landgrab** of private property. On Jan. 7, a coalition of property owners, legal representatives, and Native American and border community leaders from across the country conducted a national phone media conference announcing their intentions to build a wall of their own – a legal barrier to DHS' plan to seize private lands, through eminent domain powers, to build a **border security wall**. "Our lands are not for sale. The U.S. government must stop its illegal attempts to intimidate us. DHS cannot take away our homes for border militarization," said Eloisa Tamez, a member of the Lipan Apache people and Basque-Ibero of the Lower Rio Grande region, in a press release, which notes that the conference coincided with the expiration of 30-day notices to cooperate with the feds, or else. Property owners were informed that if they do not voluntarily allow federal agents access, the government will file suit. Native Americans have resided for centuries on lands succumbing to seizure – the wall has already led to the bulldozing of ceremonial grounds in Arizona. "We the people of the Texas border will not allow that to happen here," said Border Ambassadors' Jay J. Johnson-Castro Sr., in an e-mail. – *P.J.R.*







Mason Tvert spearheaded numerous pot-reform initiatives in Colorado as executive director of SAFER.

JOHN ORMBERGET

REEFER MADNESS

Q&A With SAFER's Mason Tvert

BY JORDAN SMITH

In 2004, **Mason Tvert** graduated from the **University of Richmond** and was looking for a job. The 25-year-old Arizona native wanted to work in public policy but had no idea where he'd end up working – and he certainly didn't imagine that less than a year later he'd be front-and-center in the burgeoning **alcohol-marijuana equalization movement**, striving to change public attitude regarding responsible marijuana use by adults and working to decriminalize private pot use by adults – bringing pot-use penalties in line with those associated with alcohol use. But that's exactly where he is. As executive director for the Denver-based group **Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation**, Tvert has blazed a trail through Colorado – directing successful equalization initiatives at the **University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo.**, and at **Colorado State University** (parity policies have now passed at a handful of other schools, including the University of Texas); spearheading two successful initiatives in Denver, in 2006 making possession of up to 1 ounce of pot by adults legal and last year designating pot-law enforcement the city's lowest priority for police; and dogging a statewide equalization initiative in 2006 that – despite gruff opposition (including from the feds), earned an impressive 41% of the vote. Last month, Reefer Madness caught up with Tvert in Denver for a drink (at the Wynkoop Brewing Co., founded by Denver Mayor **John Hickenlooper** – with whom Tvert and his colleagues have had their "moments") and a chat about SAFER's successes and the meaning of pot-law parity.

Reefer Madness: *How did you become involved in pot-policy work?*

Mason Tvert: [After graduation] I was trying to get a job going in D.C. I applied for everything from Planned Parenthood to different policy think tanks to the **Marijuana Policy Project**. [MPP] said, "I see you're from Arizona, so do you want to go out there?" I said, "Sure, you paying for it?" It was the last couple [of] weeks [before] the Republican primary in the Glendale/Phoenix area, [and I went there to do] work [related to] the [federal] **Hinchey-Rohrabacher [medical-marijuana] amendment**. Then they hired me to go up to Flagstaff, [Ariz.,] to work on a congressional seat up there during the general election. [After that,] with a couple of people from MPP, I started on this.

RM: *How did that come about?*

MT: Steve Fox was the director of government relations at MPP. He hired me on to do the Arizona work. He [and **Aaron Houston**, who took over Fox's job at MPP] always had the idea for this "SAFER" stuff. Steve, primarily, was interested in the message that marijuana is safer than alcohol. My personal experience told me this was true.

RM: *What was your experience?*

MT: What started it all was that in high school I was a borderline alcoholic – I was drinking too much; I [once] had gotten alcohol poisoning and had to have my stomach pumped.

I've done a lot of drinking since then – I pledged a fraternity in college – [but I never got in trouble for, or was warned about drinking]. They tell you, "Don't do drugs!" And they tell you some, "Don't drink and drive," but they don't tell you a lot of that.

[Then, in college,] I was subject to a **multijurisdictional grand jury related to marijuana use** – not even pot sales or distribution but the culture of pot. They said, "We heard you use marijuana." Richmond is the midpoint of I-95 between Miami and New York, and someone must've been busted [moving pot up the corridor]. As I was finishing up finals … for the year, they called me in: They asked me, "Who do you use marijuana with?" I said, "All the other guys you've called in here." "Where do you get it?" [they asked.] I said, "I don't know, some guy downtown named Bird." "Where do you use it?" "My dorm room." "Where else?" [they asked.] I had some friends who were seniors and moving out, so I said I used it at their place.

RM: *Wow. That's crazy.*

MT: I thought it was crazy. It is obvious to any rational person that it doesn't make any sense: There's a ridiculous amount of drinking going on, and they don't ask anything about that. [But] if they even think that you smoke marijuana, then everyone from the campus police on up to the federal government is interested.

Drug education is based on penalties, not on [information about or risks associated with use of the] drug itself. Many people I know didn't use marijuana [only] because of the consequences. They drank because they knew they wouldn't get in any trouble.

RM: *So how did you end up in Colorado with SAFER?*

MT: [Aaron Houston] was very active [in Colorado], and he'd developed a plan to go to CU and CSU [with the goal of passing alcohol-marijuana equalization measures]. So he hired me to come along, and MPP gave us a half-grant to see if it would be successful.

RM: *And you were – both measures passed. Were you pleased?*

MT: More or less. There were still more than 1,000 CU … students that said, "No, we should keep marijuana [penalties] worse than alcohol" – and that's sort of scary. Some 4,000 said yes, but still, it just goes to show why there's a need for this [movement]. I'm not gay, but I vote for laws to make things more fair for gay people; I've never had an abortion, nor have I had a girlfriend who's had an abortion, but I still vote for the right for a woman to choose [her reproductive future]. [So] why is it that when it comes to marijuana, we create these stereotypes? That [marijuana use] is only about hippies or rebellious counterculture? That's what we're trying to change. It is a recreational drug that responsible adults use. That's the problem for me and for this movement – the rhetoric that [pot use] is … bad. The argument has been, "This is a bad thing, but [policing pot] is a waste of law-enforcement resources." This is what needs to change: Pot is not so bad – it is less harmful than alcohol – and that's why the law needs to change.

RM: *With success at CU and CSU, you moved on to Denver. How did that happen?*

MT: It was go to other colleges or go municipal, to Denver – basically it was go broad or deep. If you do it citywide, [we thought] it probably wouldn't pass, but it would get a lot of attention if we did a good job. But Denver is just a pretty good city, [and it passed first time out].

RM: *But not everyone was pleased, I guess, including Mayor Hickenlooper?*

MT: He certainly likes to talk this whole progressive game, but he's not [progressive] when it comes to this issue. [He says there are] more important issues, and he cares about those issues.

RM: *That may be, but then why would he even mention being opposed to it? It seems to me he made it a bigger deal by actually coming out against it.*

MT: He said in the newspaper that he didn't support it … [but] he didn't make a big deal out of it; we did. Still, in January 2007, [we found that there were] more arrests in 2006 than in 2005. Hickenlooper was running for re-election, and so … that's how "Chickenlooper" started: He was running and hiding from our questions [about how the initiative was being implemented].

RM: *So at that point the initiative was really in name only?*

MT: Yeah. So in May [2007], we launched the "lowest-priority" initiative [and were successful in getting voters to approve language directing the city to make adult pot-possession enforcement the lowest of policing priorities]. And, by the way, there's news [on this] today that will probably make the papers … that Hickenlooper appointed the 11-member panel … basically to study and review the issue – officially [under the new law] they're charged with implementing [the lowest-priority initiative] to the greatest extent possible.

RM: *What would you like to see come out of that process?*

MT: I'd like to see an official policy, like one adopted in Missoula, Montana, directing law enforcement – on paper – to make this their lowest priority. That'd be a good first step – for the police, that means no longer issuing any citation [to adults for minor possession]. [We want to] make sure that's going on; at this time, we definitely don't know that it is. ■

What's Next for RG4N and Northcross?

In the aftermath of the courtroom defeat by **Responsible Growth for Northcross**, the only thing anyone seems to be sure about is uncertainty. As of last week, RG4N's leaders had yet to settle on a future strategy in their fight to stop the construction of the **Wal-Mart Supercenter** at the former **Northcross Mall**, and they were scratching their heads over what they describe as Judge **Orlinda Naranjo**'s inscrutable Dec. 21 decision, in which the judge addressed RG4N's objections only in part.

"At this point, we're kind of getting everybody regrouped from the holidays, and our board and steering committee have been meeting to try to chart out a course," said RG4N President **Hope Morrison**. "I talked today with one of the attorneys, and we'll be having some more discussions over the next few days while we get ready for our January 11 meeting, and then at that meeting, we'll outline where we see ourselves headed. We don't have everything entirely nailed down. There were a lot of different things for us to look at and think through."

The meeting to which she refers is a town-hall meeting Friday night in Wozniak Hall at **St. Louis Catholic Church**, 7601 Burnet Rd., at 7pm. RG4N attorney **Doug Young** will answer questions about the lawsuit, followed by a discussion of whether to appeal and what other actions might be taken to block the Wal-Mart proposed by **Lincoln Property Co.** for the former Northcross Mall property.

In RG4N's November court case, the group alleged city staff had not followed city code in approving Lincoln's site plan for the property. The charges focused on drainage and traffic engineering, tree preservation, and whether the Wal-Mart's garden center was properly classified as an "accessory use" (which may be administratively approved by staff, which staff did) or a "conditional use" (as RG4N contends, which would require public hearings). In December, Naranjo ruled in the city's favor but addressed only the garden-center arguments in her statement to the attorneys.

"Obviously, the verdict is not what we'd hoped for," Morrison said. "I was real disappointed. She paid a lot of attention to the garden center … but that was, in a three-day trial, well under half of the time that we spent [in our arguments]. … So for that to be the only one that got an explanation was surprising and disappointing to me. You never want to lose, but it's nice to see what the reasoning is, and it's nice to know that you've gotten a fair shot and that somebody's listened to what you've said and they really thought about it. With the garden center, we disagree, but at least we saw what she was thinking. But the other three, there's just no telling. Even the city's experts agree that there was noncompliance on some of those other issues, and for it to not even be addressed – as a layperson, I found that very surprising, and I think even our attorneys found that a little bit dismaying."

One attorney who wasn't baffled by the brevity of the decision was **Casey Dobson** of Scott, Douglass & McConnico, the city's outside counsel on the case. "Judge Naranjo wasn't obligated to do anything other than write us a letter and say, 'I intend to enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff or the defendants.' It's up to Judge Naranjo, if she wishes, in a letter like that, to more specifically address anything. Sometimes judges will; sometimes judges won't. … It was unsurprising to me."



JOHN ANDERSON

Responsible Growth for Northcross spokesman Jason Meeker (l) and President Hope Morrison (r) will discuss future anti-Wal-Mart efforts Friday night. Past President Paige Hill (center) is now City Council Member Jennifer Kim's campaign manager; Meeker is considering a council run himself.

Dobson was complimentary of RG4N lawyers but said, "To me, the overarching flaw in what RG4N was trying to say was they were trying to get the judge to second-guess the judgments of experienced, career development-review professionals at the city of Austin – and the law just makes that very, very clear that that's not the judge's place except in extraordinary circumstances, which to my mind were not present here."

"There's no way to know," said RG4N attorney **Doug Young**, asked to assess what went wrong. "It's hard to say, to learn from the experience, because we really don't have any insight into how she reached her decision. … I'm surprised. It leaves us a bit in the dark as to what she was thinking." – *Lee Nichols*







The March Primaries and After The filing report

After 29 days, only four Travis Co. Republicans had filed for the March 4 primaries, all for county-level offices. But in a flurry of last-minute filings before the Jan. 2 deadline, 10 more potential candidates – including five for state representative – have entered the fray to take on the Democratic county dominance.

First facing off in a GOP primary, physician Joseph Donnelly and insurance agent Pamela Waggoner will vie to take District 48 back from freshman Dem **Donna Howard**. Financial adviser Jerry J. Mikus is back to go after **Mark Strama** in District 50, having mounted an unsuccessful 2002 primary run for the seat, while in District 49, Elliott Naishtat will face business consultant Jim Hasik. Of the six Travis Co. incumbent Democrat state reps, only two – **Dawnna Dukes** in District 46 and **Eddie Rodriguez** in District 51 – avoided a Republican challenge. Dukes does face a primary run by lawyer Brian Thompson, while Rodriguez is opposed by Libertarian Jerry Chandler.

And there's one vaguely familiar name on the GOP ticket: **Donna Keel**, looking to oust freshman rep **Valinda Bolton** from District 47. If the name rings a bell, that's because she's the sister-in-law of Bolton's five-term predecessor, now turned-parliamentarian to Speaker Tom Craddick, **Terry Keel**. If she won, she'd be the third Keel in the seat since her mother-in-law Patty briefly held it after a 1996 special election. Patty assumed the seat from Susan Combs who, as state comptroller, is now Donna's boss in her day job as a government auditor. Asked whether being called "Keel" might affect her run, husband and campaign manager Thornton Keel said, "It can't hurt." But the Keel name is not the unstoppable force in Travis Co. politics it once was, and the recently close Keel association with Craddick may instead evoke a Democratic backlash. "I doubt it will have an effect on the ballot," said Travis Co. Democratic Party Chair **Chris Elliott**. "The last Keel that was on the ballot, [Precinct 3 Constable] Richard McCain [defeated] comfortably." That Keel was Thornton in 2004, the same election in which third Keel brother – Patrick – then 345th District judge, was trounced by Democrat Stephen Yelenosky.

Not that Bolton isn't also trying to keep government in the family: Her husband, **Andy Hathcock**, is jockeying with Rhonda Hurley and Robert Ettinger to replace Judge W. Jeanne Meurer in the 98th District Court. Meurer had suggested she might run to replace outgoing Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle**, but her decision not to file leaves the seat open for the winner of the Democratic primary among current Earle staff members Mindy Montford, Rick Reed, and Rosemary Lehmberg, as well as former assistant DA Gary Cobb.

Further down the ballot, last-minute candidate **Don Zimmerman** – president of Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 (Canyon Creek) and currently a prominent Ron Paul booster – signed up to run as the GOP candidate for tax assessor-collector, meaning he'll face the winner of the already brutal Nelda Wells Spears/Glen Maxey Democratic primary. Zimmerman's probably glad to avoid a primary, since he lost the GOP slot to general election loser Jeff Fleece by seven points when he hoped to take on Strama in 2006.

It's not only Republicans targeting the bluest Texas county: Eight **Libertarians** have filed for county-level seats in Travis, more than for Williamson and Harris counties combined. However, they could indirectly turn it a deeper shade of blue, with Libertarian Party of Texas challengers for two GOP incumbents – peeling away conservative votes and potentially leaving the incumbents more vulnerable to Democrats. In fact, that's the explicit intent. "My personal aim is that I want to wipe the Republicans off the Travis County map," said Executive Director **Wes Benedict**.

Both targeted GOPers face crowded fields. Precinct 2 Constable **Bob Vann** faces a primary run from Carl Joiner, who challenged him in 2004. If he survives that, he may be further weakened by Libertarian Arlo Pignotti in the general election, when he faces either Deputy Constable Adan Ballesteros or IT support engineer Paul LaBuda as the Democrats' candidate.

Benedict himself is running against Precinct 3 County Commissioner, Republican **Gerald Daugherty**, and plans to attack him over his backing of toll roads and the commuter rail. "That's two things a real conservative would never support," said Benedict, "and I'm going to get him for that." Benedict has his own primary to win first (more precisely, Libertarian candidates are chosen in a spring nominating convention). However, he's not surprised by the challenge from Travis County Libertarian Party Executive Committee member Emily Cowan. "I asked her to file," he said. "More candidates and campaigning for a nomination, get the issues out there."

Daugherty will also face the winner of the Dem primary, **Karen Huber** or **Albert Gonzales**, and independent candidate and Austin public-access TV producer **David Griffin**. Although Griffin is registered as an independent, "If anyone asks me, I'm a Green Party member," he said. With the Green Party of Texas uncertain whether it will have ballot access, Griffin decided to run as an independent. "That'll make things harder," he said, "But I'll still be running on the same issues – that the county is spending too much money."

– Richard Whittaker

STATE HOUSE RACES

District 46
D: Dawnna Dukes*, Brian Thompson
L: Michael Morgan

District 48
D: Donna Howard*
R: Dr. Joseph Donnelly, Pamela Waggoner
L: Ben Easton

District 52 (to replace Mike Krusee, R-Round Rock)
D: Diana Maldonado
R: Bryan Daniel, John Gordon, Dee Hobbs, Vivian Sullivan
L: Lillian Simmons

District 97 (taken by Democrats in Dec. 18 special election)
D: Dan Barrett*
R: Bob Leonard, Clint L. Roberts, Mark M. Shelton, James Dean Schull

TRAVIS COUNTY OFFICES

Tax Assessor-Collector
D: Nelda Wells Spears*, Glen Maxey
R: Don Zimmerman
L: Mike Burris

Travis Co. Commissioner, Precinct 3
D: Karen Huber, Albert Gonzales
R: Gerald Daugherty*
L: Emily Cowan, Wes Benedict
I: David Griffin

Judge, 98th District Court (to replace W. Jeanne Meurer)
D: Andy Hathcock, Rhonda Hurley, Robert D. Ettinger

District Attorney (to replace Ronnie Earle)
D: Gary Cobb, Mindy Montford, Rick Reed, Rosemary Lehmberg

Constable, Precinct 2
D: Adan Ballesteros, Paul Labuda
R: Bob Vann*, Carl Joiner
L: Arlo J. Pignotti

Constable, Precinct 3
D: Richard McCain*, Robert Eller
R: Mike Varela
L: Joe Edgar

Constable, Precinct 4
D: Maria Canchola*, Alonzo Reyes

TRAVIS COUNTY PARTY CHAIRS

R: Rosemary Edwards, Joe Gimenez

D: Fidel Acevedo, Andy Brown

** denotes incumbent*



JOHN ORMBERGET

Retiring District Attorney Ronnie Earle announces his support for his chief assistant, Rosemary Lehmberg, in the election to replace him.

EARLE ENDORSES LEHMBERG ... MINUS LEHMBERG

Saying he is "pleased and proud" his office has "produced so many fine candidates," Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle** announced Jan. 7 that he is endorsing his longtime first assistant, **Rosemary Lehmberg**, as the candidate to replace him as the county's top law enforcer. Amid a gaggle of reporters and photographers, courthouse regulars, and other candidates for local (and national) office, Earle said he believes Lehmberg, who has been his right-hand woman for a decade, is the single most qualified person to take over the post he's held since 1977. Lehmberg has "risen" to top leadership in the DA's office "precisely because of her leadership qualities," he said. She "brings people together" and "ensures an open discussion and debate in the spirit of seeing that justice is done," he said, adding that Lehmberg has played a "greater role in the success of the Travis County DA's office than any other single person."

In all, four assistant DAs from Earle's office – Lehmberg, **Gary Cobb**, **Rick Reed**, and **Mindy Montford** – have filed as Democrats to run for the post. (Since no Republican candidates filed to run for the spot, the winner of the March Dem primary race will be the presumptive winner of the November general election.) All are fine candidates, Earle acknowledged – "We don't have anything but good lawyers and good people," he said – but in the end he believes electing Lehmberg to the post "would … best serve the interests of the community." During her 31-year tenure with the DA's office, Lehmberg has overseen each of the office's major divisions – including service as chief of the trial division, the public integrity unit, and as the first head of the family justice division.

Surprisingly, Lehmberg herself was not present at the midmorning press conference outside the courthouse. She said she was out doing "other campaign activities" but that she's "really happy" and "really honored" to have Earle's endorsement. In the universe of Travis Co. Dem pols, Earle is, arguably, the rock star – the local pol with a national reputation and statewide influence – so Lehmberg missed a perfect opportunity to be anointed by the one person whose endorsement likely will count most in the race. Lehmberg said it was "Ronnie's press conference" and not hers. With other appointments to keep, she said, "There was never any question that I should be there."

Earle did not say whether he would actively campaign on Lehmberg's behalf but said he is certain the four candidates for his job will engage in a lively debate on the issues and will avoid personal attacks: They'll campaign "in the spirit of respect for democracy and the rule of law," he said. "I think that will be characteristic of [this] campaign."

– Jordan Smith

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KXAN Vs. Cable
A retransmission fees fight

The dispute between NBC affiliate **KXAN** and a Williamson Co. cable system escalated last week, when **Suddenlink** replaced KXAN on the dial with the NBC station based in Temple.

KXAN owner **LIN TV** and Suddenlink, which operates cable systems around the country, have been locked in negotiations over retransmission fees – the fees paid by the cable system to carry stations. Suddenlink is battling LIN in Albuquerque, as well as its system in Williamson County, which covers about 30,000 subscribers in Georgetown, Pflugerville, and Leander.

While disputes between stations and cable operators are common, tensions have escalated in recent years, as revenue-hungry stations and channels like ESPN and the NFL Network push for larger payments from cable systems. Stations like KXAN could invoke a "must carry" provision, which requires cable systems to transmit local channels, but stations prefer to work out compensation deals.

"This is not groundbreaking compensation we're asking for," said KXAN General Manager **Eric Lassberg**, adding that cable systems around the country have agreed to similar terms (details of retransmission deals are closely guarded secrets).

By replacing KXAN with the Temple station, **KCEN**, Suddenlink played its trump card, offering its customers NBC programming without KXAN or its local news. LIN fired back this week, offering cable subscribers a $50 prepaid MasterCard for switching to **Dish Network**, the satellite service that still carries KXAN. LIN said in a statement that Suddenlink "has made it clear that it does not value or understand the importance of local stations." – *Kevin Brass*

MARCH 4 IS A LONG TIME

"I think this will end at midnight on the West Coast on February 5," Sen. **Hillary Clinton** told MSNBC's **Joe Scarborough** and **Mika Brzezinski** about the Democratic presidential nomination Tuesday morning. Now that's just one candidate, but after five decades of primary power and three presidents, Texas and its **March 4 primaries** may be a presidential-race irrelevancy.

It's not just Super Tuesday. Back when the pivotal date was in mid-March, Texas was an original Super Tuesday state. But now, with 2,249 of the Democrats' 3,248 pledged delegates settled by Clinton's cutoff, swelling to 2,488 by March 4, those 228 Lone Star Democratic delegates could be moot.

On the Republican front, 1,616 of the 2,345 delegate votes will be sorted.

@CHRONIC

And where are the candidates? GOP Rep. **Ron Paul** is the sole and unlikely national candidate from Texas for either party. In a year when Democrats seem resurgent on state and national stages, it's a poor comparison to 1976, when U.S. Sen. **Lloyd Bentsen** was a primary hopeful and Rep. **Barbara Jordan** a serious contender for the vice presidency. Even Texas endorsements are ailing, with Rick Perry's fave, **Rudy Giuliani**, imploding as fast as Attorney General **Greg Abbott**'s pick, **Fred Thompson**. Will a future president be looking to Texas at all? – *Richard Whittaker*

Originally published Jan. 8 on the Chronicle *news blog,* **austinchronicle.com/newsdesk**.



STATE 'SECURITY UPGRADES' CREATE CAP METRO HEADACHE

So it turns out Gov. Goodhair and the other members of the **State Preservation Board** don't really view **Capital Metro** bus riders as a terrorist threat. Rather, the board's reason for wanting to remove what might be the busiest bus stop in all of Austin from the **south side of the Capitol** grounds (see "Taking the Capitol Out of Capital Metro," Jan. 4) is that it interferes with the traffic engineering of the board's planned "security upgrades," which still makes it no less of a pain in the ass to Cap Metro and the approximately 1,400 people each weekday who board a bus there. (The State Preservation Board is the caretaking body for the Capitol building and its surrounding grounds.)

Governor's office spokeswoman Allison Castle explained that the new security plans call for all vehicles to enter Capitol grounds from 15th Street and exit to the south on 11th. The upgrades will include retractable bollards at both entry and exit, which will be tied in to the city's traffic signal system.

"If there are buses stacked up there or trying to turn there [and thus blocking the 11th Street exit], they need to not have the concern for the safety of the bus riders or the people exiting the Capitol grounds," Castle explained. "Once those bollards go back up, the cars need to be moved through."

One imagines Capital Metro route planners are royally pissed at having to re-engineer what is the hub for nearly the entire system – 27 different routes directly use the stop, and another 20 pass near enough to make it a transfer point for them – but Cap Metro spokesman Adam Shaivitz chose more polite ways to say it. "It is going to be a significant task to look for alternatives," he said matter-of-factly. "The priority is to come up with a plan that causes as little disruption as possible to passengers. Obviously it's a very highly used facility; in fact, it's our busiest stop Downtown and one of the busiest in our entire system."

Asked if there is any anger at the transit agency at having the change thrust upon it, Shaivitz was rather Zen about the situation: "Our facility is on state property, so certainly we don't want to stand in the way of state security efforts, but certainly we feel for our customers, because we don't want to have to disrupt their service. … Since it is the state's property, we are certainly going to work with the state as well [as] the city to do what we need to do to honor the state's request."

Might Austin's legislative delegation enter this fray on behalf of bus riders? "I expressed concern about where the people who use that bus stop would be able to access Capital Metro buses, and my office is working with both Capital Metro and the State Board of Preservation to ensure that Capital Metro riders who use that bus stop are not inconvenienced too badly," said state Rep. **Elliott Naishtat**, who said he played a role in getting shelters put over the stop's benches. Naishtat sounded dubious of the necessity of the move: "I'm not aware of the need for enhancing security on and around the Capitol grounds. … I'm not saying that security measures don't need to be enhanced or beefed up; I'm just not aware of why at this time measures are on the verge of being instituted which will clearly inconvenience Capital Metro riders." – *Lee Nichols*



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BATPAC Begins

Taking wing at City Hall this week was a new political action committee – the zippily named **Better Austin Today** PAC – intent on influencing the May City Council elections. The progressive coalition says it demands "a responsive, inclusive city government that will comprehensively address the critical issues facing Austin." One concrete solution members called for: a new city comprehensive plan for better managing development and growth.

The BATPAC plans to issue endorsements of council candidates who share its vision for Austin and who pledge to make city processes more inclusive. "Austin's informed and involved citizens are its best resource," said environmental activist **Roy Waley**. Other BATPAC rallying cries: "We've been left out of the process," "The process is broken," and "City Hall has lost its way."

Better Austin Today will have its first fundraiser and party on Sunday, Jan. 13, from 6 to 9pm at the Moose Lodge, 2103 E.M. Franklin (between MLK and Manor Road). For more info: **www.betteraustintoday.org.**

The current negative sentiments fueling the group include the political fallout from the fight over Northcross, poorly implemented neighborhood plans, and the lack of an effective comprehensive planning process. Many BATPACers became disillusioned with council due to neighborhood zoning and development battles; the group is particularly rich with **Responsible Growth for Northcross** members. "I've worked with over 200 city councils, and our current Austin City Council has strayed further from good principles of planning and zoning than any I've seen," said **Jim Duncan**, a municipal-planning consultant.

Fed up with what it calls "insider" attitudes at City Hall, the BATPAC wants to throw the bums out. "We realized you can't have an impact on the policy process if you don't have an impact on the political process," said RG4N's **Hope Morrison**. Joining fresh-faced enthusiasts such as Morrison and **David Kobierowski** at City Hall on Tuesday were many old-guard Austin activists: Jeff Jack, Brigid Shea, Mary Arnold, Bill Bunch, Daniel Llanes, Susana Almanza, Richard Franklin, Fred Lewis, Marcelo Tafoya, and a couple dozen more.

At its inception, the BATPAC is long on rhetoric and idealism – and short on specific improvements to champion. Kobierowski said the group hopes to define quickly its common positions; in the meantime, the press conference featured the requisite finger-pointing at evil developers and moneyed interests and soft-focus idealization of the post-1992 "green" councils that followed the enactment of the original Save Our Springs Ordinance – and which many of those present have spent the last decade excoriating.

Afterward, Council Member **Mike Martinez** said, "I look forward to working with this group, because they're going to challenge us." In turn, he challenged the group to define what BATPAC is for – not against. And he offered a little free political advice: Focus on a small number of specific goals. "If success [for the PAC] is me doing everything all of their members want, on every issue – well, it's going to be hard going."

– *Katherine Gregor*

Partial Nekkidness & the New 'Nudity' Tax

On June 2, 1986, back when they performed wearing nothing more than a strategically placed sport sock, the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** played the T-Bird Riverfest in Austin. If they were to play that gig in 2008, the sock-only attire would mean the promoters would have to phone the **state comptroller** to see if they owed $5 in fees for every concertgoer.

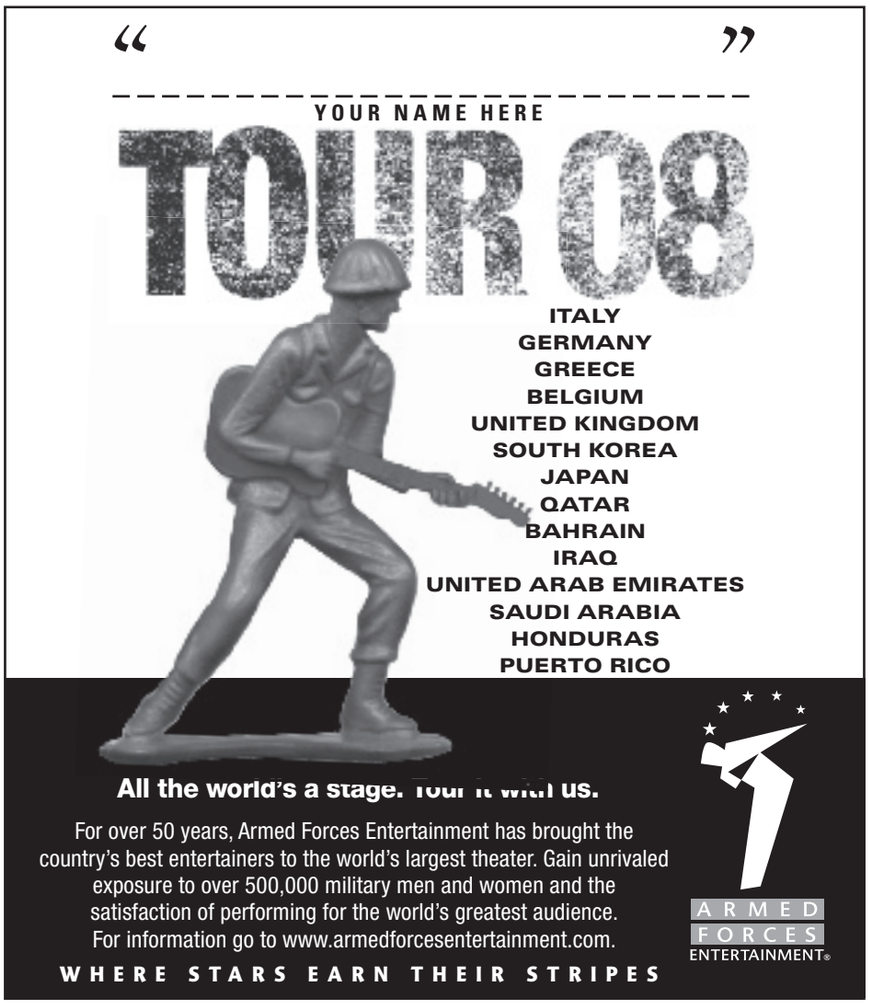
Such performances are falling into what **R.J. DeSilva**, spokesman for the comptroller, called a "gray area," where businesses may have been liable for the new fee on sexually oriented businesses since the beginning of the year. On Jan. 4, the comptroller published its enforcement guidelines for the fee: On p.65 of the latest 357-page edition of the **Texas Register** and described in the table of contents only as "Tax Administration 34 TAC §3.722," these are the rules that show taxpayers and tax collectors who must pay. As introduced under House Bill 1751 last session, the fee was only supposed to affect the state's 168 strip clubs. But these guidelines confirm the state may potentially collect from any venue that allows drinking and has performers with clothing not sufficiently opaque around the breasts, buttocks, or genitals, such as burlesques or experimental theatres.

The guidelines clarify collection and reporting methods but do little to reduce concerns over how broadly they could be applied. They give one specific example: If a bar held a wet T-shirt contest, the venue would be liable for the surcharge for that night. There wouldn't have to be nudity, just a see-through top. But before the rules were published, tax policy division manager **Bryant Lomax** was asked whether a theatrical or musical performance with nudity would be liable for the surcharge and said, "I have to say they would."

The rules would not apply in the case of a "wardrobe malfunction," and DeSilva said that, while he cannot cite specific examples, he believes there would be some businesses not covered. "In any tax issues, there are gray areas," he said. If a venue is unsure whether it would be liable, it should contact the tax policy division in advance. He encouraged public feedback during the 30-day consultation exercise, which ends Feb. 3, even though businesses may find that they've already been liable since Jan. 1. DeSilva did throw out one lifeline, however: A venue has to have both nudity and alcohol to pay up. So if you're showing nipples, close the bar, and make sure no one is packing a hip flask. – *Richard Whittaker*



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Child Sexual Assault & the Death Penalty

The **U.S. Supreme Court** said on Jan. 4 that it would hear the appeal of a Louisiana man condemned to die for the rape of his 8-year-old stepdaughter. The Supremes will be asked to decide whether the **Eighth Amendment**'s ban on **cruel and unusual punishment** allows for the imposition of the death penalty as punishment for a crime that does not involve taking the life of another. Louisiana is one of five states – including Texas – that has decided the death penalty can be imposed for the crime of **sexually assaulting a child**, even if the child is not killed. So far, Louisiana is the only state that has actually imposed death in such circumstances. "Since children cannot protect themselves, the state is given the responsibility to protect them," a divided Louisiana Supreme Court ruled in upholding the state law. The court majority opined they could not think of a "non-homicide crime more deserving" of death.

The case, ***Kennedy v. Louisiana***, will likely be heard in April. **Jelpi Picou Jr.**, an attorney for condemned inmate **Patrick Kennedy**, said in a press statement that while "the vast majority of the world's developed countries have moved toward narrowing the use of capital punishment … Louisiana has chosen to expand it significantly." Indeed, this was the view of the Supreme Court in 1977, which opined execution was an "excessive penalty" for rapists, "who, as such, [do] not take human life." The decision to add child sex assault to the list of death-eligible crimes is frowned upon by several influential groups, including the **National Association of Social Workers**, which argue such a law does not protect children – and an offender who knows he or she could face execution regardless of whether his or her victim lives has little motivation to spare the victim's life. The law, the group says, "will likely have exactly the wrong effect."

– Jordan Smith

FIRST NIGHT
A WORK IN PROGRESS

First Night Austin, in its third incarnation on New Year's Eve, continues to evolve as a showcase for a broad cross section of Austin's cultural-arts community. The event is striking in its proportions: Across its nine hours, it showcased site-specific work of 63 Austin artists in a footprint that encompassed City Hall and the buildings around it, as well as Congress Avenue and Auditorium Shores.

Artist **Rebecca Ward**'s *Roll-On/Roll Off* installation at the Computer Sciences Corp. Garage was one of the more striking installations. **3M** provided $21,000 worth of colored vinyl, which Ward, atop a cherry-picker crane, wrapped, dropped, and stretched from the ceiling to the loading dock to the beams of the garage, creating a mazelike structure.

This is not the kind of art intended for an audience with some kind of obscure background in the arts, said production coordinator **Elysia Van Deusen.** "This is intended for an artist to create work that the audience might not otherwise see," she said. "It's a way to reach out and be able to make the arts visible in Austin in a way that is fun and suitable for children. This isn't esoteric works for people who have a background in art. These are artists who create something fun that people can enjoy."



PHOTO COURTESY FIRST NIGHT

Artist Rebecca Ward's *Roll-On/Roll Off* installation at the CSC Garage was one of the featured artworks at this year's First Night.

So while the evening included the work of artists like Ward, it also included an 8-foot-tall black-eyed pea, **Asylum Street Spankers**, and an installation of 1,000 suspended flashlights by **Legge Lewis Legge** called *Ultimate Pulse*. During the late evening, musicians **Steve Bernal** and **Loren Dent** performed the commissioned work "Dreams and Concrete" in the City Hall lobby. The work, a combination of cello and electronic music, was inspired by City Hall.

First Night celebrations began in Boston in 1976 as the culmination of the city's bicentennial celebration. Today, more than 100 cities host the family-friendly alcohol-free event. Interim Executive Director **Patricia Paredes** said Austin's event is unique in the fact that it is essentially a cultural-arts present given to Austinites. "We're one of the few cities that offers this as a free gift to the community," Paredes said. "There's no charge for admittance to the event. It's our goal to create a family-friendly idealistic gift to Austin, because we are an artistic community, and we have a lot of emerging and established artists who want to give something back."

Austin's First Night worked on a $350,000 budget this year. The city, one of the celebration's more generous sponsors, contributed $44,000. Attendance was estimated at 125,000. *– Kimberly Reeves*

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.58.

SATURDAY 12

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM Join the Pachamama Alliance for an exploration of sustainability, social justice, and spiritual fulfillment. *12:45-5pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/356-9243. $20.* **www.awakeningthedreamer.org**.

SUNDAY 13

BETTER AUSTIN TODAY COMING OUT PARTY Austin's newest political action committee aims to bring the city's progressive groups together into one formidable champion of responsive, accountable government. *6-9pm. Moose Lodge, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 573-6194.* **www.batpac.org**.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS The Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist discusses and signs copies of his new book, *Creating a World Without Poverty*. *1pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.* **www.muhammadyunus.org**.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Austin Texas Labor Against the War presents a discussion and screening of the short documentary "Meeting Face to Face: The Iraq-U.S. Labor Solidarity Tour." (See Special Screenings, p.78.) *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.*

MONDAY 14

ECOLOGY LECTURE NIGHT A discussion with Texas Solar Energy Society Executive Director Natalie Marquis, manager of Austin's permaculture-based hotel, Habitat Suites. *7-8:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.*

TUESDAY 15

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS screens PBS documentary *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*. A discussion of Texas prairies, biofuels, carbon sequestration, and grassland birds follows. *7-9pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062.* **www.npsot.org/austin**.

ONGOING

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL RAFFLE Win prizes for supporting KAB's environmental stewardship. Three winners will receive a pair of mountain bikes, a Dell laptop, and a certificate for professional landscaping. *Drawing: Feb. 6. $10 ($50, six tickets).* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO IMPROVE TEXAS' TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM? The Texas Department of Transportation's Sunset Advisory Commission is seeking public input in several areas, including: funding for alternate modes of transportation (such as rail), right-of-way purchases, local/regional/state/federal partnerships, alternative financing, management of vehicle titles/registrations, administration of regulatory programs, and management of contracts for highway construction/maintenance. E-mail comments to: **sunset@sunset.state.tx.us**. *Deadline: Mon., Jan. 14.* **www.sunset.state.tx.us**.





THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE LUXURY OF CHINESE LABOR

Officials in China have had some trouble making translations from Chinese to English. For example, a sign to alert visitors about a wet floor in a mall came out this way: "The slippery are very crafty."

You might want to keep that thought in mind if you're buying certain luxury goods. For example, high-dollar leather handbags and shoes, silk ties and scarves, designer suits and such are being marketed as the exquisite products of traditional artisans employed by small European firms. They carry the prestigious names of Prada, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci – and they carry matching prices.

But European reporter Dana Thomas reveals the crafty can, indeed, be very slippery. Many of these brand names are no longer proud family enterprises but rather conglomerate-owned multinational outfits, producing their goods not by expert artisans but on assembly lines staffed by low-wage workers in places like China.

So, where's that requisite "Made in China" label? Some slippery conglomerates hide it in an inside pocket of the produce. Some of the crafty ones have 90% of the product made in China, then add a few baubles or buttons in Italy and label the whole thing "Made in Italy." Others simply rip out the product's China label and add a European one.

Slipperiest of all, though, are some who are making leather goods in the historic craftsman town of Prato, Italy. Italian artisans are not doing the crafting here – instead, in this center of Gucci and Prada, illegal Chinese laborers have been brought in to do the work. In fact, Prato now has the second-highest Chinese population in Europe, and many of the fashion factories producing luxury items for brand-name conglomerates pay these workers as little as $3 an hour.

These conglomerates are proving that "globalization" is just another word used to cover up exploitation, dishonesty, and greed.

TAKING CARE OF THE SMITHSONIAN

Our national attic is caving in. "America's attic" is the unofficial name of the venerable Smithsonian Institution. This is the 150-year-old complex of museums on the National Mall that houses an amazing array of artifacts and other irreplaceable treasures that mark significant developments in our country's rich history. It's a priceless cultural jewel that is a favorite draw for families visiting our capital city – 24 million people trekked through its public exhibits this year.

You might assume a place that's so important to our national identity and so popular with the people would be well taken care of. You'd be wrong. The president and the Congress, Democrats as well as Republicans, have failed us as caretakers. They have squandered hundreds of billions of our tax dollars on wars, weaponry, corporate subsidies, and boondoggles while turning a blind eye to the rising need for basic maintenance on America's attic.

As any homeowner knows, the failure to spend on repairs inevitably results in things like collapsing roofs, endangered collections, and closed buildings. The Smithsonian is now $2½ billion behind on necessary upkeep.

Yet, our so-called leaders are still turning their backs on this remarkable institution. Democrat Dianne Feinstein told Smithsonian officials at a recent Senate hearing that they're on their own: "I see no way that that two-and-a-half-billion-dollar shortfall is ever going to be picked up by the public sector," she said.

Excuse me? The Smithsonian is the public sector, it belongs to the people, and it's a public responsibility. Instead of forcing it to charge entrance fees, hustle corporate sponsorships, or hold bake sales – cut a few corporate subsidies, senator; then do your duty to care for America's attic.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown *– visit* **www.jimhightower.com**.









The Downtown Austin Plan

See it and shape it at Saturday's town-hall meeting

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

As Downtown grows and evolves, can the city's urban heart become a great place that embodies the character of Austin?

That core question informs the Downtown Austin Plan, commissioned by the city and now being executed by the Austin office of ROMA Design Group. Early concepts and soft recommendations developed in Phase One (which stops at defining issues and opportunities) began a community review this week. A draft report received an enthusiastic reception at City Hall from council members, aides, and management staff; it was publicly unveiled on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at a joint meeting of the Planning, Design, and Downtown commissions. Now it's the community's turn to weigh in.

On Saturday morning, Jan. 12, a town-hall meeting (see p.26) will provide an opportunity for Austinites to learn about the work and research done so far – including a new approach to affordable housing Downtown – and to shape Phase Two. After gathering broad input, ROMA will proceed next month with the actual plan, which will take approximately a year to develop in detail. The crucial corollary is that the new Downtown Austin Plan, once completed, will include a council-approved implementation plan, to be enforced by city code. This commitment to execution and enforcement makes the urban design plan unlike any other in the history of Austin, according to its council sponsor, Brewster McCracken.

A fundamental challenge will be to overcome the default cynicism with which many Austinites regard city-planning efforts.

Because it will have real power and comes amid such growth pressures, this urban plan is particularly deserving of citizen attention and input. Its implementation will require not just city action but leadership and ongoing collaborative efforts from Austinites across the board – the business community, the activist community, single-interest advocates, the doers, and the contras.

A fundamental challenge will be to overcome the default cynicism with which many Austinites regard city-planning efforts. A decade of neighborhood planning, without strong implementation and commitment to follow-through, has produced widespread frustration and distrust; this negative legacy colored, for example, the recent vertical mixed-use opt-out process. Similarly, Austin's failure to periodically update its comprehensive plan (see "The Bigger Picture," p.25) hampers us with a weak planning tradition. Relatively few community leaders, activists, and stakeholders have recent experience (or even knowledge) of good urban design and planning and of how it can positively shape the city around the Austin values we hold dear. As a result, they don't put much stock in the exercise. The Downtown Austin Plan offers a real opportunity to create an upswell of optimism – but only if consciously used by the city to earn and rebuild community faith in its planning efforts.

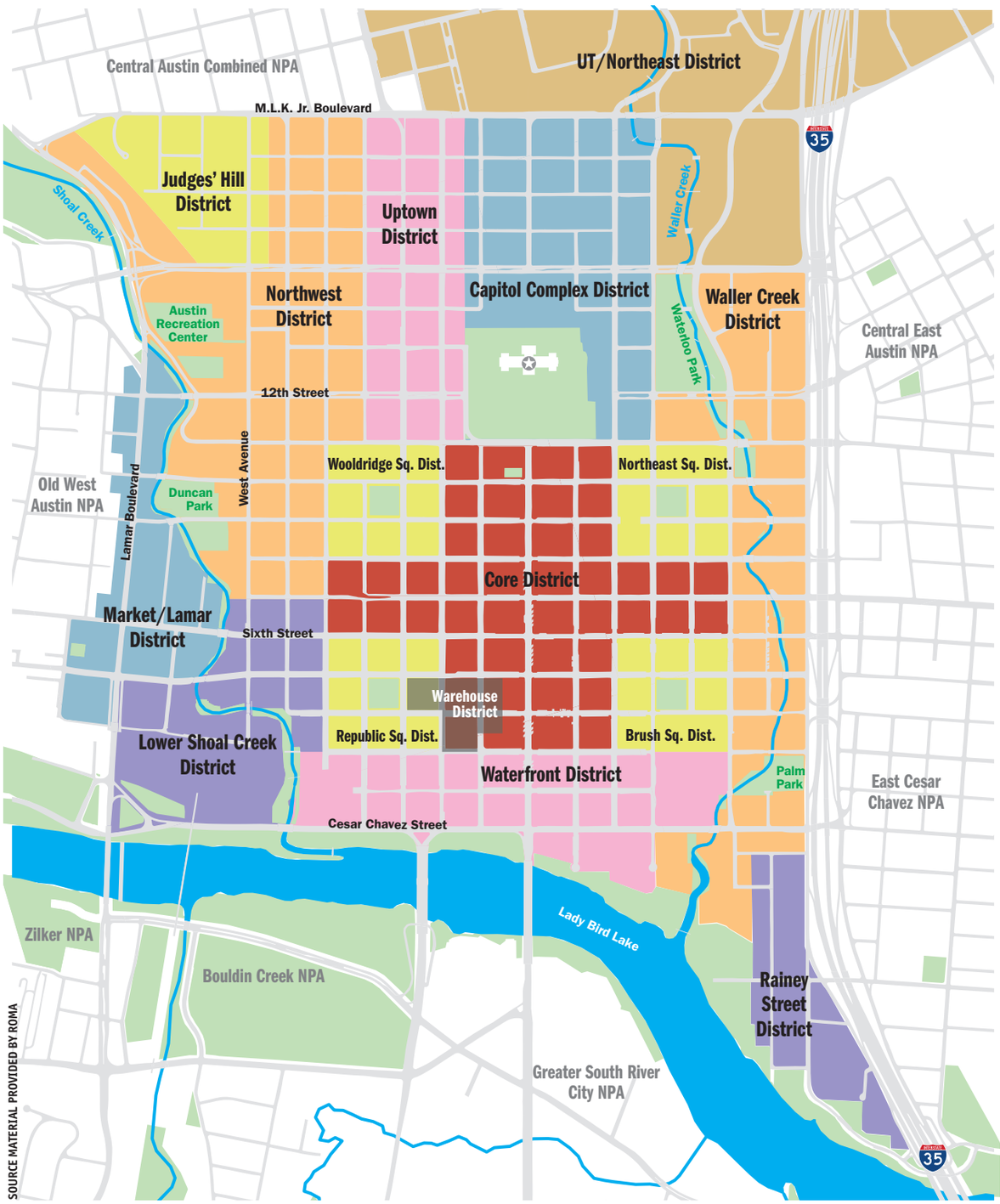
Place-Making With Districts

One big idea that emerges in the Phase One report: defining distinct districts. These would reinforce and build on the coherent city grid created in the original Waller plan of 1839. Among other virtues, districts offer a tailored mechanism for achieving specific community values. All would work in concert to promote overall goals: livability, sustainability, density, place-making for people, preservation of history and local character, and so on. ROMA's early draft of a district map shows Downtown divided into about a dozen specific districts. (For planning purposes, the city defines Downtown as the area north of the river, south of MLK, east of Lamar, and west of I-35, but the plan will reach beyond these boundaries for solutions on transit, connectivity, and compatibility.) Within each district, city policy and code would prioritize, promote, and reward particular community goals and values (as documented in this fall's Downtown Austin Plan Community Preferences Survey).

In short, a district approach could provide a place for everything. In principle, Downtown districts could also pre-empt or prevent battles by providing the community with clear assurances that each specific need (affordable housing, parkland, social services, new retail and office, etc.) will be promoted in an orderly fashion. Districts thus could reduce our free-floating urbanization anxiety – and pre-empt the fights that bog down real progress.

Each district would preserve and build on the special features and character that already exist in the area. This would promote a sense of place and unique Austin identity for each part of Downtown. For example, the remaining three public squares laid out in the 1839 Waller plan – Republic, Wooldridge, and Brush – would benefit from targeted upgrades and surrounding redevelopment to realize their potential as people-friendly parks and public spaces. In the northwest courthouse/historic district (north of Seventh Street, west of San Antonio Street), city policy and code would preserve neighborhood scale and

continued on p.26



Defining Districts: A new plan and code tailored by Downtown districts could best respond to each area's special features. This could protect and enhance a uniquely Austin character, match community values to locales, and build consensus for implementing the overall plan.

The Bigger Picture PLANNING COMPREHENSIVELY

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

With a quiet Dec. 13 resolution authorizing an update to the city's comprehensive plan – plus a study of fresh long-range planning approaches – City Council has finally taken action to revisit Austin's regional road map for growth and change. Individual neighborhood plans and even the Downtown Austin Plan (see p.24) lack the holistic scope to address big-picture challenges like transit planning. But the 1979 Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan is so egregiously outdated and gnarly with amendments, it's hampering the city's future.

It's no coincidence that council moved to update the comprehensive plan after City Manager Toby Futrell became a lame duck. (The resolution was sponsored by Mike Martinez and co-sponsored by Lee Leffingwell and Will Wynn.) In a transparent May 2006 power play, Futrell killed the recommendations to council made by City Auditor Steve Morgan for a fresh vision and comprehensive planning process. The auditor's recommendations were thoroughly researched (a 10-month audit reviewed peer cities); his report intrepidly asserted the steep cost Austin is paying for its fragmented planning. Futrell's flat-out rejection of practices so basic to good governance appeared ego-driven and political and colored by other conflicts with the auditor. (Futrell: Who needs a community visioning process when we already have a bumper-worthy slogan, "We want Austin to be the most livable city in the country"?) A cowed or indifferent council bowed to Futrell's will.

Yet with all the new urban-planning initiatives now in play (see "Top 10 Developing Stories," Jan. 4), Austin needs a coherent comprehensive plan now more than ever. Last July, the Austin Neighborhoods Council issued a "Call for Action to Manage Austin's Growth" (see **www.ancweb.org**). It asked council to enact all four of the city auditor's recommendations: "The ANC believes that the lack of well-defined policies and long-term goals which reflect community values undermines the quality of life for the people of Austin and jeopardizes our future." (Former ANC President Laura Morrison is now running for the Place 4 City Council seat currently held by term-limited Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley.)

A comprehensive plan serves as a way-finding tool: How do we get where we want to go and become the city we most want to be? An adopted plan sets clear policy direction for growth and provides a legal basis for sound decisions on long-term issues. Key components address land use, transportation, economic growth, and environmental protection. Forward-thinking cities regularly revisit and update their comp plans, every five years or so; road maps for managing change must, by definition, respond to evolving conditions.

But for various political reasons, shadowed by intermittent frustrated attempts, Austin has failed to periodically rewrite its comprehensive plan in a comprehensive fashion. Instead, we have layers upon layers of amendments. (For example, every new neighborhood plan is still adopted as an amendment to the 1979 plan.) Lacking a current, cohesive master-plan document, Austinites must consult copious subsequent plans executed by individual city departments, then determine how and whether each overrides the old comprehensive plan. (The city's "Planning for Tomorrow' Web page lists – and links to – some four dozen current city plans and related policy documents.) Senior city planning staff and planning commissioners have told council the voluminously amended comprehensive plan – and thus the intended policy and will of our elected officials – is baffling to interpret. As a result, good policies on the books are not fully applied in many cases. Pity the poor private citizen trying to use the comprehensive plan as a guide for neighborhood issues.

The first step authorized is to simply clean up the mess. According to Martinez aide Andrew Moore, the initiative will gather into one coherent, updated document all of the plans and relevant policies adopted to date. For example, the updated plan will need to incorporate environmental policy – like our latest Water Conservation Plan and the Austin Climate Protection Plan. Then we've got 28 years of adopted plans for how to end homelessness, acquire more parks, make capital improvements, annex suburbs, promote bicycles, prevent smallpox, and save the Armadillo. (Whoops, too late on that one!) Most critical, all departmental plans relevant to land-use, growth management, and development patterns must be melded together.

That's a huge "housekeeping" task. Inevitably, it will entail some subjective interpretations and judgment calls, in cases where individual plans conflict or confuse. (In the 1999 "plain English rewrite" of the Land Development Code, staff made substantive changes – e.g., rewrites to the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance – despite public assurances of only nonsubstantive changes and oversight by a task force.) If all proceeds smoothly, the end product will be a coherent and navigable comprehensive plan document (ideally accompanied by an online search engine) available to the public – and consulted daily by staff, boards and commissions, and City Hall.

The council resolution also directs the city manager and Planning Commission "to study alternative approaches to long-range planning for the greater Austin region." That's an oblique reference to the 2035 Sustainable City Initiative led by Cid Galindo (who recently stepped down from the Planning Commission to run for the same council seat as Morrison). The 2035 concept: With Austin's population projected to grow by 1.6 million by that year (from 900,000 to 2.5 million), long-range planning should carefully direct that urban densification so that it occurs within the existing city limits and jurisdiction (now 402,000 acres). The alternative: Sprawling new greenfield development of 450,000 acres of surrounding open land. Achieving that goal requires agreeing upon targets for absorbing new people gracefully in each urban neighborhood – as Seattle has done. The Comprehensive Planning Committee of the Planning Commission has nudged the idea along since 2006, and it's gaining momentum.

Whether the "interim update" authorized will evolve into a whole fresh comprehensive planning effort remains to be seen. For now, it's good to know the city auditor's recommendations were never really dead, just making like Sleeping Beauty. December's council resolution has delivered the reawakening kiss of political will. ■

The Long-Term Planning Audit Report is online at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/auditor/au05101.htm**. *The Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan is available at the public library or in a modified version online at* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/com_plan.htm**.





Council Race Issue: Calling for new comprehensive planning to manage growth could become a hot-button campaign issue for two competing Place 4 City Council candidates: former Planning Commissioner Cid Galindo (l) and former Austin Neighborhoods Council President Laura Morrison. Both advocate updated comp plans, but their visions differ.

A comprehensive plan serves as a way-finding tool: How do we get where we want to go and become the city we most want to be?

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the character of this area, rich in historic homes and tree-lined streets. Residential densification would be planned, but only appropriate to the existing character – e.g. small-scale, two- to four-story infill apartments, not soaring condo towers.

In the Waller Creek District, development codes would respond to the unique opportunities offered by the creek itself and the natural setting. That would include an attractive hike-and-bike trail, new open green space, and selected cafe and music venues (in tandem with the flood-control improvements making this land newly developable). In the Waterfront District along Lady Bird Lake – the public's favorite Downtown feature, by a landslide, on the survey – the plan would provide a unique response to the waterfront setting. A cohesive sense of place would run through the Rainey Street District on the east, the central Downtown waterfront, the Green site redevelopment and the Seaholm District to the west.

Other areas now lack the human scale, character, street life, and vibrancy that make a great Downtown; those would be reconceived entirely, following place-making principles. For example, in the Capitol District, 27 acres of state parking lots and garages could be redeveloped as mixed-use with housing. (This would require the city to actively engage state government in re-envisioning and redeveloping the area for the greater good – a major challenge and requiring city leadership and state responsiveness never heretofore seen but theoretically not impossible.)

Priority-use districts would promote certain active uses, creating nodes with the required critical mass. Again, the city would tailor its policy, code, developer incentives (e.g., density bonuses), and programs to help each area develop in particular ways the community wants and needs. A Congress Avenue District and the Central Business District could power up new offices, employment, and other critical economic engines. Policies for Sixth Street and perhaps Red River could foster the live-music scene. The Second Street corridor could promote retail, restaurants, and visitors. Presumably an arts district could also mature. The holistic strength of Downtown would benefit from the synergy among the various distinct districts.

DOWNTOWN PLAN: TOWN-HALL MEETING
AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER • SATURDAY, JAN. 12

8:30-9am: Sign-in social (coffee and bagels)
9-10am: Presentation by ROMA, Downtown Austin Plan, Phase One
10-11:45am: Topical sessions (affordable housing, etc.)
Noon-12:30pm: Next steps and group vision

On Jan. 14, the Downtown Austin Plan will be presented to a council subcommittee at 3pm in the Boards and Commissions Room, Austin City Hall; open to the public. Once finalized, the Phase One report will be posted to the city's website, www.ci.austin.tx.us.

Affordable-Housing Solution

A second valuable big idea: We can get affordable housing Downtown by taking a very specific, strategic approach. The Phase One ROMA report benefits from new data, research, and analysis by top national experts (consultants HR&A Advisors, with local market and proprietary construction data from Charles Heimsath's Capitol Market Research). Its early suggested strategy thus appears more sound than anything we've seen to date – and cause for cautious optimism. It reveals the flaws in the compromise recommendations provisionally adopted by council from the Affordable Housing Incentives Task Force: That approach won't yield enough units (or fee-in-lieu dollars) to prevent Downtown from becoming an exclusive enclave for the wealthy. A key problem: The huge $380,000 gap between what the average new one-bedroom, high-rise Downtown condo costs and what a household earning 80% of the median family income can afford. If every unit needs a $380,000 subsidy, then very few will get built. Even free city-owned land makes relatively little difference. (While the rental market is less daunting, the same basic concepts apply.)

But the report shows another way to get there. The detailed data points to this package approach:

1) Target midrise projects for affordable housing rather than high-rise projects – because construction costs are dramatically lower in midrise (less than six stories).

2) Use "density bonus" fees paid by high-rise projects to fund affordable housing in other, midrise projects Downtown.

3) Require these midrise projects to make 10% of their units affordable. (That's far more than the task force recommendations, which require just 10% of bonus square feet, which translates to about 4% of units.)

The data shows this approach producing affordable units Downtown that would require just $20,000 in public subsidies – from local, state, or federal sources – to become affordable to 80% MFI households. For 100% MFI households, just a $5,000 subsidy would be needed – far less daunting than that opening $380,000 gap for high-rise construction.

But if we're trying to densify Downtown – e.g., maximize the height potential of each and every buildable site – isn't that in conflict with building a bunch of new midrise housing?

Here's where the Capitol View Corridors swoop in wearing a dashing red cape – as the unintended saviors of Downtown affordability. The corridors create limits on building heights; last year the Downtown Commission made a controversial push to revisit them, in part because they also limit high-rise redevelopment. But parcels under Capitol View Corridor height restrictions offer ideal sites for the midrise structures that are cost-effective for affordable housing. Happily, many are located in districts – along Waller Creek, near homeless shelters and social services, and in the state parking garage wasteland – where new affordable housing is desirable and a good fit. (Musicians and artists enjoying subsidized apartments should be much more open-minded than $1 million condo investors, for instance, about having the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless as a neighbor.)

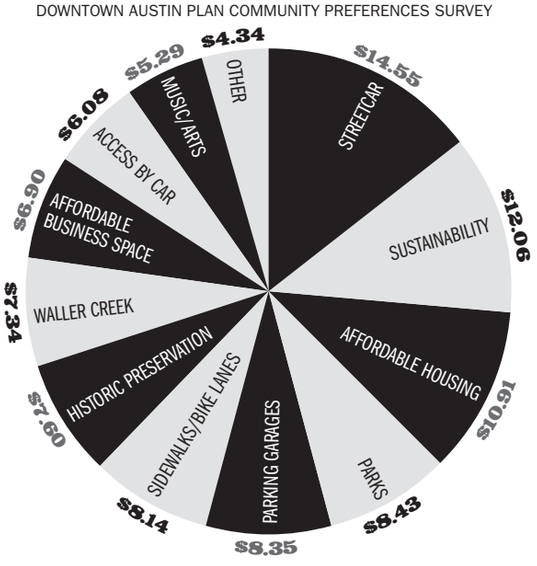
The flip side of the argument: The city shouldn't spend its scarce affordable-housing dollars on sites without Capitol View Corridors or other height limits. Let all unrestricted full blocks rise as high as possible: That serves the twin community goals of maximum density/sustainability and economic vitality, as driven by major office and mixed-use projects. Let height-restricted tracts add density in a different way (and you get a surprising increase from five-story infill projects, built cheek-to-cheek): That can serve the community goal of having Downtown neighborhoods that are more affordable, welcoming, and diverse. Council Member Brewster McCracken said that after his briefing, he was newly invigorated and excited by seeing exactly how that can happen.

It's this kind of "aha" moment that can be delivered only by comprehensive urban planning. Fresh solutions emerge when multiple community issues are synthesized and understood as interlocking parts of a whole. Those, in turn, can shift public attitudes. One example: Housing advocates recently have pressed the city to prioritize on-site affordable housing in the redevelopment of Green Water Treatment Plant. But the Phase One ROMA report suggests that a different approach would better achieve the root goal. On those full blocks without height restrictions, the city instead would encourage sky-high projects – yielding property taxes to match. Of those taxes, 40% already are earmarked for the city's affordable-housing fund. Those dollars – nearly $1 million a year at full build-out – would be invested in subsidizing new midrise projects (and perhaps existing apartments) nearby, say in the northwest district of historic homes or along Waller Creek. The potential result: Many more Downtown units affordable to average Austinites.

There's plenty more meat in the Phase One report. Other key issues it sets up include regional transit, transportation, and mobility; a whole section addresses economic viability – the need to ensure that Downtown Austin retains it regional pre-eminence, despite competition from suburban upstarts like the Domain. For certain, those who participate in the Jan. 12 town-hall meeting will have plenty to digest. But the meal is worth the chew. ■

If I had $100 to spend on public improvements Downtown

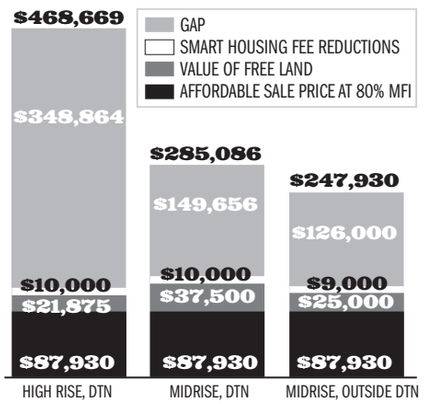
DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN COMMUNITY PREFERENCES SURVEY



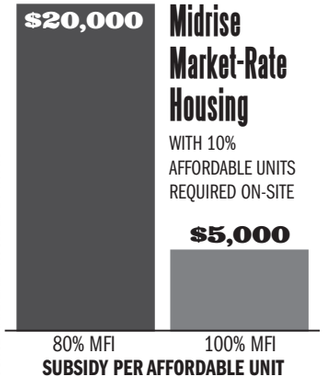
Streetcar Is No. 1: Austinites differ widely in the Downtown improvements they care most about funding. Transit and sustainability ranked highest with the more than 8,000 survey respondents. A density bonus program could let developers fund many of these needs, not only affordable housing.

Housing Affordability Gap

WITHOUT REQUIRED AFFORDABLE UNITS OR DEVELOPER FEES-IN-LIEU



Subsidies Needed: Especially for high-rise construction, a daunting gap exists Downtown between what a household earning 80% of the median family income can afford ($87,930) and what an average one-bedroom condo costs ($468,669). How to close the gap? Collect "density bonus" fees and require more affordable units from developers, then add public subsidies.



SOURCE MATERIAL PROVIDED BY ROMA

Midrise Market-Rate Housing

WITH 10% AFFORDABLE UNITS REQUIRED ON-SITE

A Brighter Picture: Affordability becomes far more achievable in mid-rise housing, when developers are required to include 10% affordable units in a market-rate project. The smaller public subsidies shown here would buy down the unit sales price.

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Roy Lichtenstein, *Brushstrokes*, 1967, Screenprint, edition 222/300, 23 X 31 inches, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, 1996.12, © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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Jaston Williams is at it again! This *Tuna* star's latest solo effort is laughter, tears and outrage anew as he voyages east to adopt a 7-year old boy. From the acclaimed creator of *I'm Not Lying*.



Debra Winger -- March 5

Texas Monthly's Evan Smith interviews Debra to discover why she left Hollywood...and more!

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the arts

31 FRONTERAFEST SCHEDULE **34** DIRTY GOAT **36** AFTER A FASHION **64** ARTS LISTINGS

The Long Center Who's playing


Kathleen Battle


Cherryholmes

The countdown to the grand opening of Austin's new performing-arts center has passed the 80-day mark, and ratcheting up the anticipation level for the big event (as if it needs any ratcheting) is the Long Center's release of the schedule for the 2,400-seat Dell Hall through early August and for the 240-seat Rollins Theatre through September, as well as the lineups for the pair of gala opening concerts in Dell Hall March 28 and 29.

If the first months are any measure, the Long Center will indeed be a venue where every kind of arts group in the city is welcome. In addition to previously announced programs such as Austin Lyric Opera's *Carmen*, the ballet of *Don Quixote* by Ballet Austin, and Conspirare singing the Verdi *Requiem*, Dell Hall will feature everything from classical soprano Kathleen Battle to a Beatles cover band to a legendary mariachi ensemble to three *redneck* tenors to Nashville bluegrass wonders Cherryholmes. The Rollins schedule is equally eclectic, including the Rude Mechs, Aztlan Dance Company, ProArts Collective, the Austin Shakespeare Festival, Austin Chamber Music Center, Teatro Vivo, A. Mozart Fest, TexARTS, and Refraction Arts' Fuse Box Festival.

Kicking off the premiere season will be a gala concert on Friday, March 28, hosted by Tommy Tune and featuring the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Lyric Opera, Ballet Austin, Conspirare, Michael Amante, and more. That will be followed on Saturday, March 29, with an All-Texas Music Tribute Concert starring Ray Benson with Asleep at the Wheel, Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Rick Trevino, and Flaco Jimenez.

But you actually won't have to wait until then to experience the Long Center in all its glory. The first week of March, the center will be open for four days of free performances and tours, with the members of the Los Angeles-based MASS Ensemble (which includes former Austinite Chrysta Bell) bringing their remarkable blend of music and architecture to the new facility and, by stretching extremely long strings across the terrace of the Long Center, transforming it into what they call an Earth Harp. So for a weekend, this won't be just a building that presents music; it'll be one that *make*s music. How's that for an auspicious debut?

The schedule follows. Dates are subject to change. For more information, visit **www.thelongcenter.org**. – *Robert Faires*

DELL HALL

April 4-5 Austin Symphony Orchestra in concert with the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet
April 7 Kathleen Battle in recital
April 18, 20, 24, 26 Austin Lyric Opera: *Carmen*
May 2 *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*
May 3 Rain: The Beatles Experience
May 4 Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano
May 9-11 Ballet Austin: *Don Quixote*
May 18 Cherryholmes
May 20 *3 Redneck Tenors*
June 9-15 *Love, Janis*
June 20-21 Conspirare: Verdi *Requiem*
July 6 Zilker Summer Musical 50th Anniversary Concert
July 10-11 Video Games Live!
July 12-26 2008 Austin Chamber Music Festival
Aug. 6-7 Univision Awards Show


Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano

ROLLINS THEATRE

March 29-April 12 Rude Mechanicals: *The Method Gun*
April 13 Austin Chamber Music Center: "Nobody likes a show-off. … Well, maybe just this once."
April 14-27 ProArts Collective: *Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil*
April 28-May 4 Refraction Arts: Fuse Box Festival
May 9-10 TexARTS Musical Theater Academy: *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*
May 12-June 1 HBMG Foundation: *The Love Sonatas*
June 2-8 Teatro Vivo: *Petra's Sueño*
June 15, 17 Wild Basin Winds: Octets
June 19-20 A. Mozart Fest
June 23-29 Aztlan Dance Company: *Jalisco: Now & Then*
July 12-20 2008 Austin Chamber Music Festival
July 21-27 ProArts Collective: Workshop of world premiere
Aug. 11-23 ProArts Collective: Workshop of *Black Nativity*
Sept. 2-21 Austin Shakespeare Festival: *Macbeth*



SANDY CARSON

▸ The **Blanton Museum of Art**'s 2007 exhibition "The Geometry of Hope: Latin American Abstract Art From the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection" was named Best Thematic Show Nationally by the United States section of the International Association of Art Critics. The show, which charted the development of geometric abstraction in South America from the 1930s through the Seventies, was organized by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro, who recently resigned as curator of Latin American art at the Blanton to become director of the Cisneros Collection. A version of the exhibition showed at New York University's Grey Art Gallery last fall. The Blanton will receive the award at a ceremony at New York's Guggenheim Museum on March 17.

▸ **Blue Lapis Light** has become a FameCast Fenom in Season 3 of the online talent competition, winning the popular vote in the dance category and a $10,000 prize. Austin-based FameCast allows contestants to submit videos of themselves in one of 12 categories (pop, country, R&B, spoken word, Latin, comedy, et al.), then visitors to the website vote for their favorites through five rounds, including a live performance. In the dance round at Stubb's on Dec. 5, Blue Lapis company dancer Nicole Whiteside performed a solo aerial dance similar to ones she has performed in Blue Lapis' *Illumination* and *Requiem*. A genuinely impressive video of her work can be seen at **www.famecast.com/contest/stage_top5_results.php?stage_id=31&round_id=169**. A trio of industry experts was also on hand at the performance to make a Critics' Pick from the five finalists. Choreographer Andrea Ariel (Ariel Dance Theatre), Romeo Navarro (B-Boy City), and Lindsay Rodolico (Philly Soul) chose another incredibly athletic dancing Austinite, hip-hop move master **Santos**.

▸ Round Rock High School senior **Zachary Graff** received an honorable mention designation in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts' youngARTS program, which encourages and rewards talented high school seniors. Graff, a tuba player who won first place in the 2006 Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival, was among 142 finalists nationwide selected from nearly 8,000 applicants in nine disciplines. They traveled to Miami this week for youngARTS Week, seven days of master classes, workshops, readings, exhibits, and enrichment activities. In 2006, Graff and his tuba appeared on the National Public Radio program *From the Top*. Audio excerpts may be heard at **www.fromthetop.org/Programs/Performers.cfm?pid=2268**.

▸ **David Justin**, artistic director of American Repertory Ensemble and head of the dance program in the UT Department of Theatre & Dance, is a new dad. He and wife Grace Holmes welcomed Evelyn Rain Holmes into the world on Dec. 8. Baby, mother, and father are all reportedly doing well, but Justin is having to juggle his new parental duties with the demands of ARE's next production, *Winter's Tryst*, set for Jan. 18 & 19 at the McCullough Theatre on the UT campus. He's choreographing two works and dancing in a pas de deux by James Kudelka. For more information, visit **www.americanrepensemble.org**.

▸ Just one week left to vote for your favorite work of art in the **2007 "People's Gallery" exhibition** at City Hall. Voting ends Friday, Jan. 18, after which the work with the most votes will be purchased from the artist and join Benge Elliott Jr.'s *Three Sheep*, from the 2006 exhibition, and Hank Waddell's *West Texas Beach Ball*, from the 2005 exhibition, in the City Hall permanent art collection. To vote, go to the lobby of City Hall and pick up a yellow exhibit packet for a self-guided tour of the exhibition. A bright pink ballot with voting instructions is attached to each packet. The 2007 "People's Gallery" exhibition closes Jan. 31, and the 2008 exhibition will open on Feb. 22. – *R.F.*

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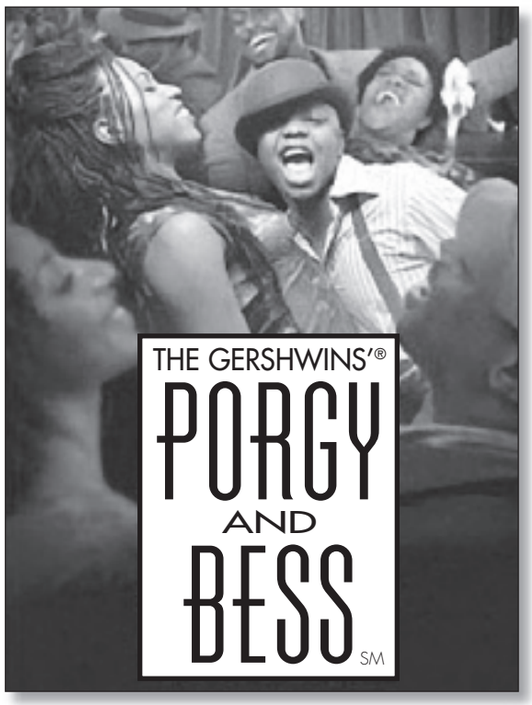


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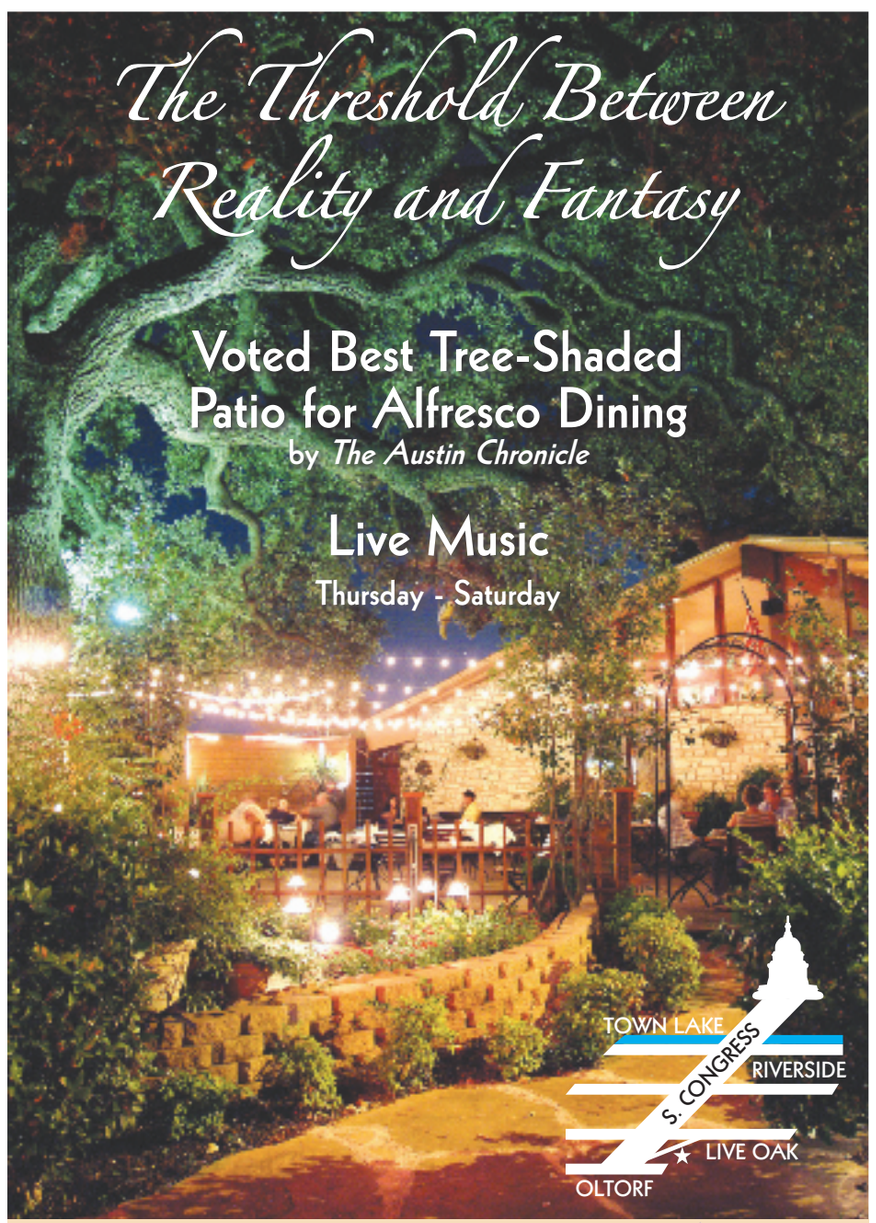
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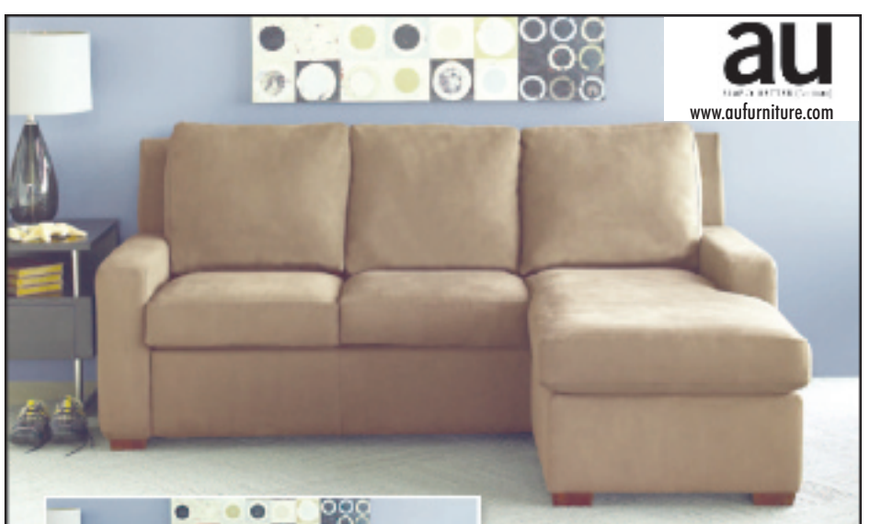
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BY ROBERT FAIRES

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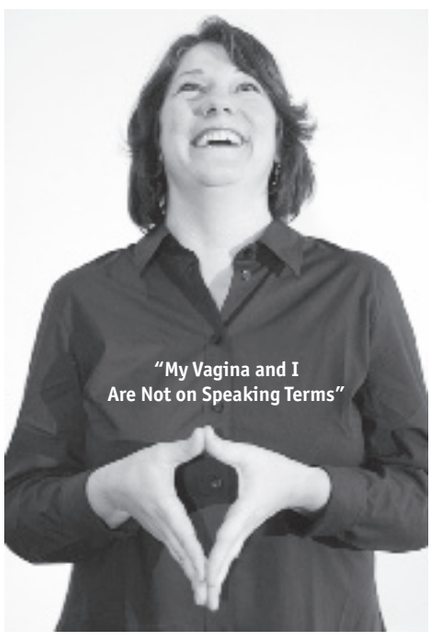
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Where else will you find such oddities and wonders but FronteraFest, the annual jamboree of homegrown performance where anyone and everyone is encouraged to take the stage with whatever moves them, be it self-written monologue, interpretive dance, or hip-hop. Anything goes at FronteraFest, which is part of what makes it such a kick. Theatrical styles and disciplines jostle against one another; experienced writers and actors bump against amateurs making their debuts. Experimentation abounds, as does courage and not a little folly. The unrestrained variety, with that free-for-all spirit and personal stake on the part of those on the stage, exhilarates. Seeing so many people taking risks is a perfect way to start a new year.

So now's the time to work out what to see and when. This year's Short Fringe – the traditional showcase of pieces 25 minutes or less – runs Jan. 15-Feb. 16, Tuesday-Saturday, at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. As always, the Saturday program offers the Best of the Week, culled from works presented Tuesday through Friday, and the fifth week features pieces judged Best of the Fest. Each Wednesday will feature a piece commissioned by the playwrights organization Austin Script Works: "Apocalypse," by Elizabeth Cobbe (Jan. 16); "Larius Likler," by Aimée Gonzales (Jan. 23); "Parents Are People," by Sarah Saltwick (Jan. 30); and "How Little Has Changed," by Max Langert (Feb. 7).

The 2008 Long Fringe offers 11 full-length productions running Jan. 22-Feb. 3 at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, with one show at the Hideout, 617 Congress. Plus, there's Mi Casa Es Su Teatro, a host of original works performed in homes around Austin on Saturday, Feb. 9. Tickets are $3 per show and will be sold at the door on a cash-only basis. For information, call 479-PLAY, the FronteraFest hotline at 236-7511, or visit **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.



"My Vagina and I Are Not on Speaking Terms"

SHORT FRINGE AT HYDE PARK THEATRE

Tuesday, Jan. 15

"My Vagina and I Are Not on Speaking Terms," by Nettie Hartsock. Monologue from "I'll take the husband and kids with a vagina on the side to go" work in progress.
Buddy Daddy. Arthur Simone is joined onstage by his dog, Robin Goodfellow, for improvised scenes.
"Junky Central, USA," by Elizabeth Krieg, choreographed by RAD. News report of the state of the nation through the eyes of our favorite junkies.
"The Weiner Chronicles," by Alex Garza. Monologues by Alex Garza that dare to rationalize the enigma that is man's phallic dependence.
"My Ballet for Dog and Red-Haired Girl," by Hank Schwemmer. An open window and a long way down.

Wednesday, Jan. 16

"Apocalypse," by Elizabeth Cobbe (an Austin Script Works commission). The world is coming to an end. Oops!
"Stand" and "Son of the Lizard King," by Jason Tremblay. Theatre Silica presents two acclaimed plays that will "steal about 10 minutes of your life."
"A Genuine Plea to My Insides," by Kelli Bland. A dialogue between the performer and her body.
"My Junior," by Anne Boyd. A young mother tries to save her son from the future she believes he is predestined to lead because of his race.
"Cry Havoc Stage Combat," by Uprise! Productions. Warriors explore revolution using ancient customs and modern displays of physicality.

Thursday, Jan. 17

Improv for Evil. Scene-based improvised comedic piece inspired by audience suggestion.
"This Dream Is Short, But This Dream Is Happy," by Sean Tribe. A monologue about Las Vegas, redemption, graduate school, and a gnostic goddess.
"Trigger Happy Jack," by Timothy Braun. A dream that leaves a girl with a decision to make.
"Wayne's Big Body Part," by Kelly Estes. Angry Little Theatre presents a short piece about a big piece.
"Moving Parts Due to Lubrication," by Sue Bilich and Abby November with Sandy Simon and Mary Elizabeth. Three psychotherapists discuss intimate moments about their patients.

Friday, Jan. 18

"Kawaisoo (The Pity of Things)," by Jason Grote. Capital T Theatre presents a one-woman show about America's commodity fetishism in the wake of 9/11.
"Relativity and Mr. Underfoot," by Hal Fulton. A research lab borrows Einstein's brain, but things don't go as planned.
"Brain Big," by Priscilla Sample. A monologue excerpted from a play about female body image.
"A Meta-Murder Mystery," by Patton Quinn, Kerri Lendo, and Seth Johnson. Comedy/variety.
"Princess Press-On," by Allison Landa. In Munich, at the Hotel Italia, the author finds a Nigerian royal drinking a German beer and extending a dicey invitation.

Saturday, Jan. 19

Best of the Week



"Amusing Karl"

Tuesday, Jan. 22

"Joe Normal," by Mark Farias. Exploration of the nature of heroism and society's acceptance of its absence.
Look Cookie. Local improv troupe with a twist.
One A.M. Chris Trew and Tami Nelson of ColdTowne perform two-person improv based off of one suggestion.
"Something for Odile." Theatre Silica presents works by 12 playwrights written for Odile Nicole Del Giudice.
"Video Vixen." Uprise! Productions' piece explores the perception, role, and expectation of the video vixen.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

"Larius Likler," by Aimée Gonzalez (an Austin Script Works commission). A man whose name is almost an anagram for "serial killer" decides almost to become one.
"Suspicious Package," by Jason Vines and Matt Pollock. Improvised piece deconstructing a pair of monologues.
"Amusing Karl," by Francisco Rodriguez. As Thalia strives to seduce Karl Marx, she discovers that her biggest competition is his typewriter.
"The Diary of a Mad Cat Wrangler," by Alex Garza and Gwendolyn Kelso. Comedy about the trials and tribulations of performing children's theatre.
"The Nymph," by Tim Thomas. Loaded Gun Theory presents a scene involving an ancient nymph who ensnares and enchants a mother and a daughter.

Thursday, Jan. 24

"Austin 3275," by Stuart Hersh. A story of race relations in Austin in July 1932 just as Prohibition is ending.
Get Up. Master improvisers Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin present an improvised story.
"The Ballad of the Three Actorteers," by Alan Metoskie, Jason Newman, and Chuck Watkins. The three greatest actors in the universe struggle to perform challenging plays sent to them from the gods of theatre.
"Sublet," by Deborah Goldstein and Andrea Middleton. Living with a stranger.
"Dale Duncan," by Chris Sykes. An attempt at a positive outlook on cynicism.

Friday, Jan. 25

"The Startling Story of My Not Suicide as Told by the Creepy Suicide Story Guy," by Paul B. Joiner. In the hope that others might learn from my mistakes.
"That Diana Look," by Maggie Gallant. Character monologues by writer/performer Gallant.
"_____ the Musical!" by Girls Girls Girls. Austin's only all-female, all-musical improv troupe makes up a musical on the spot based on a suggested location.
"The Wager," by Janet Heimlich. Ex-con Eugene tries to teach his gambling-addict son a life-changing lesson. Adapted from "The Gambler," by Austin's Joe O'Connell.
"A Breathing Machine for Carmella Beautain," by Rebecca Wadlinger. An autopsy looks to be a routine procedure, but then ...

Saturday, Jan. 26

Best of the Week



"The Artist Behind Closed Doors"

Tuesday, Jan. 29

"A Life for Love and Pleasure: Remembering Mata Hari," by Miriam Robinson Gould. One-woman show about the woman known to history as the legendary spy.
"The Artist Behind Closed Doors," by Jessica Arnold. An intimate look at the artist behind closed doors, with hand puppets, granny panties, and baby Jesus.
"Pushkin Ploshit!" by Shelia Gordon. The life of an American woman in Moscow: boiling sinkholes, asphalt deathtraps, and conversations with the statue Pushkin. Unscripted Narrative Theatre. Parallelogramophonograph creates a story right before the audience's eyes.
"Talk to Me Like the Rain," by Tennessee Williams. A love story for four people.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

"Parents Are People," by Sarah Saltwick (an Austin Script Works commission). Two comedic plays about parties, Paris, cell phones, and secrets.
"Based on the Lives of True American Heroes," by Jesse Donaldson. A middle-management wireless employee, a motherland security agent, and a janitor are trapped in a warehouse plagued by an infestation of holes.
"Group Therapy," by Espie Randolph. Character-driven sketch comedy.
"A Necklace for Each of My Lovers," by Meghan Dwyer. A play about the memories our body continues to wear after the people who created them have long gone.
"Play It by Ear," by Leticia Rodriguez with musicians Eric Calistri and Gerard Villanueva. West Austin meets *West Side Story*.

continued on p.32

Thursday, Jan. 31

"Plum," by Cris Edwards. No known intentions.
I Snood Bear. Improvised theatre by Wesley Bain and Christina de Roos, with atypical storytelling technique, dramatic comedy, and realistic characters.
"Grading on a Curve," by A.V. Phibes. A monologue concerning a bored artist with cannibalistic tendencies.
"Stewardess," by Don Corr. A comedy about love lost at 20,000 feet.
"The Wussy Boy Chronicles Episode Four: A New Hope," by Eirik Ott. Performance poetry, dramatic monologue, storytelling, and sketch comedy by Big Poppa E.

Friday, Feb. 1

"The Pinpricks," by Dolores Judith Diaz with acknowledgments to Allen Lea. A piece about the power, and sometimes tragedy, of storytelling.
"Informal Conversación," by Jennifer Salazar.
"How to Get Rich," by Tommy Levrier. An overeducated and unemployed married couple learns how to get rich from their neighbor, who they suspect is Howard Hughes.
"The Perfect Snowball," by Candyce Rusk. Early evening in a Midwestern town, three kids and 10 snowballs.
Lovey & Lovey. ColdTowne's Tami Nelson and Michael Jastroch present sketch comedy about a ridiculous, booze-addled relationship.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Best of the Week


"The Cosmo & Gigi"

Tuesday, Feb. 5

"Vivid," by Kirsten Davis. Solo piece that explores the dichotomy between our soul and our sense of duty.
"Honor," by Austin Alexander. A Syrian family struggles with the dishonor brought upon it by the teenaged daughter who has been raped.
"The Triumphant Return of the Haiku Deathmatch!!!" by Eirik Ott. Full-contact poetry as three haiku warriors engage in head-to-head poetic combat.
"The Well," by Erin Phillips.
Scissor. Guest improviser Justin York creates improvised scenes in the "scissor" form, his own invention.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

"How Little Has Changed," by Max Langert (an Austin Script Works commission). A PowerPoint presentation in seven parts.
"Starting Roger Taylor," by Maggie Gallant. Solo confession by an obsessive, lifelong Queen fan.
"The One, the Only ... the Fabi: An Infomercial," by Rhonda Kulhanek. Infomercial unveiling the Life-Changing, Revolutionary Fabi!
"The Proud Pornographer," by Kyle Schmidt.
"Blacklisted Individuals." Uprise! Productions presents hip-hop for the working man, blending spoken word, stage combat, and rap.

Thursday, Feb. 7

"Just Say Da: Direct Object," by Jamie Rhodes, Jude Hickey, Kirk German, Lisa del Rosario, Michelle Brandt, Robin Grace Thompson, Scott Roskilly, Tom Coiner, and Heather Huggins. Eight storytellers are unleashed on a stage with a backpack, an exercise bungee, a picture frame, a rolling pin, a pair of pajama pants, two coffee mugs, an *Austin Chronicle*, and a dozen pencils.
"Click," by Allan Baker. Saturday night online. What are you looking for? What will you find?
"The Eat 'n' Out," by Fred Jones, Zachary Claxton, Douglas Spearman, and Eddie Shannon. Come on down to Mr. Burgher. Home of the Yummy. It's fast. It's food. It's fast food. It's delicious.
"The Cowgirl Mary Puppet Theatre Show," by RoHo Theatre Company. Puppet show with live actors and music.
"Arts and Crafts," by Annie La Ganga. Monologue about hobbies you can do for fun or profit, including cake-decorating, creative writing, and cyclical depression.

Friday, Feb. 8

"Ben Prager," by Ben Prager. Monologues written and performed by Prager.
"The Cosmo & Gigi," by Isabella Russell-Ides. In this partial homage to *Godot*, Gigi's got Cosmo like a habit, and she'll never get enough.
"1 + 1 + 1," by Zeb West, Hannah Kenah, and Richard Cambier. Three actors play three characters in three scenes four you.
"Work in Progress," by Natalie Goodnow. An exploration – enjoy!
"CoochieMagik: A Spoken Word Musical Comedy," by Christa Bell. Excerpt from a ritual solo performance resisting the attack on women in mainstream hip-hop and mass media.

Saturday, Feb. 9

Best of the Week

LONG FRINGE AT THE BLUE THEATER

You Are Happier Than You Think: Recalibrating Your Emotional Scale
(Max Langert) (60 min.) Max Langert's play concerns an esteemed lecturer invited to give a happiness seminar aboard an ocean liner. But his daughter has a compulsion to throw people overboard, his wife has run out of anti-depressants, and both the captain and first mate have a curious desire to help him file for divorce. *Tuesday, Jan. 22, 9pm; Thursday, Jan. 31, 9:15pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 6:15pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, noon*

Luna Tart Died (of a broken heart)
(Laura Freeman) (75 min.) One woman. One ukulele. One long-suffering pianist. One hourlong musical spiral into loneliness and despair. A full-length version of the FronteraFest Best of the Fest 2007 cabaret musical. Written by and starring Laura Freeman. Directed and co-written by Rudy Ramirez. Datri Bean accompanies. *Wednesday, Jan. 23, 9:15pm; Friday, Jan. 25, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 26, 10:30pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 4:15pm*

Dance Carousel 2008
(Spank Dance Company) (75 min.) Forty dances in 40 minutes by 10 local choreographers, each of whom creates four one-minute dances. *Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 26, 8:30pm; Monday, Jan. 28, 8:45pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 2:15pm*

Lost/Found
(Surface Tension Dance Group) (90 min.) In its debut production, this collaborative company of dancers with musicians and visual artists explores the theme of lost and found literally, abstractly, personally, and spiritually. Athletic yet sensual movement is supported and layered by text, composition, photography, and props. *Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 26, noon; Sunday, Jan. 27, 8:15pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 5:30pm*

Devil in the Details: An Office Musical
(Rain Nox) (75 min.) A kindhearted geek becomes embroiled in a crazy love triangle – between him, a co-worker, and his computer – while the fate of the company rests in his hands. A satirical look at office life, mixed with a little sci-fi and a lot of romance. *Thursday, Jan. 24, 7pm; Sunday, Jan. 27, noon; Tuesday, Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 3:30pm*

Sad, Sad, Sad: Parts 1 & 2
(You're Wicked! Repertory Theatre Company) (90 min.) Two one-acts by Duncan Coe and Nigel O'Hearn. Four men working in a military research facility in Nevada steal a newly developed bomb and prepare it for a very different use. Two men from purgatory are ordered to assassinate God in exchange for another shot at living. *Monday, Jan. 21, 9:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 26, 2:15pm; Thursday, Jan. 31, 7pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 10:15pm*

The Mommy Confessions
(Rhonda F. Kulhanek) (90 min.) Kulhanek's one-woman show features 12 characters struggling to survive their maternal lives, including a "memaw" raising her grandkids who confesses to Jesus, a former beauty queen who comes clean at Mommies Anonymous, and an unwed mother-to-be who confides in her unborn son. *Monday, Jan. 21, 7pm; Sunday, Jan. 27, 2pm; Friday, Feb. 1, 9:15pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 8pm*

Jack and the King
(The Striking Players) (60 min.) Austin Alexander's topical satire questions authority while making fun of it. Tyrannical president, er ... "King" George II shipwrecks on a seemingly deserted island, where he is taught the error of his ways by the devious Jack and other whimsical characters. Directed by Sesar Sandoval. *Saturday, Jan. 26, 4:30pm; Monday, Jan. 28, 7pm; Friday, Feb. 1, 11:30pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 7:45pm*

Prepare for Arrival and Cross Check
(Steve Barney) (60 min.) Barney's new work is based on the real-life experiences of flight attendants. It's all here: atrocious passenger behavior, heartless airline management, post-9/11 flying – even a glimpse of the divine as seen through this bizarre profession's eyes. *Friday, Jan. 25, 9pm; Sunday, Jan. 27, 6:30pm; Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7pm; Sunday, Feb. 3, 1:45pm*


Luna Tart Died (of a broken heart)

i google myself
(Capital T Theatre) (90 min.) Jason Schafer's comedic thriller has three different men with the same name – a lonely stalker, a gay porn star, and a stoner mechanic – brought together by an Internet search engine. But what starts as a curiosity turns into an obsession that makes these three men's worlds violently collide. *Friday, Jan. 25, 10:45pm; Sunday, Jan. 27, 4:15pm; Wednesday, Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Friday, Feb. 1, 7pm*

Paper Weight
(University of Texas doctoral & MFA students in Playwriting & Performance as Public Practice) (90 min.) Michelle Dvoskin, Kristin Leahey, Elizabeth McKetta, Priscilla Sample, and Meg Sullivan portray diverse iconic women (Virginia Woolf, Joan Nestle, Zelda Fitzgerald, Margo Jones, and Margaret Bourke-White) in separate solo performances that delve into issues of desire and pleasure, illness and remembrance, race and identity, research and archive, love and memory. *Thursday, Jan. 24, 9pm; Saturday, Jan. 26, 6:15pm; Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, noon*

BRING YOUR OWN VENUE AT THE HIDEOUT

Shoeless or the Advantages of Not Knowing Exactly Where You Are Going
(Unknown Citizens) (75 min.) *Who Am I?* Is America's favorite game show. The stakes are too horrible to even talk about. The prize is a ridiculous compensation considering the infamy. Dreams shattered. Identities destroyed. Now that's entertainment. By Devin Moss, Bree Perlman, and Donald Berthelme. *Saturday, Jan. 26, 8pm; Thursday, Jan. 31, 8pm; Friday, Feb. 1, 8pm; Saturday, Feb. 2, 8pm*

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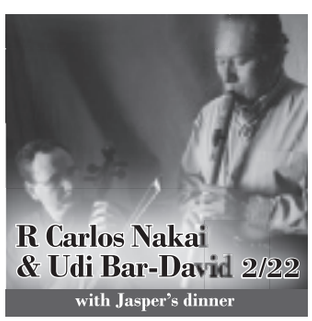
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George Winston w/ Whole Foods Market dinner	**2/13, 14 & 15**
R Carlos Nakai & Udi Bar-David w/ Jasper's dinner	**2/22**
Jesse Cook w/ The Driskill dinner	**3/9**
Boney James w/ Truluck's dinner	**3/21**
Acoustic Alchemy w/ Jasper's dinner	**4/18**
Leon Russell w/ The Driskill dinner	**4/20**
Hugh Masekela w/ Whole Foods Market dinner	**4/29**
Tower of Power w/ The Driskill dinner	**5/4**
Colin Hay w/ Jasper's dinner	**6/21**

The Following Shows Presented by: One World

Alisa Weilerstein w/ Whole Foods Market dinner	**2/5**
Gabriela Montero w/ The Driskill dinner	**4/6**

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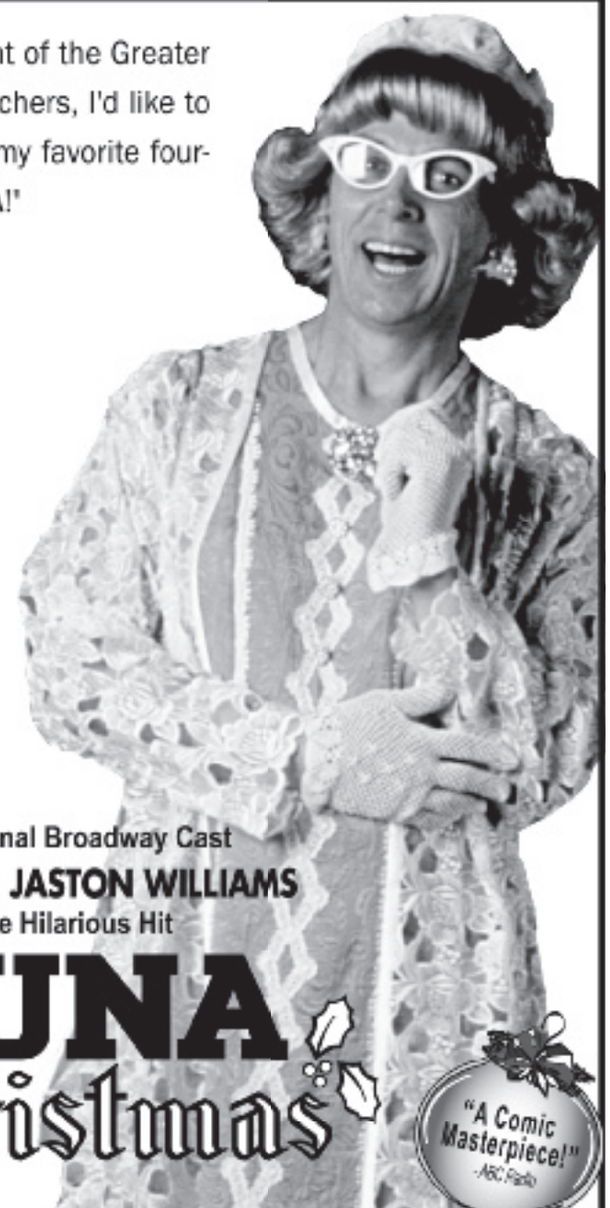
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Get Your Goat

A homegrown literary magazine celebrates 20 years of playing Host to Texas and the world

BY MICHAEL AGRESTA

This month marks the 20th anniversary of *The Dirty Goat*, the long-running literary journal based in Austin and New York City. From humble roots in 1980s Austin, when each new volume was launched with a keg party in Harris Park, the journal has expanded in size and reputation – as has Host Publications, the independent press that grew up around it. From its new headquarters in downtown Manhattan, Host continues to deliver high-quality international literature with friendly, irreverent energy and a Texas drawl.

Joe W. Bratcher III, Host's president and co-founder, has overseen every aspect of *The Dirty Goat*'s production from the start. Over the past three years, he has brought on two full-time employees to help with marketing and editorial management. Still, the business retains a homespun feel. While his press aims to provide a welcoming home for guest voices from around the globe, Bratcher looks to his own hometown for grounding. Despite his new base in the land of Condé Nast, W.W. Norton, and Random House, Bratcher still considers Host Publications an Austin press.

"I want the identity of the company to be a non-New York press," Bratcher says. "It's a very independent-minded company. I moved away from Austin in 1995. When I go back, Austin has changed a lot, but I'm holding on to this ideal Austin that I grew up in, in the 1960s, when it was a small town and you could do intellectually interesting things there and there would be people who would just be curious about what was going on and what you were doing. My idea was just to put material out there so that people could experience it."

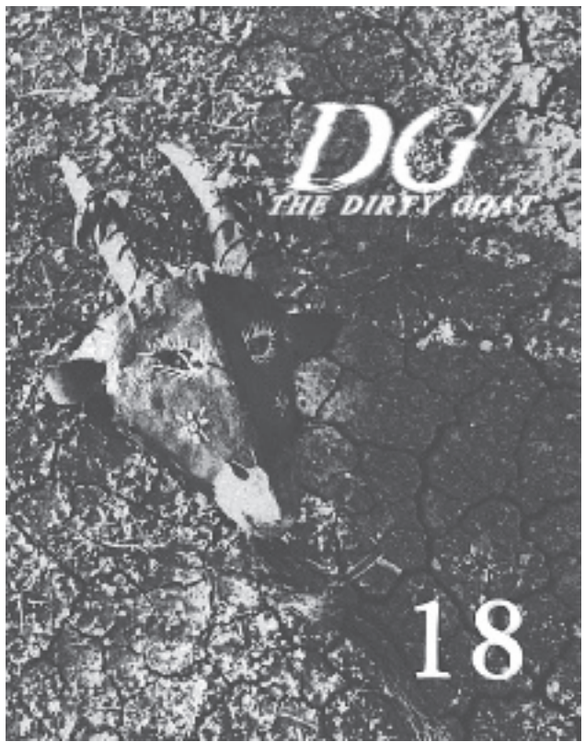
Most of the material Host has put out over the years is of international origin. Way back in 1987, Bratcher and his wife, Elzbieta Szoka, finished their doctorates at the University of Texas and graduated into a tough job market. Szoka, a Portuguese literature Ph.D., called on her academic contacts to put together Host's first title, *3 Contemporary Brazilian Plays*. That book became a model for much of Host's catalog – new or underexposed voices in fresh translation for the academic and specialty market. Authors have included Italian story writer Massimo Bontempelli, who might have coined the phrase "magic realism"; leading Uruguayan poet Ida Vitale, whose political exile eventually led her to settle in Austin; and French flaneur-poet Jacques Réda.

At the center of all this multilingual activity stands *The Dirty Goat*. The journal has often served as a gateway for new authors and translators and as a way for Bratcher to get to know artists and decide if they would fit in Host's catalog. The *Goat* also tends to feature a hearty portion of American, English-language poetry and prose – often with roots in experimental traditions. "The amount of material we've gotten in these 18 issues," Bratcher says, "and the consistency of it – bilingual Chinese, Yiddish, Greek, interviews with people from around the world – that's my proudest accomplishment. I love doing the books, and I'm proud of every book we've done, but when it comes to doing *The Dirty Goat*, that's really it."

The first issue of *The Dirty Goat*, published in 1988, bore an inscription by Polish poet Aleksander Wat, referring to "smelly, comic, and worthy goats" who forage in the aftermath of men's glory and disasters. That issue also featured New York painter Alfred Leslie, who would become a central figure in the story of Host Publications. Bratcher and Szoka met Leslie soon after founding Host. As Bratcher tells it, Leslie agreed to contribute prints to the inaugural issue of *The Dirty Goat* on the basis of the name alone. It was a significant celebrity endorsement for the fledgling journal.

Over the next decade, Bratcher worked to repay the favor, creating a large-scale, page-by-page reproduction of Leslie's 1960 collaborative masterwork, *The Hasty Papers*. *Papers* includes photographs, drawings, paintings, plays by John Ashbery and Aristophanes, two sort-of novels, poems by Kenneth Koch and other New York School poets, an essay on the paintings of Hitler and Churchill, and the full text of a Fidel Castro speech. When the *Chronicle* reviewed Host's edition in 2000, we wrote that it achieved "a highly respectable authority in depicting not just one city or one group of thinkers, but a world and its troubles in a tiny and critical time – and with a smoke-flavored tongue kiss, at that." Bratcher considers the volume one of Host's greatest accomplishments and does not think it out of place on the shelf with its international cousins. As if building on the "one-shot review" style of *The Hasty Papers*, Host Publications and *The Dirty Goat* make space for a messy melding of different traditions, yielding a prismatic window onto new ideas from around the world.

More recently, Bratcher has developed a new publishing interest – Texas literature. Host has published two books by local poet Dave Oliphant, whom Bratcher first got to know as a translator of Spanish-language poetry. One of Oliphant's books, *Memories of Texas Towns & Cities*, actually contains a 140-page epic poem about Austin. Every poem in the collection takes the name of a Texas city, but Longhorn partisans will be happy to know that Oliphant managed to cover Bryan in a single page.













Twenty years, three dozen titles: Host Publications has spanned the globe, from Austin's back porch to Brazil and beyond.

Christopher Cook's *Screen Door Jesus*, a collection of short stories about East Texas, led Bratcher and Szoka to branch out once again, this time into filmmaking. According to Bratcher, every time Host published a book, beginning with *3 Contemporary Brazilian Plays*, he would mention to his wife that they ought to make a movie out of it. With *Screen Door Jesus*, she finally agreed, and the two collaborated as producers. The film was shot in Austin, Lockhart, and Bastrop, featuring a cast of local actors, and it premiered to good reviews at 2003's South by Southwest Film Festival. Unfortunately, Hurricane Rita disrupted the Gulf Coast-focused opening weekend, which ruined chances of a wider release. (*Screen Door Jesus* is now available on DVD.) Szoka now devotes much of her time to film, and she and Bratcher are collaborating on a new movie, now in postproduction.

The last few years have seen Host transform from a micropress run out of Bratcher's home into a 10-book-per-year operation with professional offices in two states. In Austin, fulfillment runs out of a small office on East Seventh Street. In New York, Host's new digs are within a few blocks of City Hall, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Wall Street. Szoka, no longer involved in the day-to-day operations of Host, is learning the language of Hollywood to prepare for more potential adaptations. Despite all this recent growth, Bratcher says that he aims for a happy medium.

"I don't want to grow anymore," he says. "I want to sell more books, but I'm very comfortable with the number of books we are producing per year. I don't want to lose control of what we're doing. It's already getting so that I can't remember; I need to have a piece of paper or a catalog in front of me to remind me what books we're doing. I don't want it to get any bigger than that."

The outdoor keg parties may have fallen by the wayside in favor of wine and cheese receptions, but the small-town feel is still alive on lower Broadway. The secret of his success, Bratcher says, is that he didn't expect to get rich. "You have to accept from the beginning that you can't be frustrated that you aren't bringing in a lot of money. That's the first thing. The second thing is to be curious. I got a Ph.D in English literature. I love books. I like reading all the bad submissions I receive. I wish I could publish twice the books that I do, if I had the time. It's the curiosity and the energy of loving books and not being stuck in a single mode. I find that I discover other countries by reading literature from those countries."

Bratcher is not alone in his sense of discovery. Over the past 20 years, Host Publications and *The Dirty Goat* have done a great deal to make the world of arts and ideas a little bit more intimate, welcoming guests from near and far, celebrated and obscure, to sit at the same table. Here's to our generous Host.

The Dirty Goat 18 *goes on sale in January. To order an issue, visit* **www.thedirtygoat.com** *or call 236-1290. To see Host Publications' back catalog, visit* **www.hostpublications.com**.

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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

PARTY POOP I must have had a fabulous last couple of weeks – if only I could remember enough to tell you. The Christmas parties were sparkling and lovely (like Zach director **Dave Steakley**'s party was and **Jody Scheske**'s and **Marvin and Eva Womack**'s), the nightclubs were swingin', and the streets were full of merrymakers. *Too* much goddamn fun, if you ask me. And *far* too many new and different outfits to come up with night after night, which was no fun at all. OK, maybe just a little fun. One distant memory involves my sister, Margaret, and I attending the party thrown by everyone's favorite Go-Go, **Kathy Valentine**. On the way there, while recalling the early-Eighties heyday of the Go-Go's, Margaret mentioned that she thought she remembered the Go-Go's back in the day doing an anti-fur ad for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. I pulled my new black fur coat around me snugly, trying to avoid the chill – *not* the chill outside that the coat protected me from but the chill that might greet me as I entered a possibly anti-fur activist's home wearing fur. But if indeed Mme. Valentine had an issue with my coat, she was the perfect hostess and did not mention it (*or* hurl paint on me or slice the coat to ribbons while I was wearing it). I told her how I'd gotten the coat on eBay – a vintage fur once worn to the 1981 MTV debut party by original MTV veejay, the late **J.J. Jackson**, who was pictured in the eBay listing with the coat thrown over his shoulders. Kathy looked me up and down like a searchlight and said, "I remember him in that coat – I was at the MTV debut party in 1981." It was a jolt of reality that took me back all those years, when the Go-Go's ruled the earth. I remembered with horror what I looked like back then … but the talented Mme. Valentine looked just as fresh and dewy as ever.

NYE When I heard that my friend **Patricia Paredes** was the PR person *and* interim executive director of First Night, I besieged her with calls, text messages, e-mails, flowers, and gifts, *begging* her to put my guests and me on the list for the mayor's private balcony party at City Hall ("*Please*, Patricia, I'll *die* if we don't go," and even, "Patricia, I saw this lovely diamond bracelet at Neiman Marcus, and I *knew* it would be gorgeous on you"). She finally relented, and we were in. Now, I have to admit that I loathe New Year's Eve and Halloween. Total amateur nights with drunken strangers on the street mauling me, pushing, vomiting – and so I just don't go out on those nights. In fact, I've *never* been out on NYE in Austin, at least since I was a teenager. But this year I braved it – and loved it – at least from my perch on the third-floor balcony of City Hall, where we saw it *all*. It was hard to guess how many people were on the South First Street Bridge. From where we were, everything below looked so small, and suddenly I felt like **Joan Collins** in her 1977 tour de force *Empire of the Ants*. Among the things we *could* see was the electrifying performance by DrumJam (watch their NYE performance on YouTube at **www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNSmYcfDxJw**): Both sophisticated and raw at the same time, they are the ultimate showmen. We left for a while to make the rounds of other clubs and parties – Pangaea is truly luxe, and the service from doorman J.P. and owner **Michael Ault** and his beautiful wife was excellent. But we'd never seen any of the patrons before – they all seemed to have flown in from holidays in Cancún. After several very serious cocktails (and what could be more serious than cocktails?), we returned to the mayor's party, at which Patricia asked me to help her do the New Year's countdown, along with Attorney General **Greg Abbott** and *Statesman* Entertainment Editor **Michael Barnes**. As soon as the countdown was done, we flew up to the third-level balcony and watched the fireworks – a *truly* awesome sight seemingly three feet away from us at eye level. Spectacular. Retiring to Oilcan Harry's Black and Silver Ball to end the night, I too wound up like those other amateurs – mauling, pushing, and vomiting. OK, I didn't actually vomit. I just *felt* like it after seeing some drunk chick spew all over her sequined party dress. Happy 2008.



(L-r) Actor and model Stephen Rice, PR whiz and model Patricia Paredes, mayor and model Will Wynn, and model scout Mark Erwin at the mayor's NYE party

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RICE BRAN OIL

On a trip to Thailand five years ago, a best friend of my hosts arranged a tour of a huge rice-processing facility at my request. That friend, Yong, was an executive for a rice-exporting firm based in Sing Buri, an agricultural town north of Bangkok, in an area known for its rice production. In following the rice grains through the milling and polishing process, we had a discussion about rice bran oil, which is pressed from the removed bran. Yong insisted it was the world's healthiest cooking oil. I had never heard of rice bran oil, so when I got back to the States, I started looking for a source and, at that time, came up empty-handed.

The more I discovered, however, the better this oil sounded. Web searches revealed dozens of scientific research articles claiming all manners of health benefits: It reduces bad-cholesterol levels, boosts good cholesterol, and fights free radicals; it's an anti-inflammatory, reverses liver damage, inhibits cancer growth, reduces effects of menopause, and on and on. Snake oil never sounded so good.

I'm not a scientist, but I found countless research articles referring to its abnormally high level of antioxidants. This makes the oil healthy to consume but also makes it resist rancidity and spoilage, the reason Asians like to use it for deep-frying and snack-food production and also the reason **Mario Batali** uses it for deep-frying at his new restaurant, **Del Posto**. Oddly, perhaps, women in Japan also use rice bran oil as a skin treatment. Apparently rubbing the skin with the oil keeps it smooth, untarnished by the damaging effects of sun, blemish-free, and glowing, transforming a woman into a *nuka-bijin* or a "bran beauty."

But enough about health claims and beauty tips; what about the taste and rice bran oil's role in the kitchen? Its flavor profile is light and clean, with a slight buttery component and a mild nutty flavor, and it feels less oily on the tongue. The smoking point is the third-highest of any cooking oil: 490-500 degrees, which makes it great for restaurant food production over high-energy burners. It can be used for any application in the kitchen that any other cooking oil would be used for: grilling, marinades, sautéing, stir-frying, and baking. It makes an excellent salad dressing, and foods deep-fried in it have a nice golden-brown finish and a crisp texture, while in fryers it can be used and filtered far longer than conventional oils before breaking down.

And now you can find rice bran oil here in Austin. At **Whole Foods**, ask for **Miyako Tempura Kome Abura** 100% Rice Bran Oil ($13.99/gallon). You can also find it at Japanese food supplier **Asahi Imports** – 6105 Burnet Rd., 453-1850: Ask for **Nisshin brand Jun Kokussanmai** Rice Bran Oil (600 grams, or about 1⅓ pints, for $4.99).

I don't know if rice bran oil is the magic bullet to cure all that ails you; I'll leave that up to the scientists. I do know that it tastes good, it's incredibly versatile in the kitchen, it has a long shelf life, and it's reasonably priced. What's not to like? – *Mick Vann*



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON



FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

I heard from popular former Austin chef **Roger Mollet** and his partner, **Greg Murphy**, during the holidays – they're homesick for their favorite **Nuevo León** Tex-Mex and margaritas but are enjoying the abundance and diversity of French cafes in their new home of Minneapolis… Another piece of news that came to light during the holiday season is the imminent return of **Cathy Cochran-Lewis** to Austin. After spending nearly two years in Boulder, Colo., Cochran-Lewis begins her new job as a global public-relations coordinator for **Whole Foods Market** at its home office here in mid-January. Welcome home, Cathy!… 2008 gets off to a fast start with plenty of news about local chefs and restaurants. At **Maiko Sushi Lounge** (311 W. Sixth, 236-9888), Executive Chef **George Thomas** has been joined in the kitchen by chef **Gary Flood**, a recent transplant from Northern California, and chef **Stephen Lapinsky**, formerly of **Mushashino**. We hear this powerhouse team is serving some interesting sushi and sashimi creations… After sojourns at both **Wink** and **Fino**, chef **Thomas Reeh** has returned to the kitchen at **Mars** (1400 S. Congress, 472-3901), where he is the new executive chef. Reeh's replacement at Fino (2905 San Gabriel, 474-2905) is **Eric Lucas**, who recently relocated to Austin from Florida. Former **Uchi** pastry assistant **Stephanie Schwandt** is the new pastry chef for both Fino and **Asti** (408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218)… Ham lovers who showed up at the **26 Doors Shopping Center** at Thanksgiving or Christmas looking for their favorite addition to the holiday table left disappointed. **Jamie Pheney**, proprietor of **TJ's Hickory Honey Hams** (6701 Burnet Rd., 458-4267), wants customers to know she's finally back in business after losing the lease on her longtime location back in the fall. Her new shop is open 10am-6pm weekdays and 10am-5pm on Saturdays. Though the new shop doesn't have visibility from the street, Pheney is still serving the same great ham and sandwiches… Speaking of lost leases, **Jay Knepp** e-mailed with the info that **Salt Lick 360** loses its lease in Davenport Ranch this week, but company owners are fast at work getting a new location in the Dell Diamond ready to open sometime in the spring… Meanwhile, we had queries from several readers about the abrupt closure of **Reed's Jazz & Supper Club** the week before Christmas. Owner **Reed Clemons** reports he had planned to close after New Year's Eve but that the property-management company beat him to the punch by a couple of weeks. At almost the same time Reed's was shuttered, Clemons' newest venture, the **Grove Wine Bar & Kitchen** (6317 Bee Caves Rd., 512/327-8822), opened in West Lake Hills. Local wine professional **Matt Berendt** is managing the new spot, where a wine-friendly, Tuscan-inspired menu is complemented by some 150 wines, 44 of which are available by the glass, with 30 of those being served in three-glass flights. We hear West Lake neighbors are really embracing the Grove and that the small plates and bruschetta boards are early menu favorites. The new place is open 11am-10pm Sunday through Thursday and 11am-11pm on Friday and Saturday… Greek-food lovers still mourning the loss of their favorite Downtown eatery several months ago will want to try **El Greco** (3016 Guadalupe, 474-7335), the new Greek taverna opened recently just north of the UT campus. The family-owned eatery has a large menu of Greek and Mediterranean specialties and is open 10am-9pm Monday through Thursday and 10am-10pm Friday and Saturday… **Mama Fu's** (4615 N. Lamar #307, 637-6773), the quick, casual pan-Asian chain from Austin's **Murphy Restaurant Group**, recently opened its third local outlet in the **Triangle**. They'll offer counter service by day and table service in the evenings, dining on a comfortable outdoor patio in fair weather, free Wi-Fi access, and live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Look for a fourth Mama Fu's to open in the 2nd Street District later this year… We hear the hottest menu specials during recent screenings of *Sweeney Todd* at the **Alamo South Lamar** were meat pies filled with rabbit, duck, or bison – chef **John Bullington**'s take on Cornish pasties… Help **Caritas** (**www.caritasofaustin.org**) fight hunger locally by donating nonperishable food items (peanut butter, boxed mac & cheese, tuna, ramen noodles, dried beans, canned beans, vegetables, fruits, meats, baby food, evaporated milk, and hygiene items) to restock its crucial food pantry, which is always depleted after the busy holiday season. Drop off donated items at any Austin, Round Rock, or Cedar Park **Starbucks** outlet between now and Jan. 20.

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III Forks sommelier, Danny Payne

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

III FORKS

111 Lavaca at Cesar Chavez, 474-1776
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www.iiiforks.com

III Forks is a steak house with a luxurious feel, thanks, in part, to lots of wood and leather. Everything in the restaurant, from the first greeting to the final goodbye, is aimed at making you feel coddled and comfortable. All this comes at a high price. Luckily, III Forks has a secret weapon for wine lovers that will take a little sting out of the final check.

Our first visit was on a Thursday night. We didn't have reservations, and it was a busy night, but they found us a table in the bar. The bar is wide open with high ceilings and just the perfect amount of sound control. There was a clubby buzz from the stylish and expensively dressed patrons, and the live jazz also upped the sound. Nonetheless, we could talk at normal levels.

Our server was prompt, efficient, and had the ideal juxtaposition of happy friendliness and speedy professionalism. The menu is very simple, just two pages. Steak is the thing, though they also have a nice selection of fish. We started by ordering the huge appetizer medley ($15.95), which includes a shrimp cocktail with three crunchy, sweet jumbo shrimp, an enormous Crabcake St. Francis made almost solely from lump crabmeat and mayonnaise, and some huge, plump bacon-wrapped scallops.

The wine list is mammoth and, like all steak houses, very pricey. This is where III Forks' secret weapon comes into play. Their sommelier, Danny Payne, created a wine list with all sorts of fun surprises, and he is a great guide, quite understanding of financial limitations, encyclopedic in the details of each wine, and excited when he sees a happy customer. We were very happy when he steered us to a nicely aged 1999 Leasingham Bin 56 Cabernet ($55) and a 2005 Luca Malbec ($60), a huge, opaque, almost black wine.

For our main courses, we had a bone-in rib eye ($41.95), a rack of lamb ($35.95), and tenderloin medallions ($32.95). Those prices seem high, but the quality of both the USDA Prime beef and the lamb is spectacular. One nice touch is there are always servers waiting at the kitchen, so the second your order pops up, a person grabs your rocket-hot plate and rushes it to the table. Even more incredible is the deft dance both in the kitchen and out on the floor that allows them to serve everyone's entrée at precisely the same time.

Our steaks and lamb were flawlessly pink inside, and the portions were colossal, so big that most couples will probably do just fine splitting a steak. They charge an extra $7 for splitting an entrée, and that's the biggest bargain in the house. Because unlike most steak houses that ding you for every extra, III Forks includes fresh creamed corn made table-side, mashed potatoes, vegetables, big slices of tomatoes, and spring onions.

Four of us went back a couple of weeks later on a crowded Friday night. We got the same professional, gracious service as before, but this time, we were seated in one of the fancy dining areas. This visit, sommelier Payne again showed us some bargains. He not only remembered my name, he remembered my tastes and price range. This time he picked a 2004 Storrs Petite Sirah ($53), a fruity wine with nice acidity. Later, when we asked for another bottle, he surprised us with one of Texas' best wines, Fall Creek's 2003 Meritus ($58).

We ordered three appetizers. The onion rings ($9.95) start with a whole onion, cut into 1-inch-thick rings, then fried to crunchy perfection and architecturally piled into a pyramid shape. III Forks' wedge salad ($7.95) is unique and the best I've had anywhere. It's really a half head of iceberg lettuce, split. They make an open "V" in the middle of the plate to construct a bed from a thick slice of tomato, crumbled bacon, and chunky blue cheese. It's big enough for a whole meal. We also tried the Beef Croustades ($11.95), slices of beef tenderloin pounded flat and served with a crostini. This was the only dish we had that was merely good. For entrées, my wife chose Chilean sea bass ($33.95), and I went for the 24-ounce porterhouse ($44.95). The sea bass is a simple dish in which the quality of the ingredients is everything. They start with a superior piece of fish, broiled under a salamander (a device "named after the legendary reptile that was resistant to fire and lives in the bowels of the earth," according to *Larousse Gastronomique*) and drizzled with a buttery sauce. The difference between a lowly T-bone and a porterhouse is that the tenderloin side of the latter is much bigger. The III Forks' version is most definitely a porterhouse. Just as before, the meat was fiery hot and cooked as ordered at medium rare.

We had clairvoyant waitstaff; our food was delicious, and the wine capped everything off. There's something nice about feeling this pampered.

I've never been a big fan of steak houses. They are expensive and can sometimes feel stuffy. But III Forks has made me a convert. For a special event dinner, especially if you're a steak person, you'd have a hard time beating their combination of a luxurious setting, classy service, great food, and top-notch wines. III Forks is now Austin's best steak house.

– *Wes Marshall*

Restaurant REVIEWS

FUEGOS

7600 N. Lamar Ste. F, 524-1164
Monday-Thursday: 9am-9pm; Friday-Saturday: 9am-10pm; Sunday: noon-9pm
www.fuegosauthentic.com

Rarely am I this giddy after trying a new restaurant, but several trips to Fuegos have me recommending it to complete strangers on the street. Open for almost a year, Fuegos is the dream project of Maria and Felipe Llanes, who earned their chops working in restaurants in Laguna Beach, Calif., and at two hotels here in Austin. The manager/waitperson is daughter Lyanne, a charming dynamo who efficiently covers the front. The menu is a mix of Mexican and California beach cuisine, and the prime directive is freshness.

On the first visit we decided on the wonderful grilled ahi sandwich ($9.50), a nice slab of sushi-grade tuna cooked perfectly medium-rare, topped with Swiss cheese, tomato, and alfalfa sprouts, on a buttery grilled bun slathered with jalapeño tartar sauce. It comes with a large side of crisp Caesar salad, to make a delightful combo. We also had the excellent fish tacos ($10.50), three corn tortillas topped with fresh red snapper and cabbage salad, with a side of rich refried beans and savory rice.

A side order of their hand-breaded, spiced onion rings ($2.25) satisfied, as did superlative *al pastor* and *cochinita pibil* tacos ($1.75). The two salsas are red (made from *guajillo* and *rojo de arbol* chiles) and green (made from *jitomate* and serrano). For dessert we sampled a Lemon Ricotta Pancake from the breakfast menu ($5.95 for four, with fresh fruit): lemony, rich, and light.

A second trip had Ray Tatum and I splitting the day's special, crab enchiladas ($10.95), filled with lots of sweet, fresh crabmeat and cheese, topped with a rich and spicy red sauce of guajillo and tomato, served with beans and rice. We sampled fantastic carne asada and beef fajita tacos ($1.75) and loved them. We split a massive barbecue chicken salad ($7.95) of crisp greens with chunks of sweet apple, Gorgonzola cheese, peanuts, and fresh corn, topped with a nice dressing made from a blend of ranch and barbecue sauce – an amazing blend of flavors.

We halved a Fat Burger ($8.50): a half-pound, hand-formed chuck patty cooked to-order, with Swiss cheese, bacon, avocado, grilled onions, pickles, ripe tomato, and romaine, on a bun with Thousand Island dressing, served with hand-cut fries. This is a serious burger, and one of the best in town. We were seduced into trying the flan ($3.75), which is richer than most from the addition of cream cheese and superb.

Fuegos is in a small stone strip center, directly across the street, and due west of Kim Phung Restaurant on the northwest corner of Morrow and North Lamar (if you come from the north, stay on the access road). The interior is simply decorated and impeccably spotless, with an open, gleaming kitchen. Service is first-rate, and portions are more than generous. Until they get their beer and wine permit, BYOB is welcomed.



(l-r) Lyanne, Felipe, and Maria Llanes

They have a small, yellow flier that hints at many more dishes, and Lyanne tells us that the menu will be expanded in about a month, but we still have a whole list of treats to sample, like the Blackened Shrimp Caesar Wraps and the *campechana* seafood cocktail. All we can say is more is better, with a very enthusiastic "¡Viva Fuegos!"

– *Mick Vann*

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MEDITERRANEAN: **MARAKESH** Large portions at reasonable prices and some of the best and most authentic Middle Eastern food in town make this place the total experience. ***906 Congress, 476-7735. $$***

SEAFOOD: **MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S** This Portland, Ore.-based chain offers daily changing menus drawn from a "fresh list" of seafood flown in from around the globe. Great apple pie. ***401 Congress, 236-9600.* www.mccormickandschmicks.com. *$$$$***

TEX-MEX: **JAIME'S SPANISH VILLAGE** This unassuming stone shack has kept 'em coming back for more than 60 years. Traditional Tex-Mex is complemented by the famous Margarita Jaime – a frozen margarita with fresh sangria on top. ***802 Red River, 476-5149.* www.jaimes-austin.com. *$$***

THAI: **THAI PASSION** The sunlit atrium is the perfect setting to enjoy the light, fresh rendering of the cuisine of Northeastern Thailand. ***620 Congress, 472-1244.* www.thaipassion.com. *$$***

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE: **ARKIE'S GRILL** This cafe has been around since 1948, maintaining the same super-home-style menus and hospitable spirit. Thursday's turkey-and-dressing special is highly recommended. ***4827 E. Cesar Chavez, 385-2986. $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** The newest addition to Eastside's own restaurant row offers a full menu of coffee beverages, paninis, salads, and pastries from Russell's Bakery. ***2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900.* www.clementinecoffeebar.com. *$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY** Find the same great pastry and sandwich offerings as the Hyde Park location, as well as the addition of grilled sandwiches and pizzas. ***1400 E. 38½, 538-1991. $***

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: **EL CHILE CAFE Y CANTINA** The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several Interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. ***1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900.* www.elchilecafe.com. *$$***

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **LOS COMALES GRACIELA** Expert purveyors of real Norteño-style grilled meats and side dishes. Reliable Interior dishes such as *puerco en chile colorado* and *pollo en mole poblano* round out the menu. ***2136 E. Seventh, 480-9358. $$***

ITALIAN: **STORTINI RISTORANTE** This appealing pasta house is a welcome addition to the mix along Manor Road restaurant row. Try the Rigatoni Coniglio and the Linguini con Shrimp Scampi. ***1917 Manor Rd., 391-9500.* www.stortini-austin.com. *$$***

MIDDLE EASTERN: **THE PYRAMIDS** Chicken Shwarma Wraps, moussaka, and Lebanese iced tea convinced us to come back for dinner, and dinner is what convinced us to keep coming back for more. ***6019 N. I-35, 302-9600. $$***

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. $$***

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. $***

TEX-MEX: **JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP** Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo; then step up to the pastry counter for *piedras*, *novias*, *cemitas*, and *capirotada*. The American choices draw raves as well. ***2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017. $***

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

LAKE

ITALIAN: **TUTTO GUSTO** This family-friendly eatery offers a full bar for you and a popular playscape for the kids. Enjoy the pizza, pastas, and affordable entrees indoors or out. ***4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd., 266-2221.* www.tuttogusto.com. *$$***

TEX-MEX: **ROSIE'S TAMALE HOUSE** With a quarter-century in Austin dishing out tamales and fajitas, they also boast homemade pralines. ***13436 Hwy. 71 W., 263-5245. $***

NORTH

BARBECUE: **BONE DADDY'S HOUSE OF SMOKE** Your waitress may resemble a runaway who's lost her clothing, but don't call the cops, just order the ribs. ***11617 Research Bldg. 1, 346-3025.* www.bonedaddys.com. *$$***

CAFETERIA/BUFFET: **DOT'S PLACE** Lunchtime comforts like beef tips and chicken-fried steak keep everybody coming back. For those of us who can't get away, Dot's is once again open for dinner on Thursdays and Fridays. ***15803 Windermere, 252-9300. $***

CHINESE, INDIAN: **MASALA WOK** Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok-cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. ***1100 Center Ridge, 251-9696.* www.masalawok.com. *$***

CHINESE: **SUPER CHINA** The old China Garden location still offers spiced-up standards that leave you red-faced and satisfied. They also have a daily lunch buffet. ***11657 Research, 527-8888. $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **MAYNARD'S DELI & GRILL** Try the Jethro Sub, a behemoth made with pastrami, salami, bologna, and baked ham. Also find big, juicy burgers, chicken breasts, and patty melts right off the grill. ***10205 N. Lamar #135, 834-1068. $***

INDIAN: **SHALIMAR** Pakistani food that's second to none and a *gosht karahi* that'll really get your goat. Try the buffet, but it's even better to take a chance on the menu items. ***9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700.* www.shalimar-austin.com. *$$***

ITALIAN: **BUCA DI BEPPO** This national chain serves "immigrant Southern Italian" cuisine. Dishes are served family-style or personalized for two with smaller portions. ***3612 Tudor, 342-8462.* www.bucadibeppo.com. *$$$***

JAPANESE: **MIKADO RYOTEI** Not just for sushi, Mikado also serves Japanese tapas, or *robata*, a mix of grilled seafood, meats, and vegetables. Great date spot. ***9033 Research, 833-8188.* www.mikadoryotei.com. *$$$***

PAN-ASIAN: **MAMA FU'S ASIAN HOUSE** Find a 100%-MSG-free menu with all of your favorites, from noodle bowls to potstickers. ***11301 Lakeline Blvd. #300, 637-6771.* www.mamafusaustin.com. *$$***

SEAFOOD: **PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR** An even mix of fried vs. broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun lilt. ***13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373. $$***

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE, CHAIN: **BENNIGAN'S** The Irish-themed grill and tavern has a lengthy menu with something for just about everyone. ***7604 N. I-35, 451-7953.* www.bennigans.com. *$$***

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

CHINESE: **WANFU III** You'll find the same offerings at this new location of the Barton Springs favorite. ***6801 Airport, 459-5200.* www.wanfuaustin.com. *$$***

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **ASTI TRATTORIA** For various Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot. ***408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218.* www.astiaustin.com. *$$$***

INDIAN: **TAJ PALACE** Austin's longest-established local Indian restaurant, where the royal court cuisine of North India is served in an attractive setting. ***6700 Middle Fiskville, 452-9959. $$***

MEDITERRANEAN, PIZZA: **ARPEGGIO GRILL** Try this much-loved neighborhood spot for 25 flavors of tasty wings, an interesting selection of pizzas, and a full complement of Mediterranean dishes prepared from family recipes. ***6619 Airport, 419-0110. $***

PIZZA: **THE PARLOR HYDE PARK** The juke box may be different, but expect the same fresh, innovative pizzas at this new outpost of the popular punk parlor on North Loop. ***4300 Guadalupe, 323-0440. $***

TEX-MEX: **ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA** There's a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satel-

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lite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience here, but staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate. *7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070.* **www.antoniostexmex.com**. *$$*

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

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: **MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** A welcoming vegetarian refuge since 1979, the completely vegetarian menu is a mix of Southern and Tex-Mex and includes a selection of soups, salads, and heartier fare. *4215 Duval St., 451-3994.* **www.motherscafeaustin.com**. *$$*

VIETNAMESE: **KIM PHUNG** Most folks go for the bowls of pho or for the *bun*, but give the dinners a try. The hot and sour soup rocks, and the lunch specials are delicious, big, and cheap. *7601 N. Lamar Ste. I, 451-2464. $*

SOUTH

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.* **www.theshadygrove.com**. *$$*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **BOULDIN CREEK COFFEEHOUSE & CAFE** Pick up a book, play *Battleship*, and enjoy all your favorite coffee drinks along with some killer honey lemonade. They also have a small, vegetarian menu. *1501 S. First, 416-1601.* **www.bouldincreek.com**. *$*

BARBECUE: **TED & GARRY'S BAR-B-Q** Try the chicken-fried steak if you're not in the mood for fantastic barbecue. Either way, you can pick up family-sized side orders for a crowd. They have also expanded the breakfast menu. *1815 W. Ben White, 326-9328. $*

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

FRENCH: **FLIP HAPPY CREPES** Lodged in an Airstream trailer parked just off South Lamar, it serves up homemade, rich, and satisfying crepes, both savory and sweet. The funky ambience and delicious food make it worth a visit. *400 Jessie, 552-9034.* **www.fliphappycrepes.com**. *$*

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **CURRA'S GRILL** The wizards whip up handmade corn tortillas while you sip margaritas. Don't miss the chile rellenos with pecan cream sauce, or for breakfast, the huevos machacado. *614 E. Oltorf, 444-0012.* **www.currasgrill.com**. *$$*

JAPANESE: **UMI SUSHI** One of the top sushi restaurants in Austin. An aggressive menu with a sizable selection of nigiri. *Chronicle* Restaurant Poll Critics Pick for Best Sushi 2003. *5510 S. I-35 #400, 383-8806. $$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** The menu features appetizers and salads, sandwiches, burgers named for local celebrities, and blue-plate specials such as meat loaf and chicken-fried steak. Try a glass of Lasso Lemonade, made with Tito's Vodka. *5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020.* **www.patsyscowgirlcafe.com**. *$$*

SOUTHWESTERN, TEX-MEX: **TEXICAN CAFE** This popular venue specializes in El Paso-style variations like stacked Santa Fe enchiladas. Excellent margaritas and Dos XX on tap. *11940 Manchaca, 282-9094.* **www.texicancafe.com**. *$$*

TEX-MEX: **FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO** Stratocaster-sized burritos in a rock & roll environment are the stock-in-trade at this joint. This is big-boy eating heaven: You don't have to include the veggie stuff you don't want, and there's no way you can walk away hungry. *515 S. Congress, 462-3512.* **www.freebirds.com**. *$*

TEX-MEX: **LA FERIA RESTAURANT** This boisterous hot spot offers free tea with the lunch specials – we suggest the burritos. Live mariachi on Thursdays. *2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301.* **www.laferiaaustin.com**. *$$*

THAI: **THAI KITCHEN** This family of restaurants remains a perennial favorite among Thai-food lovers. Try this suburban location, and you won't be disappointed. *801 E. William Cannon, 445-4844. $$*

UT

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. $$*

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

BARBECUE: **RUBY'S BBQ** Award-winning natural barbecue in a down-home Austin setting, with an outstanding assortment of vegetarian options and side dishes. Available in sandwiches, by the plate, and by the pound. *512 W. 29th, 477-1651.* **www.rubysbbq.com**. *$*

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

FINE DINING: **MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL** Gracious decor, rich draperies, deluxe furnishings, and balanced, well-chosen seasonal flavors make this the perfect choice for any occasion. *1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800.* **www.mansionatjudgeshill.com**. *$$$$*

ITALIAN: **PICCOLO ITALIAN CAFE** Don't just try them for the variety of house-made pastas and wood-fired pizzas. Try the hot and cold appetizers and the chicken, seafood, and veal entrées. *2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600. $$*

MIDDLE EASTERN, PIZZA: **ITALIAN LONGHORN PIZZERIA** You can enjoy Middle Eastern fare such as falafel, gyros, dolmas, and tabouli at this popular pizzeria. *415 W. 24th, 457-4992. $*

PIZZA: **MILTO'S** Longtime UT-area institution serving both Italian and Greek specialties. The wonderful weekday lunch specials are both filling and cheap. *2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021. $$*

TEX-MEX: **EL PATIO** These friendly folks have been serving up moderately priced Tex-Mex food with salsa and saltines since 1954. *2938 Guadalupe, 476-5955. $$*

TEX-MEX: **HORNITOS TEX-MEX CAFE** You'll get a square deal and a fresh meal at this no-frills Tex-Mex spot. *3704 N. I-35, 524-4195. $*

THAI: **MADAM MAM'S** Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai home-style dishes served in this popular campus-area spot are "Mam's" family recipes. *2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306.* **www.madammam.com**. *$$*

WEST

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

BURGER JOINT: **PHIL'S ICEHOUSE** Located in an old gas station on Burnet Road, they've already taken the Critics' Best Miniburgers in the 2006 Restaurant Poll. Save room for Amy's Ice Creams next door. *5620 Burnet Rd., 524-1212.* **www.philsicehouse.com**. *$*

CHINESE: **TIEN HONG** One of Austin's older Chinese strongholds, Tien Hong rules with the weekend dim sum crowd. For dinner go for the specialties. *8301 Burnet Rd., 458-2263.* **www.tienhong.net**. *$$$*

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **TEXADELPHIA** Combining Philly cheesesteaks with a side of tortilla chips and salsa since 1985. They also serve chicken, burgers, and a handful of deli subs. *9828 Great Hills Trail, 338-1338.* **www.texadelphia.com**. *$*

DESSERTS, FINE DINING: **CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Voluptuous, decadent brunch items are served with signature croissants and strawberry butter. Dinner options span a wide range, from pastas to chicken dishes to a variety of salads. *5406 Balcones, 454-2666.* **www.chezzee.com**. *$$$*

FINE DINING: **MIRABELLE RESTAURANT** Northwest Hills neighbors have embraced a casual fine-dining outlet in their midst, and wine lovers from all over town are making it a destination restaurant. *8127 Mesa, 346-7900.* **www.mirabellerestaurant.com**. *$$$*

FINE DINING: **ZOOT** Holding its own in Austin's restaurant scene for years, the menu has remained anchored in understated refinement. *509 Hearn, 477-6535.* **www.zootrestaurant.com**. *$$$$*

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

JAPANESE: **BENIHANA** The cuisine has been infiltrated by its surroundings, producing the Texas roll, made with smoked salmon, avocado, cucumber, cream cheese, and jalapeño. *9070 Research, 451-7505.* **www.benihana.com**. *$$$*

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: **NU AGE CAFE** When you're looking for innovative, full-spectrum vegan cuisine in an elegant setting, you've found it here. Also of note is an extensive nonalcoholic beverage list. *2425 Exposition, 469-9390.* **www.nuagecafe.com**. *$$*



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Ricki Vincent of the Geppetto Dreams Puppet Company

JOHN ANDERSON

Talk to the Hand

The first-ever Puppet Parts Film Fest

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

On Austin's burgeoning Eastside, in a neighborhood that splits the distance between suburban French Place and the hipster cafe crowd currently taking over Manor Road, there's a two-bedroom house with a shed in the back yard. This shed is modest, with only a series of small windows near the ceiling providing natural light. There's no bathroom; there's no phone. But there are a whole lot of puppets.

This shed is home base for the Geppetto Dreams Puppet Company, a new theatre group led by Ricki Vincent – "Geppetto" to his friends – a recent Austin transplant whose thick frame, bald head, gruff goatee, multiple piercings, and tattoo-covered arms put one more in mind of a motorcycle-gang tough than an artist whose mission in life is to integrate puppetry into the cultural life of his newly adopted hometown.

"I know I look like I break legs for a living," Vincent, a former body-piercer and tattoo-parlor proprietor, admits. "When they see me, people don't know whether to shit or wind their watch." Two years ago, Vincent formed Geppetto Dreams after acquiring a $50,000 grant from New York-based nonprofit organization Creative Capital Foundation. It was while meeting in Austin with two of the foundation's representatives that he realized he had found his home. "When I first came here from Dallas, for the first time in my life I felt like I wasn't being judged; I felt like I was just another face in the crowd. And I loved that. I knew right away that I wanted to bring puppetry to Austin, to help keep the tradition alive and introduce my new home to this art form. Austin has a great arts community, but there's nothing like Geppetto Dreams here, and it's so desperately needed."

The Puppet Parts Film Festival takes place Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Off Center (2211-A Hidalgo) from 1 to 4pm. For more information, see **www.geppettodreams.com**.

Puppets hang all over Vincent's workshop, including the cast of his troupe's burlesque show, *A Night at Miss Mimi's*, featuring Mimi herself, a pig dressed up to look like the madame in a Prohibition-era bordello, and Id, a thick-lipped, blue-teethed, wrinkly skinned beast of a thing that, as befits his name, allows Vincent to act out the more self-indulgent, sensualist sides of his personality. "My puppets," he says, "especially Id, are my alter egos. They let me get out there and do all the things I want to do and say all the things I want to say." Through the years, Vincent has performed shows about suicide, vaudeville routines starring Hitler and the Marquis de Sade, even Seussesque poetry readings about the controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election and the resulting war in Iraq. And all with a puppet by his side – or on his hand – taking the hit.

"Puppets have been around since the days of Aristotle," Vincent says. "Puppets have been used to speak out against the crown and taxation. And that's the way I roll in my shows. We in the company want to show people the various possibilities of puppetry, from the personal to the political." In that spirit, on Jan. 12 at the Off Center, Geppetto Dreams will be presenting its first Puppet Parts Film Fest, a collection of 11 short films by artists from around the country. The show will include "Bill Hicks Puppet Show" by director and Austinite Andrew Lankes, who secured permission from the widow of the legendary comic to re-enact one of his routines (this one about the first Bush and *his* Iraq war) using marionettes; "In the House of the Sin Eater," New Yorker Paul Kloss' haunting version of an ancient folktale about a man who takes on the sins of the newly dead by means of food and drink; and Mike Murphy's freewheeling "Night of the Broccoli," in which the disgruntled vegetables of the title exact revenge on the man who dared to serve them for dinner. The film festival will be followed later in the evening by a live performance of *Miss Mimi's* and scenes from the troupe's newest piece, the black-lit *The Dead Pirate's Society.*

With films that run the gamut from traditional hand-and-rod manipulation to more modern stop-motion animation, the festival reflects Vincent's catholic philosophy about the nature of puppetry. While there are some dogmatists out there who will tell you that true puppetry begins and ends with marionettes or that Japanese Bunraku is the only lasting definition of the form or that Punch and Judy are the alpha and omega, Vincent believes that not only are all these disciplines puppetry but that, as an artist, it is his responsibility to throw them all in a pot and mix them up, so he can explore all the aesthetic possibilities of the medium. The same principle holds true for his work as a film-festival impresario.

"Puppetry," he says, "is simply bringing life to something that normally would not have life. Stop-motion, marionettes, hand-and-rod, Bunraku, shadow puppets, even computer-generated images, like the ones used in *Jurassic Park*: It's all puppetry to me. Not to upset the Bible Belt, but it's almost like being God. Puppeteers can take something that's just a lump of foam or papier-mâché or plaster and work and play with it and shape it and arrange it and bring it to life. What could be better than that?" ■

IN PRINT

MY FIRST MOVIE: TAKE TWO
TEN CELEBRATED DIRECTORS TALK ABOUT THEIR FIRST FILM

edited by Stephen Lowenstein
Pantheon, 304 pp., $26

CINEMA OF OBSESSION: EROTIC FIXATION AND LOVE GONE WRONG IN THE MOVIES

by Dominique Mainon and James Ursini
Limelight Editions, 400 pp., $24.95 (paper)

At the heart of all great art lies obsession, and at the heart of all great love lies the same; the impulse to create and the instinct to fornicate are two heads of the same all-consuming beast, a beast that can lift a man to greatness or reduce him to ashes. Two new books, Stephen Lowenstein's *My First Movie: Take Two* and *Cinema of Obsession* by Dominique Mainon and James Ursini, set out to explore the age-old connection between art and fixation. Though Lowenstein's book may sound like the less sexy of the two, with its tales of wide-eyed young filmmakers struggling to get their visions on film and then angling for success, it's actually the one with the best chance of raising readers' temperatures. *Cinema of Obsession*, on the other hand, though it claims to be about "erotic fixation and love gone wrong in the movies," barely even manages to simmer.

Take Two is the sequel to Lowenstein's 2002 book, *My First Movie*, a collection of interviews with now-successful directors discussing their first feature films. That book featured conversations with Hollywood luminaries such as Oliver Stone, independent giants like the Coen brothers, and foreign-language favorites like Pedro Almodóvar. Volume two keeps with the winning formula and includes interviews with Richard Linklater (*Slacker*) and early-Aughties prodigy Richard Kelly (*Donnie Darko*) along with lesser-known foreign directors like Agnès Jaoui (*The Taste of Others*) and Swede Lukas Moodysson (*Show Me Love*).



Though Lowenstein's interviewees are all the products of different countries, cultures, and experiences, their concerns are remarkably similar: the relationship between artistic freedom and financial independence ("I pay to be free," says *Amores Perros* director Alejandro González Iñárritu), the struggle to maintain individual vision in the face of outside influence, and the value of obsession as the only real means of getting through the long months of shooting, the constant skepticism both from without and within, and the potential indifference of the marketplace that conspire to keep first-time filmmakers cynical. Like Orpheus hunting for Eurydice, Lowenstein's filmmakers were all willing to descend into hell in order to get their hands on what they desired most, both the hell of their own fixations and the hell that is the movie business; unlike him, of course, they all came back triumphant. As Linklater says, "[Making *Slacker*] was a most intense time in my life. I just remember every waking second and sleeping moment, it was all about the film. … I realized there was nothing else I'd rather be doing."

That intensity is missing from *Cinema of Obsession*, which is odd considering the point of the book is to shine a light into the sexiest corners of film history and extol the narrative power of erotic preoccupation. Where Lowenstein is able to make a wonkish subject like the ins and outs of filmmaking seem passionate and exciting, Mainon and Ursini have managed to take volumes of deliciously taboo subjects – forbidden love, voyeurism, sex and violence, etc. – and turn them into an excuse for academic posturing. They may write about some of the raciest movies ever made – *Last Tango in Paris*, *The Blue Angel*, *La Dolce Vita*, et al. – but the result is the journalistic equivalent of a cold shower: Their prose has the distant, anthropological tone of the academic journal, and their goal seems less to revel in the thrilling multiplicity of cinematic sexuality than to simply point it out. With its 300 pages of dry plot summaries and artless description, *Cinema of Obsession* turns out to be no more provocative than the *Blockbuster Entertainment Guide to Movies*. – *J.R.*

Energy Forward

Learning the art of cinema stunt fighting

BY SOFIA RESNICK

Rolling to a stop at the side entrance of Master Yi Martial Arts Academy on North Burnet Road, I could see the prospective stunt fighters warming up, and my compulsive habit to twirl my hair into decidedly unsexy knots kicked in. With a fistful of dead hair cells in one hand and a half-empty bottle of gumption in the other, I walked around the academy to the front door, past the small mob of young men flipping, tumbling, and stretching into full-on splits atop the blue mat that covers the practice-room floor.

On Friday, Nov. 30, the fit, muscular, and agile were gathered for the International Screen Fighting Workshop, a three-hour, $150 stunt-fighting workshop meant as preparation for the following two days of auditions for two movies that, if all goes according to plan, will be shot in Austin next summer. Both films, *Own3d* and *Templar: Honor Among Thieves*, are action movies heavily laden with street-fighting scenes, as well as those involving mixed martial arts, and their respective directors were scouting stunt doubles. But even more so, they were looking for the special breed of actor who would be able to act and perform his or her own stunts. Hence the event's location, Master Yi Martial Arts Academy, where actors go to become acting stunt fighters and where martial-arts or street fighters go to become stunt-fighting actors.

Akin to litigation animation as a potential moneymaker for art-school majors, stunt fighting is a lucky niche for the fresh-out-of-film-school set, glowing in their Bachelors of Arts in Creativity yet having scant more than a rusted pot to piss in. At Master Yi Martial Arts Academy, instructors clad with black belts offer to take the wannabe stars and the has-beens, those into film or those into the art of kicking ass, and help mold their slack into something of a career. It's the Juilliard of action training.

After emigrating to the United States from South Korea, Grand Master Wonik Yi founded the World Tukong Moosul Federation and has been teaching Tukong Moosul, a style of martial arts he invented, in Austin since 1982. There have been a handful of Tukong academies up and running in Texas (South Austin, Cedar Creek, Kerrville, and Odessa) for several years now, but about one year ago, Janell Smith – who has two black belts and has been part of Yi's Tukong Moosul organization for four years and a martial artist for 12 – approached Yi about opening a stunt-fighting-training academy in Austin. And thus, the Fighting Stunts Association and Action Film Institute was born in November 2006, the organization well-stocked with experienced professional stunt-fighting instructors.

"The idea came from working on the film *Sin City* with Mr. Frank Miller, Mr. Robert Rodriguez, and Ms. Devon Aoki," Yi says. Miller, *Sin City*'s creator/co-director, and the stunning Aoki, who plays the silent and deadly Miho in the film, earned honorary black belts in Tukong Moosul. Working so closely with the directors and an actor of such a big-budget film made Smith and Yi realize their potential to run a successful stunt-fighting academy, particularly after the results came in: Aoki's martial-arts stunts were breathtaking, her debilitating kicks and weapons-hurling poetically devastating.

"After we worked with Devon Aoki in *Sin City*," says Smith, "she was contacted by many other directors to work on action scenes, so we really made her look good for *Sin City*, because she's not a martial artist."

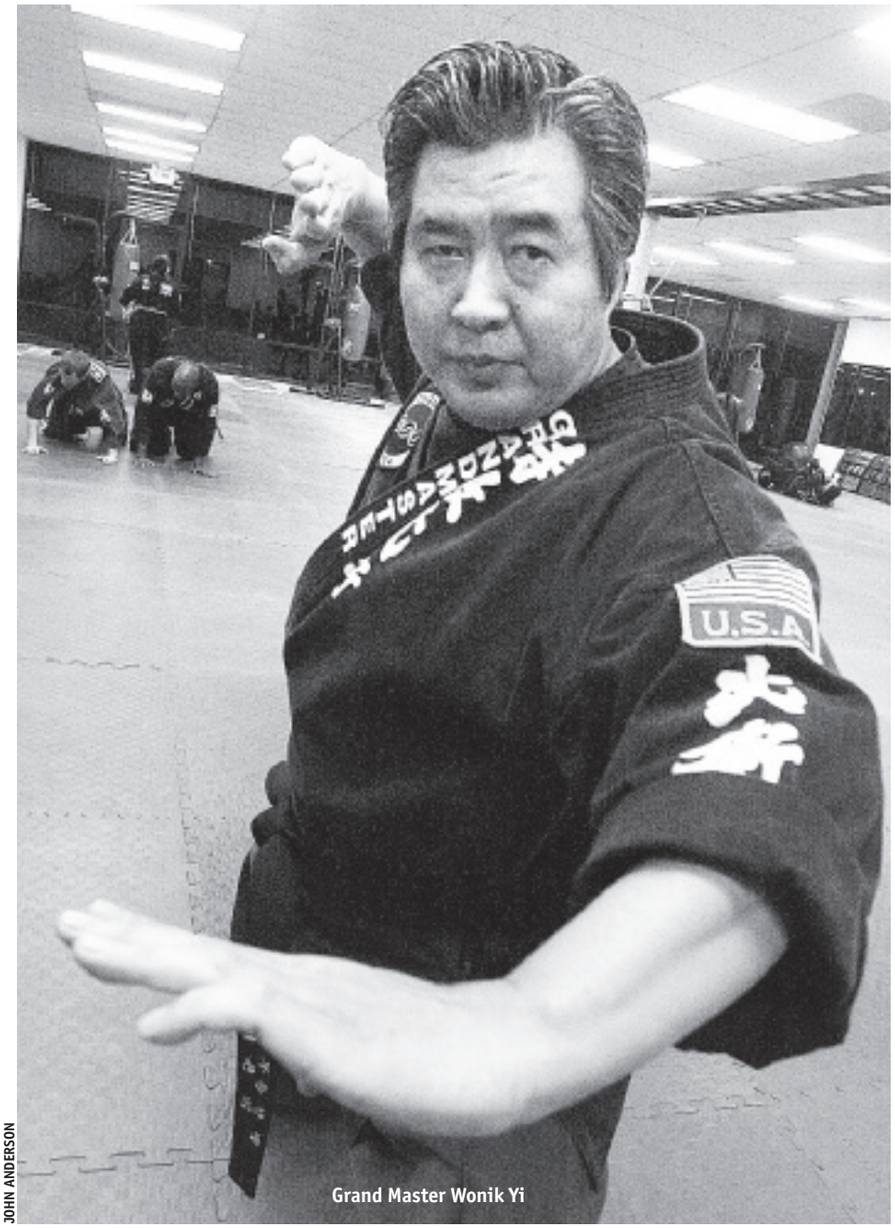
In the past year since the academy opened, membership has swelled to 75 and continues to grow, as the stunt-fighting academy has proven to be a valuable niche in Austin's growing film industry. "Our organization specializes in providing training for action actors and actors who wish to make themselves more marketable by being able to do their own action and stunts," Yi says. "Every action film has screen fighting, choreography, stunts. We provide it all, down to the action director. We train and do the real thing, so why not teach actors to use it safely in films?"

Grand Master Yi's Beginnings

Grand Master Yi, though certainly not a household name here in Austin, is something of a star in Korea (a documentary is currently being made about the grand master) and has an impressive background. Keeper of a ninth-degree black belt, an 18th-generation sword warrior, and a former master instructor of the New Jersey Police Special Weapons and Tactics team, Yi entered the world of martial arts in 1964, at the age of 5, when he began his studies at the Dae Yeon Sa Temple. In 1979, Yi went into the South Korean special forces and then, like your average 19-year-old fresh out of school, competed in the World Martial Arts Tournament and became the world champion. Seeking to improve and perfect its army's fighting style, the South Korean government called on the world champion to invent one. "Tukong Moosul is based on the distance theory," Yi explains via e-mail. "The martial artist practicing Tukong is trained in four areas: throwing (leverage techniques), punching (hand techniques), kicking (foot techniques), and weapons (extended body techniques)."

With that kind of background, Yi's move into the action-movie business seems almost as absurd as Arnold Schwarzenegger's career path from Mr. Olympia to Mr. Governor. *Almost*. However, what is not so surprising, based on Yi's background, is his affinity toward teaching; he has a doctorate in education.

"I wanted to become a teacher of martial arts to honor my master, Eun Kwang Bup Sa," Yi says. "[He] taught, 'Jeong Shin Il Do, Ha Sa Bul Sung.' Translated, this means that when one summons one's mind, heart (body), and spirit in one direction together, nothing is impossible, and you can accomplish anything that you desire." Yi says his goal is to offer and impart to his students all of the knowledge, wisdom, and philosophy that he has acquired through his years of training. But perhaps it is not so incongruous for the venerable martial-arts master to want to train the next Jet Li over the next SWAT-team leader. One look into Yi's jolly face, which scrunches into a smile easily and frequently, and it's obvious he's happier training pretend warriors than real ones. "The students that are willing to listen and work hard will find direction in their life," Yi says. "They will become humble beings, with a great understanding of self-accomplishment, self-esteem, and an understanding of the importance of life."



JOHN ANDERSON

Grand Master Wonik Yi

Back at the Workshop

Right at 6pm, I strolled into Master Yi Martial Arts Academy, put my shoes and socks in a cubbyhole, and following the lead of a few men and women wearing black robes with the Tukong Moosul insignia stitched on the lapels, I bowed, timidly, before entering the practice space. The room is lined with mirrors, except for a corner of the large room, which is lined with a case filled with bow staffs and assorted instruments of death.

Grand Master Yi and Janell Smith stood at the entrance of the studio, beaming at the large turnout. A tall man wearing a skin-tight bodysuit that outlined his defined biceps and calf and thigh muscles had just arrived from Ohio; a tall, trim beauty from New York City breezed in, having driven directly from the airport; a group of young men flipped and kicked in a corner. While everyone in the room appeared to be athletic and fit, it was pretty clear the acting experience was concentrated among the women, whereas the men, who eagerly demonstrated their stunt-fighting skills – backflips, high kicks, nunchaku demos – appeared to have the action moves down but were looking for a little acting guidance.

And so it went. The ladies were shepherded into a smaller practice room with the good-natured Master Ali Brown to learn the basics of the Tukong Moosul stunt-fighting style, while Yi and some of the academy's other instructors helped improve the men's techniques for falling and realistically fake-sparring with one another.

Brown's lesson plans began with him teaching us the proper way to "kee-op," which is

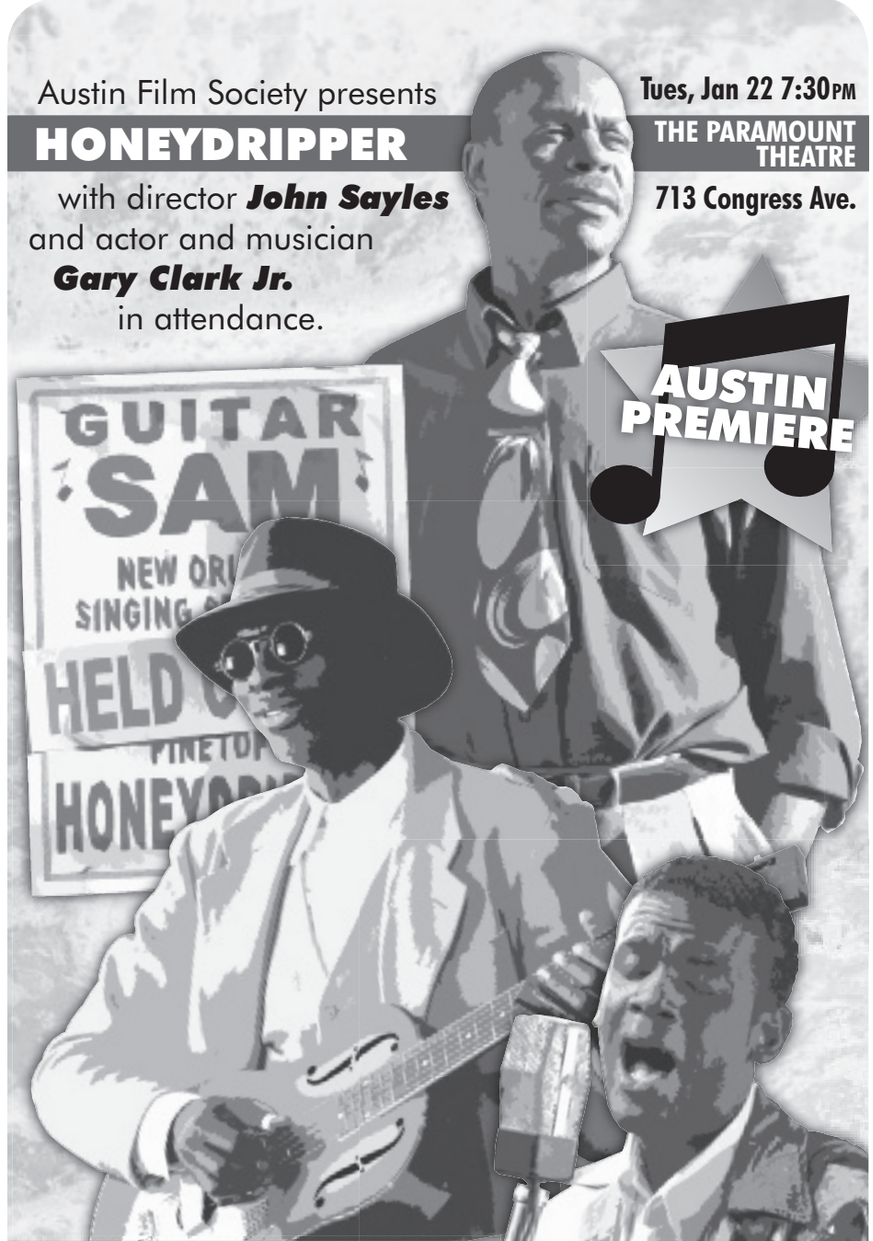
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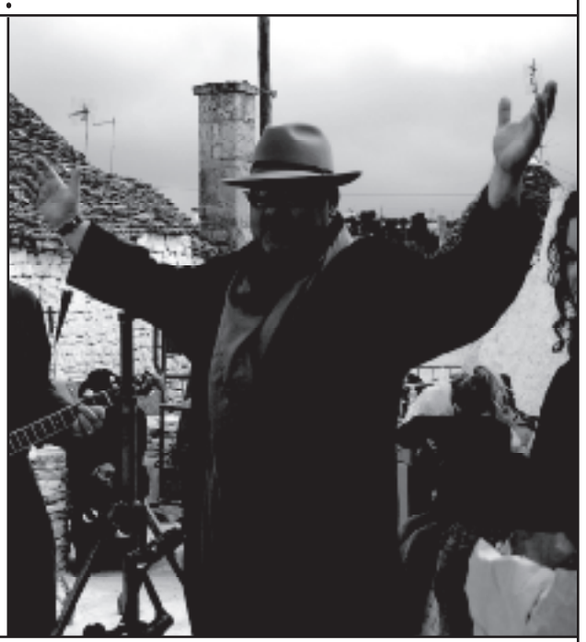
AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY

AFS DOCUMENTARY TOUR

AUDIENCE OF ONE

Pentecostal pastor Richard Gazowsky was praying on a mountain top when he received a vision from God to spread the Gospel through filmmaking. Using donations from his congregation, he slowly transformed his church into a fully functioning movie studio, and his Christian production company was born. Following the attempted making of their first feature, what transpires is a story of obsession, faith and delusion, that is full of humor and pathos.

Q&A with director Michael Jacobs and producer Matthew Woods. Produced by Zack Sanders & Michael Jacobs; cinematography by Jim Granato and Michael Jacobs; edited by Kyle Henry; music by Jeff Forrest.



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JOHN ANDERSON

essentially the scream that fighters, stunt or otherwise, emit when they are performing strenuous fighting moves against an opponent. (I've always thought it sounded more like "hee-aw!") According to Brown, a literal translation of "kee-op" is "energy forward." The image was helpful, as we were instructed to step forward while we jabbed the air and screamed our kee-ops, all the while studying the expressions on our faces. I tried to force myself to keep my eyes on my own reflection, not looking at the other women around me. I stepped forward with my right leg, and, simultaneously hiking up my left leg and raising my small right fist in the air, I shouted with all the ferocity I could muster: "Kee-op!" I couldn't help but wonder, "Do I look as stupid as I feel right now?" Aside from being kind, patient, and good at what he does, Brown is a mind reader. "Don't forget to look at yourselves in the mirror," he said, staring at me.

After a good five minutes of jabbing and screaming, stepping and kicking, Yi entered the ladies' practice space to tell us how ugly we looked. "A good kee-op is no kee-op," he informed. That night, Yi was full of this brand of acting philosophy. "Good acting is no acting," he repeated several times. From then on, Brown instructed our kicks and punches to be accompanied by tight, quick, slightly closed-mouth breaths – audible but not forced-sounding. Good kee-op, no kee-op; good acting, no acting. Inherently, it's a good philosophy, but how does a person pretend-fight realistically if she can't fight to begin with? Train at a stunt-fighting academy, I suppose. "Remember, stunt fighting is 50 percent body fight and 50 percent eye fight," Yi called as he walked out of our space.

It was at this point in the basic training when my left hand involuntarily went to meet my fragile, tormented hair, twisting compulsively as the 10 of us were told to form two lines and demonstrate the two or three different high kicks and turn kicks we were taught minutes prior. Only two of the girls in the room had had previous martial-arts training, but they all picked up on the moves fairly easily – the New York actress, the three *Friday Night Lights* extras, the tough, attractive boxer with a chain tattooed around her ankle. Everyone but me. Still, it was undeniably the most fun three hours I've ever spent humiliating myself.

Lights, Camera ...

Bright and early Saturday, Dec. 1, Janell Smith, dressed in a smart, sleek suit, walked about the lobby of Master Yi Martial Arts Academy, poked her head into the two rooms where the two summer action films' auditions were being held, and all around monitored the process. Actors looked over sides and filled out applications while, for 10 minutes at a time, those auditioning read lines for a particular part and followed the reading with a brief showcase of their fighting/martial-arts repertoire.

Templar: Honor Among Thieves (**www.templar-movie.com**), which will be produced and directed by Rene Hinojosa, is a spaghetti Western of sorts about four fortune hunters – an antihero, femme fatale, thief, and mercenary – on a quest to claim "the ultimate prize." The film pays tribute to the classic tales of Western mythology and its character archetypes and is, naturally, set in "a galaxy on the brink of chaos." Hinojosa, who attended Friday's workshop to preview the stunt-fighting hopefuls, wanted to make clear to those auditioning for *Templar* what he seeks in an actor. "I'm impressed with the physical aspect, but I'm looking for passion, desire, and attitude."

The last of the weekend's auditions did not mark the end of the Fighting Stunts Association and Action Film Institute's involvement with Hinojosa's and Hergott's films. Since *Sin City*, the institute has become more involved in film production rather than just writing the choreography and training the actors and will be co-producing both films. "We've worked with like 10 directors this past year, and they're offering workshops here for acting, just to cover everything in action filming, from acting to doing stunts to the martial arts to falling to wire works, even pyrotechnics," Smith says. "We want to be a one-stop shop for directors or producers." All who make the final cuts will attend weekly training classes at Master Yi Martial Arts Academy. (The classes, Thursdays at 7pm, are also open to the Austin community at large.)

Though I stared at the audition application for a while (motorcycle experience?), in the end I didn't audition for either movie. At the previous night's workshop, Grand Master Yi distributed certificates of excellence for completing the workshop. He instructed us to write our strengths and weaknesses on the backs of our certificates, and next to our weaknesses, we were to write down methods of improvement. "You say, 'I'm fat,'" he offered as an example. "What you gonna do? Less eat." "I play with my hair too much," I wrote. "I'm not brave." In my case, a temporary solution was printed on the front of my certificate. Just being at the workshop earned everyone in the class a month's worth of free Tukong Moosul-training classes at Master Yi Martial Arts Academy. Hey, it's a start to a braver future. ■

How does a person pretend-fight realistically if she can't fight to begin with? Train at a stunt-fighting academy.

Writer/director James Hergott echoed a similar attitude while scouting for actors. He wanted skilled martial artists but animated performers, as well. Yi nodded behind him: "Fifty percent body fight, 50 percent eye fight." Hergott's *Own3d* (**www.ownedentertainment.com**) is an action thriller set in the world of mixed martial arts and will be shot in HD24 digital-video format. Hergott explained that the film's shooting might take place in Canada if not Austin.

Master Yi Martial Arts Academy is located at 10435 Burnet Rd. #110. To learn more about the Fighting Stunts Association and Action Film Institute and to sign up for classes, go to **www.fightingstunts.com** *or call 339-2467.*

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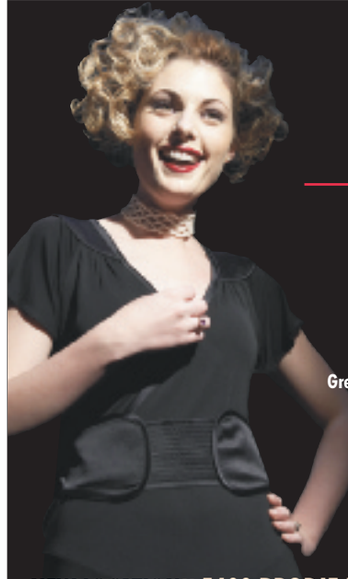
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God Is My Co-Producer

AFS Documentary Tour presents 'Audience of One'

BY ANNE S. LEWIS



Michael Jacobs' award-winning documentary follows the magnificent folly of Pentecostal preacher Richard Gazowsky's attempt to produce a $50 million biblical sci-fi epic.

At first blush, one expects that Michael Jacobs' *Audience of One* will be another doc about what happens when bad things happen to the best-of-intentioned film productions. You know, films of the you-couldn't-make-this-up ilk, like *Lost in La Mancha* or *American Movie*. Or those so hilariously made-up, like Christopher Guest's *Waiting for Guffman*. Stir in the fact that the subject of the film is a charismatic, larger-than-life Pentecostal pastor/hopeful director (his crew, in part, a merry band of the talking-in-tongues faithful) and that the directive to make the "greatest film ever made," a $50 million biblical science-fiction epic, was issued from the lips of none other than J.C. himself, and, well, now we're thinking *Hell House*, another doc about faith-obsessed, wildly theatrical Pentecostals. Truth is, Jacobs' first feature is all of the above – but a lot more. Masterfully edited by Austin's own Kyle Henry (*Room*), the camerawork and direction finessed on the scene by Jacobs, essentially working solo, *Audience of One* manages, as the best docs will, to tell a resonant, character-driven story that makes us think, all the while laughing and cringing.

Which is exactly how Jacobs felt as he accompanied the indomitable and eternally optimistic Richard Gazowsky on his production juggernaut. Jacobs first learned of the church's cinematic aspirations in a *SF Weekly* article at a time when Jacobs, a self-taught rookie filmmaker who'd previously made a few shorts and done some television work, was looking for a local, low-budget feature with a strong narrative. The scene at Gazowsky's church, Jacobs recalls, "had a very San Francisco quality to it, with lots of misfit-y looking people – a really raw, tangible experience. They do this rock & roll Christian thing for an hour where they dance and pray and get drunk on the Holy Spirit, as they call it, and then the pastor gets up and updates the congregation on the current trials and tribulations of his filmmaking endeavors. I knew immediately this was it!"

Jacobs determined from the outset to give the Pentecostals' story a nonjudgmental, fly-on-the-wall vérité rendition in the best Maysles Brothers tradition and to be completely "transparent with them," as well as careful, and above all, to avoid exploiting them. But he became concerned, as he logged footage and face time with the inexperienced Pentecostals who, with God as their co-producer and despite seriatim production, personnel, and equipment failures – the most breathtaking of which occurred on a big-budget 10-day shoot in Italy with a cast and crew of 40 – remained unfazed and undaunted. Would Jacobs, too, be co-opted by their baseless optimism?

Later, Jacobs became exhausted by their blind faith and "warm and fuzzy" attitudes. "Though that probably made for a better second half of the film," Jacobs explained, "because the viewer is undoubtedly thinking, as well they should, 'Thank God, there's a little distancing going on here,' as they watch the wheels come off the production." It was that pesky journalistic conundrum – that of maintaining some distance from the subject (or at least the illusion of it) – famously described in the Eighties by Janet Malcolm in the pages of *The New Yorker*: "Spending so much time around them, it was hard to keep that separation between my professional responsibilities and my personal relationship with them. It was a constant balancing – I needed for them to trust me and to feel comfortable with me and yet I was a little bit uncomfortable with that need. … I couldn't pretend that I agreed with them – so at times when I was having a hard time understanding or believing what they were saying, I had to keep my mouth shut, which though arguably insincere, I guess was part of the filmmaking process."

Austin Chronicle: *What was Gazowsky and the church's reaction to the film when they saw it? [The film won a Special Jury Award at South by Southwest 07.]*

Michael Jacobs: He loved it. I've heard that he makes all new church members watch the film. … It was amazing when they saw the film internally at the church and in the secular world at South by Southwest and also at the San Francisco Film Festival that they saw this film through my eyes and the audience's eyes, and even with that kind of reality-checking, they still have this commitment to their pastor's vision, something I don't understand and probably never will. Richard was also, of course, realizing all of the opportunities at hand, as he's been quoted in *The Washington Post* and on NPR and in *The New York Times*.

AC: *Did you have any sense that Gazowsky or any of the others realized what a disaster the shoot in Italy was? The production pratfalls, the equipment malfunctions, the cheeky talent, the fatal lack of preparation – all of it roll-on-the-ground hilarious, so long as you weren't part of the production.*

MJ: I think it was all a big game to him – he's so childlike that he doesn't feel accountable at all. That part of his brain is just not switched on. I've very rarely seen him really rattled. Italy was a further example of this. I'm looking around and seeing the troops a little bit defeated, and I'm seeing some of these people who have worked tirelessly for very little or no money have things go terribly wrong, and I'm looking at their faces and thinking it has to be reaching them that this is not going well at all. But it's amazing – their attitudes – it sounds so clichéd, but they live by the idea that the journey is the reward. And so this journey, though so irresponsible to me, for them is just a part of their stepping out in faith. And again, part of me admires that. … It almost seems like they wanted to set up this biblicallike struggle – partly because there are lots of ex-addicts and lost souls within their community that they're used to this feeling of discomfort. … I think it's a healthier version of drugs or drinking, which used to be a large part of their lives, so if they're filling that gap through their commitment to the pastor and his belief system, as challenging and painful as that is, it's probably healthier than the other way.

AC: *There is, as you've mentioned, a distinct shift in the second half of the film, when they return from the Italy shoot to rent this huge production facility in San Francisco and then really run aground, and the production halted due to lack of funding. How did this affect your narrative expectations?*

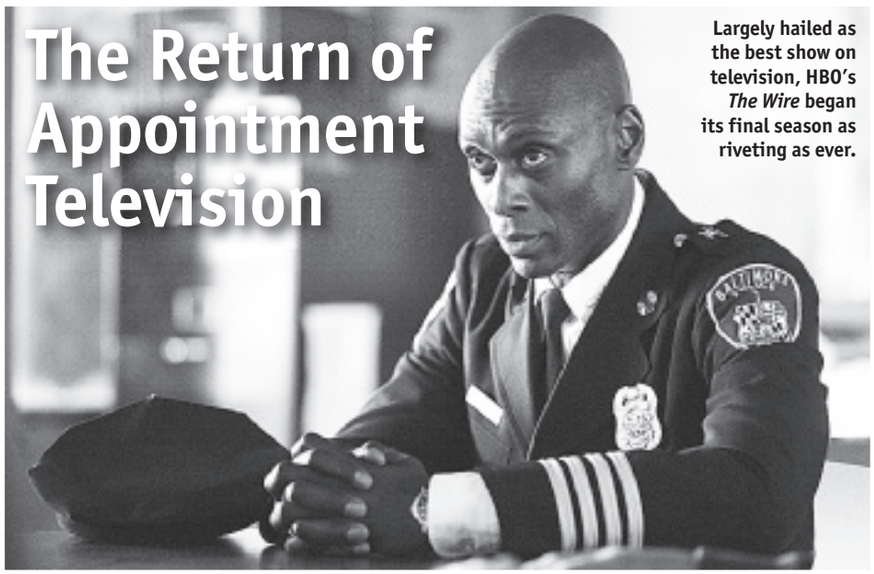
MJ: This was frustrating to me, because all of a sudden my narrative was changing, and it took me awhile to realize that their inactivity and inability to continue was just as vital a part of my story as anything I'd anticipated. … When I was shooting, I was constantly thinking about the narrative, which I saw as such a great, beautifully packaged arc within these characters and their stories, and I had to shift because all of a sudden they stopped, and how do you make stoppage a part of the narrative? Luckily, I had a great editor, Kyle Henry, who really helped out with that process in the editing room. One of Kyle's largest contributions was that he pushed me to keep shooting throughout the edit as he saw missing B-roll, gaps in the narrative, or certain scenes not coming together. This was key to what you see in the third act, much of it shot while Kyle edited.

AC: *What would you like people to take away from your film about Richard Gazowsky?*

MJ: I love him, and I hate him – and I would love it if people got that. I celebrate him, and I'm terrified of him. All of those things are in play, and if the audience can feel that, then I've succeeded. I want people to think about themselves, the world, faith in a certain kind of way – but I love those comedic elements, and I love characters like these. You couldn't make them up. They deserve to be celebrated. And there is a fine line between celebration and exploitation, and I walked that fine line. At times I feel like I was very responsible with that and, at others, irresponsible. ■

The AFS Documentary Tour presents Audience of One *on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7pm, at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. Tickets are $4 for AFS members and $6 for the general public. For more information, visit* **www.austinfilm.org**.

The Return of Appointment Television



Largely hailed as the best show on television, HBO's *The Wire* began its final season as riveting as ever.

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Just when you thought there was nothing to watch on TV, something old and something new turned up on the small screen. The strange thing is the something old feels like new (***The Wire***, HBO), and the something new feels like a retread (***Cashmere Mafia***, ABC).

I have to admit to falling away from *The Wire* only because I'd convinced myself that it was better watched in one fell swoop on DVD. But I was curious about the new season, which takes a hard look at the role of the press. I also wanted to see if I could follow the show after a couple of seasons away. Thankfully, I was not disappointed. The story is so well-executed and the characters so well-drawn that, even if I had forgotten a certain character or plot point, I never lost my bearings. *The Wire* kept me riveted, reminding me of that glorious lost weekend when I watched the first season on DVD in its entirety. No doubt about it: *The Wire* is the must-watch series of Sunday night.

Not so glorious is *Cashmere Mafia*, which premiered this week on ABC. This hybrid of *Desperate Housewives* and *Sex and the City* (*SATC*'s creator, Darren Star, is an executive producer) aims for the best of both but doesn't hit any marks with precision. *Cashmere Mafia* is high on appearance (the clothes, the parties, the texting) and low on content. Billed as a boy's club for women (led by Lucy Liu), this series heavily banks on the snappy retort and quick wrap-up, largely eschewing a substantive look at how successful career women survive in the multiple worlds – business, pleasure, parenting – that demand a piece of them.

The Wire airs Sundays at 8pm on HBO. *Cashmere Mafia* will regularly air on Wednesdays at 9pm on ABC. If you missed the pilot or sneak peek, find it online at ABC.com.

Local Color

Comanche Moon premieres next week, and local actress Jessica Robertson wants you to see it. The Austin-based actress has a small role in the first episode of the six-hour miniseries, the prequel to the Emmy-winning ***Lonesome Dove*** miniseries based on Larry McMurtry's bestselling novel. Steve Zahn and Karl Urban star as young Gus McCrae and Woodrow F. Call, the roles played by Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones in *Lonesome Dove*.

To celebrate the premiere, Robertson is hosting a screening party on Sunday, Jan. 13, at J Black's at 710 W. Sixth, starting at 6:30pm. "All are welcome to celebrate this television event," Robertson says. "As a special nod to local actors, we will ring a bell every time a Texas actor comes on screen."

Comanche Moon airs Sunday, Jan. 13; Tuesday, Jan. 15; and Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 8pm on CBS.

The WGA Strike

The strike goes on, but late-night chat is up and running again. CBS' **David Letterman** and **Craig Ferguson** and NBC's **Jay Leno** and **Conan O'Brien** returned last week (the former with writing staff, the latter without). **Jon Stewart** and **Stephen Colbert** returned to their respective shows on Comedy Central (without writers) this week. ***Real Time With Bill Maher*** returns, after a scheduled break, on Friday, Jan. 11, at 10pm on HBO.

Elsewhere, the plot thickens. After weeks of wrangling, the **Golden Globes** ceremony will go on, albeit not in the originally intended broadcast version. A press conference presented by NBC News (which has no Writers Guild of America affiliation) will announce the winners, to be followed by a clip show. This solution comes after a waiver to allow writers to participate in the show was denied by the WGA. The **Hollywood Foreign Press Association** (which runs the Globes) then asked NBC not to air the show, apparently thinking that actors would attend the ceremony if it weren't televised. The Screen Actors Guild has stated that none of its actors will cross a WGA picket line, and WGA strikers are still going to show up whether or not cameras are rolling. The WGA presumes that NBC News is a cloak for the struck company (Dick Clark Productions) that is staging the event.

Or not.

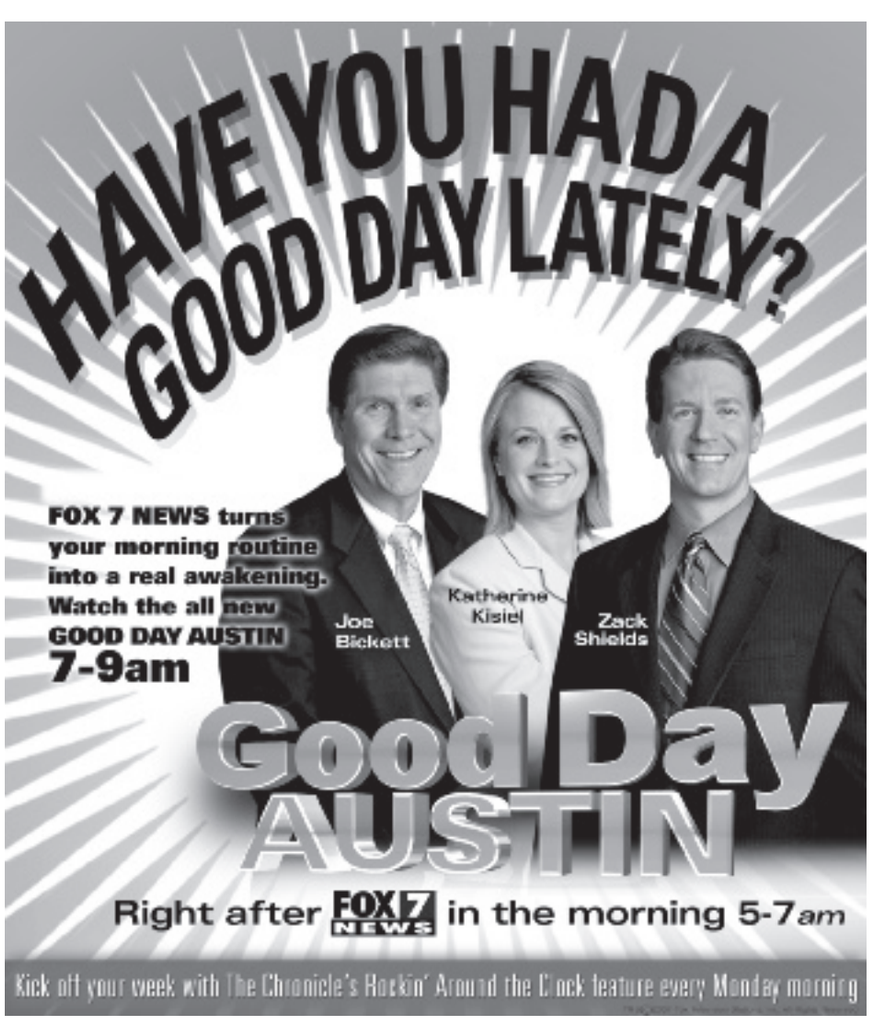
Maybe we will see *The Golden Globes With Brian Williams* or *Meet the Winners With Tim Russert*. No, serious news journalists have better things to do with their time, don't they? Isn't there some kind of election going on?

NBC's coverage of the Golden Globes airs Sunday at 7pm.

As always, stay tuned.

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





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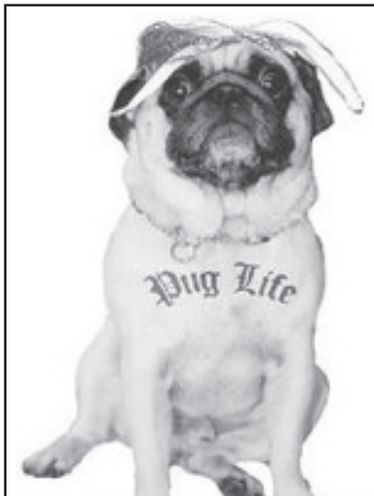


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music

54 THE MONSTAS **56** TEXAS PLATTERS **80** MUSIC LISTINGS

OFF THE RECORD music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL

STOP, DROP, AND ROCK & ROLL

Exactly two years after **KOOP Radio** suffered the first of two devastating fires, which destroyed its previous facility on East Fifth, the community radio outlet sent out smoke signals once more from its new location on Airport Boulevard. The fire was intentionally set on KOOP's premises sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning and caused an estimated $300,000 in damage, according to **Austin Fire Department** investigators. "We've been through this sort of thing a couple of times, so we have a playbook for what we need to do," says KOOP President **Andrew Dickens**. "We really try hard to provide a public service to the city of Austin, and we're determined to get back on the air." In the interim, UT's student-run **KVRX** is going live around the clock. Stay tuned for further details and benefit shows.

GRAVEYARD SHIFT



AUBREY EDWARDS

Possessed by Paul James

"There's no roots-music scene here," presumes **Keith Mallette**, one-half of **Hillgrass Bluebilly Entertainment**, a new booking agency that recently set up shop on North Loop and specializes in roots music "raw and primal, with passion, conviction, and balls." Mallette formed the company in Phoenix in 2005, bringing to town acts like the **Weary Boys** and **Scott H. Biram**, and has since established branches in Indiana and Tennessee. Hillgrass is currently compiling a double tribute album to **Hank Williams** and **Leadbelly**, *Hiram and Huddie*, which features locals **Chili Cold Blood**, **Wayne Hancock**, and Tucson's **Bob Log III**, among others. "We're trying to start a movement by reintroducing our American roots through these new American acts," Mallette says. On Saturday, Bluebilly presents **Possessed by Paul James**, **Tom VandenAvond**, **Legendary Shack Shakers**' **J.D. Wilkes**, and Biram at the **Oaks** in Manor, a show that's being filmed by Germany's **Slowboat Films** for *The Folksinger: A Tale of God, Love & Redemption*. **Konrad Wert**, the Kerrville-based special-education teacher behind Paul James, stars as himself in the film. "The subtext of the story is loosely based on what I'm trying to do as a musician, the inner demons I have to face while trying to succeed and make a living for my family," explains Wert, who met director **Mark Littler** through fellow one-man band **John Schooley**. "There are going to be moments when it's just two guys throwing ideas back and forth in swimming holes and barbecue joints. There's going to be a lot of pickin' – I know that much."

FOR THE GOOD TIMES ▸▸▸▸

Ray Price comes from a generation that pulled itself by the bootstraps, and he's not afraid to tell you so. "We're three guys that started the hard way and worked their way up to it and got there their own way," says the country music icon of his 2007 comeback collaboration with **Willie Nelson** and **Merle Haggard**, *Last of the Breed*. "There's not anybody like that anymore. Of course, if there was, radio wouldn't play it anyways." Price celebrates his 82nd birthday at the **Caldwell Auditorium** in Tyler on Saturday. "Willie and I have been playing together for nearly 40 years, and not a whole lot has changed. We just got a little older. I told him, 'We're both dancing as fast as we can.' He misunderstood me and wrote a song called 'We're Dying as Fast as We Can.' I'm telling you, it's a laugh a minute."



Get in the van: Greg Ginn arrives in Taylor.

AUSTIN POWELL

GREETINGS FROM TAYLOR, TEXAS

Driving into Taylor, only 45 minutes northeast of the capital, is like **Tobey Maguire** entering *Pleasantville*. "It's a different world down here," concurs punk rock pioneer and **Black Flag** founder **Greg Ginn**, who's in the process of relocating his seminal **SST Records** from its Long Beach, Calif., headquarters, citing Taylor's proximity to the Austin music scene and a major airport as deciding factors. "It was time for a change, and I like the feel of small towns. Everyone here is real friendly. I feel a little bit like the newly converted. I'm buying Texas everything." Along with a few cases of **Shiner Bock**, Ginn purchased a two-story building in Taylor's historic downtown that was originally constructed in 1918 as a **Model-T** assembly shop and dealership. The facility features a soon-to-be-completed 1,500-square-foot studio, living quarters, a full kitchen, elevator, two offices, and space for a small greenhouse, in which Ginn hopes to grow tomatoes. Between SST and its two subsidiaries, **Cruz** and **New Alliance**, Ginn has put out more than 700 albums via acts ranging from **Meat Puppets** and the **Dicks** to **Sonic Youth** and the **Minutemen**, making the downstairs warehouse feel like a **Harry Ransom Center** collection of the 1980s DIY movement. "This music keeps getting passed down through younger people," Ginn grins, surrounded by boxes of T-shirts with classic slogans like "Kill **Bono**" and "Corporate Rock Still Sucks."

Following a decadelong hiatus, SST resurfaced in 2007 with three of Ginn's projects, including his first foray into Western swing with the **Taylor Texas Corrugators**' *Bent Edge* and **Mojack**'s latest funk fusion, *Under the Willow Tree*. **Gone**'s 10th release, the aptly titled double album *The Epic Trilogy*, boasts three jazz-rock progressions – presented both with and without vocal accompaniment from the **Bad Brains**' **H.R.** – that delve into trance, dubstep, and atonal psychedelia. Ginn's also working with Austin-based visual artist **Joey Keeton** on a multimedia electroclash project called **Jambang**, which he hopes to tour with beginning in April. "I'm proud of Black Flag and all that, but I'm not really interested in playing monkey for anybody; throw some coins in a cup, and I'll regurgitate some songs I wrote when I was 11 years old," Ginn riffs. "I realize that some people aren't in the same place as me sometimes – most never are – but right now I just want to focus on my music. I've got a lot to catch up on, and this keeps things a lot simpler."



NATHAN JENSEN

RANDOM PLAY

2003 **Austin City Limits Music Festival** headliner **R.E.M.** tops the list of confirmed acts for the **2008 South by Southwest Music Conference**, touring in support of its 14th album, *Accelerate*, due in April. Other names found floating around in cyberspace include the reunited **Breeders**, the **Slits**, the **Black Crowes**, **Daniel Lanois**, the **Black Keys**, **Blitzen Trapper**, and **Vampire Weekend**, while both **Domino Records** (the **Kills**, **Sons & Daughters**, **Lightspeed Champion**) and Norway's **Smalltown Supersound** (**Bjørn Torske**, **Arp**) are signed on for label showcases. The annual open call for volunteers, meanwhile, takes place Sunday, Jan. 20, at the **Hilton Hotel**. Applications are currently available online at **www.sxsw.com/volunteer**.

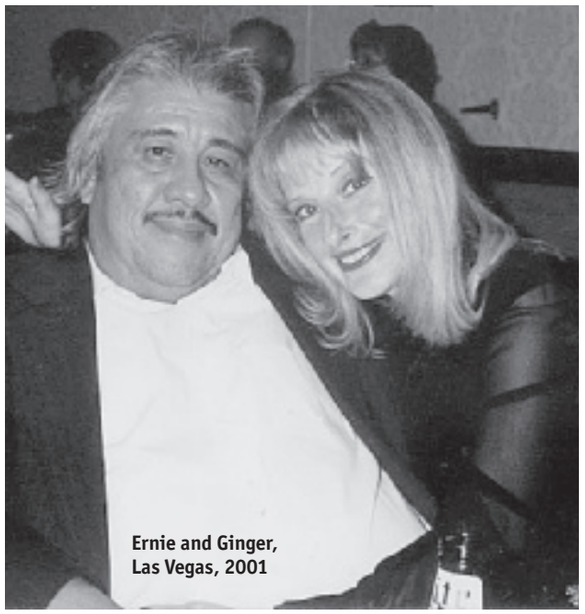
The previously mentioned **Reivers** reunion ("Off the Record," Nov. 30, 2007) is slated for Feb. 9 at the **Parish**. Tickets are now on sale through **Front Gate Tickets** (**www.frontgatetickets.com**).

Chicken Ranch Records is looking for a few bands for a **Van Halen** hoot night at **Beerland** on Jan. 23, benefiting the **Crack Pipes**' **Billy Steve Korpi** and anticipating the following night's reunited eruption at the **AT&T Center** in San Antonio. Interested parties should contact **Mike Dickinson** at **mike@chickenranchrecords.com**.



Six-headed beast: (l-r) Aaron Lack, Rich Stanmyre, Matt Smith, Ernie Durawa, Brian Mitchell, Joe Morales

WINKER



Ernie and Ginger, Las Vegas, 2001

For Durawa, the triumph of the group's debut recording, *Meet the Monstas*, was overshadowed by wife Ginger Shults' failing health.

Indefinable Magic

Ernie Durawa does the Monsta mash

BY MARGARET MOSER

Tucked away in an otherwise nondescript strip mall on Brodie Lane, in far South Austin below William Cannon, in an area no one thinks of as hip, the Evangeline Cafe is jumpin'. Inside, every table is full. Outside, people lounge around, smoking, talking, laughing. It's like this nearly every Friday night, the one day of the week when the restaurant's nightly live music continues late into the evening.

Past the cash register, below a large, official-looking sign that reads, "Evangeline Hwy," a waitress snakes her way through the crowd balancing two platters of softshell-crab po'boys in one hand and an Abita beer in the other. A middle-aged man scratches his 5 o'clock shadow as he looks around for an empty table. The hostess offers him and his party of four a table on the patio, yet it's clear they're here not only to eat but also to see the band. He shakes his head and opts to wait for seating inside.

In the corner formed by red velvet drapes and the front window, Ernie Durawa sits behind his drum kit, Pro-Mark drumsticks in hand. The burly Matt Smith strums his guitar as Brian Mitchell sets the volume on his electric piano. Band members Joe Morales, Rich Stanmyre, and Aaron Lacke are shifting in their places, ready to roll.

With a nod and drum count-off into "Tango," the Monstas scare up their funkified Texas-New York-New Orleans sound, replete with second-line rhythms, boogie-woogie piano, and steel pan drums. Steel pan drums? Yes. That's why they're the Monstas.

A Touch of Ginger

"We started out as the New York Monst*ers*," explains Durawa, the Austin-by-way-of-San-Antonio stickman whose long and impressive résumé from Chicano soul bands of the 1950s ("A Browner Shade of Black," Dec. 28, 2007) to the Grammy-winning Texas Tornados landed him on the cover of the *Chronicle* in 2003 ("Designated Drummer," May 23, 2003). "But Matt [Smith] and Brian [Mitchell] said it like 'monsta' because they're from New York, and it stuck. Now we're just the Monstas, and all because Ginger said she liked one of our songs."

A palpably painful silence sets in.

Ginger is Ginger Shults, Ernie's wife and partner of 25 years who died in June 2006. Shults is well-remembered in local circles for both her courage in battling lung cancer that moved to her thyroid, brain, and finally her pancreas and for being a scrappy vice president of the Austin Federation of Musicians Local 433. Her bulldog tenacity in the foxholes of the good fight for Central Texas musicians is legendary. Upon hearing about institutional perks being offered local players, she once responded, "How about paying them a living wage?"

That radically simple answer to tax breaks and health discounts was typical of Shults' candor. Someone once suggested that musicians were in the business for fun, to which Ginger snapped, "You load out of the Elephant Room at 3am, and tell me it's fun!"

Yet away from the politics of work, which she regularly carried home with her and worked on late into the evening, Shults was a devoted fan of her husband's music. After listening to a track called "Jesus in Mexico" that her husband recorded with friends, she commented that she liked the song and it should be recorded. In that laboratory of thought, the Monstas were born.

Technically, the Monstas were born the moment Ernie Durawa met New York guitarist Matt Smith, when both worked at the National Guitar Workshop in 2002. Smith introduced the drummer to Brian Mitchell, whose credits include Bob Dylan, Al Green, and Levon Helm. Lightning struck when the three were in the studio with sax man Joe Morales and bassist Rich Stanmyre. The creature on the slab sat up and started walking.

"This band is just an amalgam of our influences," shrugs Matt Smith genially over the Manhattan crackle of his cell phone. "Brian spent a lot of time in New Orleans and played with Walter Wolfman Washington. I spent a little time there too and was influenced by the music. Who isn't? Texas, too.

"I'm from New York, but my parents and Brian's both lived in Austin. After I met Ernie at the workshop, I asked him to get some guys to play with us, and it grew from there."

Bringing the Monstas to life wasn't kid's play for Durawa or Smith, who leads the Chop Shop clinics for Ovation and Hamer guitars when he's not touring the world for the National Guitar Workshops. Once the basic group was in order, they tweaked it with the addition of Austin-based steel pan player Aaron Lack. By early 2006, the Monstas were in the studio stirring their unholy gumbo of Texas-laced, New York-fueled, New Orleans funk.

All that musical geography resulted in a sublimely soulful jazzy-rock sound that made perfect sense. Although half the band members live in Austin and half in New York City, I-35 and I-95 are connected by I-10 through Louisiana.

"It's the long-distance relationship that really works," quips Smith.

Faith, Prayer, Friends, Music

For Durawa, the triumph of the group's debut recording, *Meet the Monstas* ("Texas Platters," July 6, 2007), was overshadowed by Shults' failing health. His induction into the Texas Music Hall of Fame, March 2004, had come during the early stages of his wife's cancer. He'd pasted a smile on his face during the mayor's proclamation of Ernie Durawa Day on Feb. 3, 2005; no one knew he and Ginger had just left the doctor's office with her grim prognosis.





Chicano Soul too: San Antonio's Mike & the Belaires, circa 1960, featuring Ernie Durawa (back row, right)

"I drove away from the doctor's and said I didn't want to go, but Ginger said, 'You're going, and I'm going with you.' I had to play a song, then speak. I don't even remember what I said. I mumbled something to the mayor, then the audience. I did say, 'This is for you, Ginger.'

"It's been a rough time since then, especially this time of year.

"She fought for the musicians in this town, and she won a lot of cases, but her job was rough. Her job at the union was nothing but confrontation. Confrontation with record labels, with musicians, with clubs, with producers. Constant confrontation. We'd go out, and more musicians knew her than me. Or they would squirm when they saw her."

He chuckles at the memory.

What gets a person through that kind of wrenching loss? It's not the jolt of a sudden heart attack or the shock of a car accident. It's a loss lived moment by moment, the slow sapping of life, the energy drained from both the person suffering the illness and those in their lives. Ginger Shults' death wasn't the only darkness in Ernie Durawa's life.

"I lost my sister; I lost Doug [Sahm]; I lost my wife," grimaces the drummer. "I lost Freddy [Fender]; I lost Rocky [Morales]. Where does it stop? It doesn't. Life goes on."

He reflects on the four things that have always given him strength and grounding: "Faith, prayer, friends. Music."

That desire to play music has been Durawa's salvation, the art of his life. Both the Texas Tornados and his group Los Jazz Vatos had a flurry of activity the last two years, but mostly it was the Monstas he poured his creative energy into. That this side project proved so viable wasn't exactly a surprise to its members, but Matt Smith thinks the strength of Austin's music community helped.

"When we come to Austin, everyone embraces this band," he affirms. "There's an indefinable magic that happens sometimes. Just get the right people together at the right time and playing for the right reasons. You don't plan it; it just happens. We have a lot of interesting characters in the band, personalitywise, and there's a lot of humor in the Monstas' music."

Although half the band members live in Austin and half in New York City, I-35 and I-95 are connected by I-10 through Louisiana.

"New York has more fragmented circles," Smith continues. "There's a jazz circle, blues circle, rock circle. But in Austin, everyone hangs out together. I find that one of the most exciting music scenes I've seen. There are real music fans who nurture and love the scene. Austin is one of the coolest places in the world. I'm in love with it, and Ernie's the unofficial mayor."

Both Matt and "the unofficial mayor" are already hinting at a second Monstas CD, though Durawa is very attached to the first, which is dedicated to Ginger Shults.

"Her spirit's all over it," attests Ernie Durawa. And within. ■

The Monstas' South Austin World Tour includes gigs at the Continental Club (Jan. 10), Evangeline Cafe (Jan. 11), Saxon Pub (Jan. 12), Güero's (Jan. 13, 3pm), and South by South First – formerly Gino's – at South First and Stassney (Jan. 13, 10pm).

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HORSE + DONKEY

Horse + Donkey's debut meets the imagery of filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky at the crossroads of shadowy figures and lysergic imagery, the soundtrack to a prism-hued trip. At 15 songs, *Horse + Donkey* deftly delivers a companion to the local trio's live shows, which are all about dynamics. Guitarist Jaime Zuverza and bassist Oliver Valdez rarely play in tandem; instead, Valdez keeps a galloping, shape-shifting bassline going under Zuverza's staccato axe work, while drummer Luis Martinez fills in just outside the lines, creating a textured drone that slithers and bucks. On opener "At a Station," strum becomes a heatstroked surge of guitar as Zuverza offers this Mancunian bit: "Draw a circle in the dark air; spiral staircase grows a white hair. You were looking for a little pleasure, but it was already measured." The lyrical fodder of *Horse + Donkey* is obtuse, and it's often hard to understand what Zuverza's singing about under the reverb. The music, however, is hypnotic, jerky, moody. "Riddle," with its paranoid skitter of rhythm, and the clumsy, gripping momentum of "Indian" demonstrate the group's muscle, closer "Big End" bringing the drone back around with Krautrock precision. There's more Manchester in the opening chords of "Dead Dog" and "Amorous Mare," but as with the balance of *Horse + Donkey*, it's filtered in an appropriately possessed manner.

★★★½ – *Audra Schroeder*



JOHN ANDERSON

LIVE SHOT

THE CRACK PIPES

Emo's, Jan. 5

The return of the Crack Pipes marked the apex of Emo's nine-day, overwhelmingly local Free Week, the Austin R&B punks' first performance since South by Southwest 07 and guitarist Billy Steve Korpi's diagnosis with leukemia. Back in proselytizing form with a black porkpie hat and his irrepressible grin, Korpi's taking the stage may be but one step in his recovery, but there's no denying the spark he ignited in the Pipes' set. By that point, the evening's 13-act roster on three stages had mostly peaked. The Anchor cast off first inside, the former Idle Kids growling, "It's all right for the weekend," while Lalaland set a more temperate pace outside with the melodic crescendos of Mumbo Jumbo. Holding court in the Lounge, La Snacks' Robert Segovia spouted cynical through "Emo Kind of Love," even as the mic blew out. Brazos, cementing a stellar lineup with added guitarist Austin Jenkins and drummer Andy Beaudoin, exploded with the desperation of "Mary Jo" and sultry leer of "Mrs. Virginia" at the same time as Masonic's pop-rock highlighted the inside stage behind the Eryn Gettys' effervescent take on Del Shannon's "Runaway." Mothfight, though flitting the spotlight as a trio, maintained force by loading up on the loops, but the night belonged to the Crack Pipes. Korpi's garage licks lit up "Rescue Party" and rolled ecstatic through singer/shouter Ray Pride's moaning blues of "The World Is a Crooked Place" and Magic Sam's "What Have I Done Wrong." Though the full-house mob never reached usual Free Week frenzy, thinning for the Strange Boys' slurry set and Cruiserweight's sweet pop-punk weaponry, Car Stereo (Wars) packed both pit and stage in a mash-up maelstrom closing the Lounge. As Pride declared in the Crack Pipes' send-off, "Record Player Party," all hail rock & roll!

– *Doug Freeman*

ERNEST GONZALES

While on Saturn's Rings **(Exponential)**



Ernest Gonzales makes music like Martha Stewart makes beds: clean and crisp. Formerly known as Theory of Everything, the San Antonio family man's bedroom beats and drum-machine eclectics hint at Austin's Octopus Project but without the energy and drive. That plants him firmly in the ambient category, manipulated guitar, keys, and percussion on opener "Reminisce" and "One Type of Adaptation" begging for climax. "Sophia's Lullaby" is remote yet beautifully chilling, but the techno ticks of "Rockstar Sequence" destroy the calm. Emptiness is overwhelming until the closing Daedelus remix of the title track, where the innocence of a boy's clear, enunciated voice is juxtaposed against the cold technologies of the 21st century. It's here that Gonzales' sweet nothings jump out from the background and become full-fledged experimental emotion on disc.

★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

CERRONATO

Raíces y Ramas



There are many things to cheer on Cerronato's second CD. First, on lead vocals, there's Clemencia Zapata, who, in addition to being a dynamic percussionist, charms with her understated contralto. Second, the carefully produced disc features Cerronato's nimble mix of Colombian *vallenato* (rhythmic story-songs) and cumbia (enormously danceable story-songs) to create a happy-happy sound that belies sometimes-somber lyrics (a murdered friend on "Mi Compadre Bernabé," lost love on "Si Me Quieres"). A reinvention of Juanes' "La Camisa Negra" is fun. There are no bothersome rifts between original and traditional tunes. Sadly, *Raíces y Ramas* (roots and branches) doesn't go anywhere. There's something to be said about fun, which the disc certainly delivers, but with such rich material and four of Austin's most seasoned players, one can't help but demand more.

★★½ – *Belinda Acosta*

THE GOUGERS

A Long Day for the Weathervane



Formerly the Sidehill Gougers, this local quartet lost part of their name, but it's blossomed, unexpectedly, into a band. The Gougers' third effort following an EP and LP, *A Long Day for the Weathervane* spins with a newfound depth and electricity flowing through their alt.country. A lot of the credit belongs to producer Keith Gattis and some A-list local sidemen, including Brad Rice, Bukka Allen, Taras Prodaniuk, Ken Coomer, and Brian Standefer. Bandleaders and vocalists Shane Walker and Jamie Wilson, who wrote the songs, deserve the lion's share of kudos, however, recalling Gram and Emmylou or Ryan Adams on tunes as free and easy as "Dedend" and as achingly gorgeous as "Riding in a Lincoln Continental With Sylvia Plath."

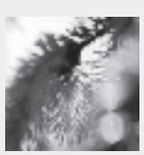
★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

BONUS TRACKS

BY DOUG FREEMAN

MERYLL

Happened **(Esotype)**



Following up 2005's *You've Got Cousins*, Meryll's second LP wraps denser textures around Andrew Hernandez's distinctive high pitch. Art Silva's axe splits the difference between Explosions in the Sky's heavy crescendos and 1980s shoegaze, soundtracking the late-night teen nostalgia of the lyrics as songs like "Lydia in the Cornfield" and "Hemlock Football" drift through hazy, half-remembered childhood scenes. ★★★½

JOHNNY DANGO & THE STILLWATER PIONEERS

Let's Go Pioneering!

The Pioneers' debut balances the playful and sincere amid easy back-porch jams, from the swinging hootenanny of "Trouble All My Life" to the dark drawl of "Going Home." "Ain't Gonna Worry" touches on the Gourds' illustrious wordplay, and "Used to Be" similarly creeks resistingly against middle age. The local quintet's at its best on "1492," with harmonica and banjo matching the weary, biting lyrics. ★★★



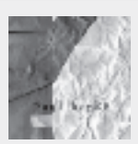
THE LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND

Red Hot From Blue Rock



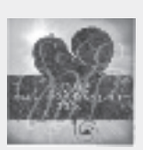
There's no doubting the talents of Redd Volkaert, John Reed, and Earl Poole Ball, but the sum of LTB's CD/DVD third LP rarely equals the parts. Sarah Brown sparks a lean and sultry swing with "Don't Forget to Dip the Girl," but covers like "Setting the Woods on Fire" and "Howlin' at the Moon" are underwhelming. Only Ball's romp on "End of the Road" generates any heat. ★★

PAUL BANKS



Not to be confused with the Interpol frontman, ATX's Paul Banks lays a soft bed of acoustic guitar and piano behind gentle vocal swells. Opener "Live to Share" gestures toward Rufus Wainwright, while "Tell Me Your Thoughts" pops with layered self-harmonies, and the slow build of "Medicine" showcases Banks' comfortable range. Though "Family" spars with Simon & Garfunkel's "The Boxer," Banks' melodies are beautifully mesmerizing. ★★★

THE WILL EVANS PROJECT



Recorded live, the Will Evans Project's debut captures the local trio's jam dynamic, though the standard acoustic rock delivers little beyond the typical college-directed fair. "It's a Shame" and "Oh Tomorrow" might, at best, recall Dave Matthews' acoustic work, while Evans' emotive vocals on "Love Lock" and 11-minute closer "Out of Your Mind" feel more affected than earned. ★★

LEAD STORY

In December, inmate Michael Polk (serving time for robbery and aggravated assault) filed a federal lawsuit against the Utah Department of Corrections for denying him the right to properly practice his religion, Asatru. According to its teachings, adherents must communicate with ancient Nordic gods (such as Odin, Thor, and Heimdal) and for that, it is crucial that they have a Thor's hammer, a mead horn (for drinking wassail), a drum of wood and boar skin, a "rune staff," and a sword (though Polk graciously said he would accept a cardboard sword).

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT!

• A warehouse on Chicago's West Side is "the world capital of fake (latex) vomit, where it's still made the old-fashioned way, ladle by ladle, formed and coagulated," reported the *Chicago Tribune* in December. Though it is not as popular as 50 years ago (7,000 units sold yearly, compared to 60,000 then), Fun Inc. President Graham Putnam said, still, "It's the best vomit on the market." According to the awe-struck *Tribune* reporter: "The texture is soft and sturdy, pliable and complex, with ridges of multihued solid chunks looking like a jagged lunar landscape … perfect for the bathroom, refrigerator, auto seat or sidewalk."

• Exciting Japanese Products: 1) The clothing company Konaka announced that it will start selling press-free men's and women's suits in February that can be cleaned by hanging them under a warm shower. 2) Not actually for sale is bra-maker Triumph International's prototype "chopstick bra," shown in November in Tokyo as an environment-friendly demonstration project. The bra houses two reusable chopsticks (to publicize a national campaign to discourage use of disposable ones), which can also be positioned to enhance the wearer's cleavage.

• Leading Economic Indicator: Evangelical Christians, among all people of faith, seem excited to purchase products that reinforce their religious values, according to a marketer cited in a December *Denver Post* report, with the result an explosion of Jesus-themed merchandise such as Jesus riding a bull, surfing, and playing soccer; Jesus air-fresheners; and Grapes of Galilee wine. (Among the tackier products, according to a November report in London's *Daily Telegraph*, are "thongs of praise" underwear with an image of the Madonna and child, as well as a template to place on a bread slice in an oven to create toast with the Virgin Mary's likeness.)

CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE

• Males Will Be Males: University of Lausanne (Switzerland) researchers discovered that not only are cichlid fish oriented to "oral sex" (because the female stores fertilizable eggs in her mouth) but that studlier males have evolved a trick to get females to open up: Superprocreative males create egglike growths on their fins, which females imagine are their own missing eggs and try to suck them up, thus improving the male's opportunity to slip sperm in, according to a November report in *New Scientist*.

• A research team led by Richard Hanson of Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland) has produced a colony of "supermice" whose physical abilities are the rodent equivalent of those of gifted humans. By modifying a single metabolism gene, researchers enhanced the mouse's ability to use body fat for energy, creating a mouse that can run five hours without stopping, live longer, and have three times as much sex as ordinary mice. According to Hanson, humans have exactly the same modifiable gene, "[b]ut this is not something that you'd do to a human. It's completely wrong."

• It is well-known that methane released by cattle forms a significant amount of the greenhouse gases in some countries, but getting people to abruptly drop beef from their diets might be unrealistic. However, a senior researcher for the Queensland (Australia) government, Athol Klieve, told Agence France-Presse in December that it would be possible to transplant the stomach bacteria of kangaroos into cows to reduce cattle's gas-passing proclivity to the much gentler level of kangaroos' (since the latter have much more efficient digestive systems).

NEWS of the WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Unclear on the Concept: The 44-year-old man who allegedly skipped out on a court appearance in April in Vernon, British Columbia, in connection with marijuana-growing was arrested in December in Mission, British Columbia, when he applied for a job at the county jail. Also in December, police in Oakland, Calif., charged Jason Brooks, 24, who had just recently applied to be an Oakland police officer, with a string of 18 armed robberies dating back to May. (Brooks told the arresting officers that, still, he'd like to join the force.)

NEWS THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE

1) Salt Lake City police reported that an out-of-town man was treated at a local hospital on Dec. 1 after being beaten up by gang members. The man had earlier mentioned to the gang-bangers that "Utah gangs" are not as tough as those from his hometown. 2) In October in West Palm Beach, Fla., Jacqueline Holmes filed a lawsuit against a nightclub named Coco Bongo for injuries after a disco ball fell from the ceiling and conked her on the head.

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

1) Ryan Holle, 25, is serving a life sentence (with no possibility of parole) in Florida even though his only connection to a 2003 murder was that he loaned his car to one of the killers. According to a December *New York Times* report, Florida, even when dispensing its second-worst punishment of all, does not restrict "aiding and abetting" to just those who consciously assist a murder. 2) Scott Masters, 41, faced a potential 30-year sentence for shoplifting a doughnut in a Farmington, Mo., convenience store in September because, as he exited the store, he pushed a worker aside. Prosecutors said that "assault" made the crime a "strong-arm robbery" (but in December, a judge decided 90 days in jail was more appropriate).

PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

Small-Town News: 1) Nicholas Palmer, 22, briefly took to the woods near Swanville, Maine, in October after an altercation with his sister. He had tried to snip the cord of the clipper she was using to shave the family cat to rid it of fleas and ticks. 2) Robin Handel, 44, was arrested in Rowlett, Texas, in December and charged with conspiracy after allegedly convincing her mother to kill Robin's husband to protect a romance she was having via the Internet. (The small-caliber handgun that the mother used failed to inflict life-threatening wounds, either to the husband or when she shot herself as police closed in.)

(CORRECTION: Two weeks ago, "News of the Weird" misidentified a Florida Wal-Mart customer charged with shoplifting. "Christopher White" is not the alleged shoplifter; he is the Wal-Mart store official who assisted the police. I apologize for the error.)

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at **newsoftheweird.blogspot.com** *(or* **www.newsoftheweird.com***). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or* **weirdnewstips@yahoo.com**. ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE









this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS**, **FILM**, AND **MUSIC**) BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 10

EAT BETTER, SAVE MONEY Meant to be equally useful for both singles and families, this nutrition tour will cover how to spend less on healthy food and how to make your groceries stretch further. Call ahead or sign up at the concierge desk. *2-3pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. $5.* **hannah.wong@wholefoods.com**, **www.wholefoods.com**.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS MEET-AND-GREET Get outside a little more in the new year, and make some new friends while you're at it. Check out this friendly group of outdoorsy types, and find out what they have planned for you in '08. *6:30-8:30pm. Iron Cactus North, 10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778.* **www.hillcountryoutdoors.com**.

LADIES OF THE EIGHTIES DANCE PARTY Come dressed as your favorite Eighties lady (prizes go to the best costumes), and prepare to dance! But don't forget to save some energy for the charity kissing booth – all proceeds go to **Equality Texas**, after all. *9:30pm-2am. Elysium, 705 Red River, 577-5057. $10 ($8, advance).* **fiercefashion@gmail.com**, **www.equalitytexas.org**.

MARGINS TAX SEMINAR The Texas Motor Transportation Association hosts this seminar for those in the transportation industry who'd like to learn the ins and outs of the new state margins tax. *1-3:30pm. Texas Motor Transportation Association Building, 700 E. 11th, 478-2541. $79 ($49, TMTA members).* **www.tmta.com**.

PIZZA FOR RIDERS Napalm Motorsports invites riders and their friends for a free pizza day, with a drawing for a $50 store-credit giveaway. *11:30am-4:30pm. Napalm Motorsports, Victory of Austin, 12112 N. 620, 345-RIDE. Free.* **www.napalmmotorsports.com**.

THE 90'S ONE-HIT WONDERS SING-ALONG: VOL. 2 Billy Ray Cyrus. The Spin Doctors. Deee-lite. Prepare to be hoarse by the end of the show. *9:45 & 11:55pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. $12.*

THEOLOGY ON TAP This group for single and married young adults meets regularly at various restaurants around town, with each meeting featuring a guest speaker and a discussion on Catholicism. Today, Father Dave Farnum presents **Mythbusters**, about the common misunderstandings about the Catholic Church. *6:30-9pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. Free.* **www.tot.austindiocese.org**.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Design Center of Austin

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week, **Part 2** *Emo's*
The DeWayn Brothers *Mohawk*
The Word Association *Red 7*
George Strait *Frank Erwin Center*

Friday 11

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents legal expert **Richard Grossman**, co-author of *Taking Care of Business: Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation*, on past lessons to be learned in the effort to roll back corporate power. *2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

PEOPLE UNITED features Rebecca Bernhardt of the Texas ACLU speaking on the organization's expanding effort to address the problem of racial profiling. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* **www.koop.org**.

PRE-CARNAVAL PARTY brings you body-painter demos, performances from Austin's Academicos de Opera Samba School, prize giveaways, and lots of masks and costume pieces to get you ready for the real thing in February. *9-11pm. Vicci, 404 Colorado, 350-3582.* **carnavalaustin@gmail.com**, **www.sambaparty.com**.

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK SING-ALONG An evening of songs, prizes, and happy-hour specials bringing back those old Saturday-morning edu-commercials (remember "Conjunction Junction"?) to raise funds for **College Forward**, a college counseling program for low-income high school students. *Second Fridays, 6-8pm. 452-4800. Free.* **www.collegeforward.org**.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Dazzling King Solomon Band *Hole in the Wall*
Basic, **Faceless Werewolves**, **Diagonals**, **Shapes Have Fangs** *Beerland*
Mediums, **Balmorhea**, **David Israel** *Lamberts*
Rock & Roll Benefit for Jennifer *Ruta Maya*

Saturday 12

ARTIST'S MARKET *Most Saturdays, 10am-6pm (check website for changes). Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free.* **www.downtownartistmarket.com**.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM Join the Pachamama Alliance today for an empowering exploration of that place where environmental sustainability, social justice, and spiritual fulfillment intersect with your life. *12:45-5pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/356-9243. $20.* **kking003@austin.rr.com**, **www.liveoakuu.org**.

CALL FOR YOUNG AUSTIN BANDS Wanna be in pictures? With your band? In a fictional battle of the bands? Well, now's your chance. You and the other teenagers (or teenage-looking hipsters) in your band could be in an upcoming film starring Vanessa Hudgens and Liam Aiken. All you gotta do is try out. Call or e-mail to request an audition time. *10am-4pm. 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 900 block of East Fifth, 472-5385 x1.* **info@bethsepkocasting.com**.

COMMUNITY PARK VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Join the Friends of Convict Hill Quarry Park today in repairing trails and pulling weeds. *9am-1pm. 6511 Convict Hill, 825-1254.* **drjet@austin.rr.com**.

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF SELF-PUBLISHING covers everything from trademarking brands and logos to copyrighting artwork and written works. Call or e-mail to RSVP. *10am-2pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 210/643-4365. $25.* **lindamoye@aol.com**, **www.mitchie.com**.

DIVORCE WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN This monthly workshop brings you expert attorneys, financial advisers, and family mediators and counselors to address not only the legal and financial issues that arise with divorce but the emotional issues, as well. *Second Saturdays, 8:30am-noon. DeVry University, Stratum Executive Center Bldg. B, room 102, 11044 Research, 732-1244. $45.* **www.austindivorceworkshop.com**.

FABULOUS FUNKY FORMAL Tonight's dress code requires merely that you wear something whimsical for an evening of dancing to the BobKats and the Michael Shay Band. *9:30pm-1:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 385-0439. $5.*

FREE MULCH IS BACK! The city has recycled hundreds of leftover Christmas trees into mulch, and barring rain delays, it should be available today, on a first-come-first-served basis, to anyone who needs it. Be sure to bring your own bags, loading equipment, and muscle-armed helpers. **www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm**.

HAND TALK This weekly sign language class for hearing and nonhearing participants kicks off with a special storytime session for kids (*1-2pm*) before the adult session begins at *2pm*. *Saturdays, 2-3pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.* **www.mitchie.com**.

LET'S TALK ART This four-week workshop is open to artists and art lovers who want to learn how to best present artwork in ways that an audience can understand and appreciate. *Jan. 12-Feb. 2. Saturdays, 11am-1pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458. $65.* **www.doughertyartscenter.org**.

MICRO CHIPPING & ADOPTION DAY Meet two litters of German shepherd-mix puppies and a bevy of family-friendly adult dogs that would be happy to go home with you today, or bring in your dog to be microchipped on-site for $10. *2-4pm. Petco, 2701-A Parker Drive #100, Round Rock, 512/219-8793.* **debi@austindogalliance.org**, **www.austindogalliance.org**.



Nobel Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus on Eliminating Poverty

[SEE SUNDAY, MUHAMMAD YUNUS]

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com

2007–2008

Save a stamp! Vote on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll.

MUSIC POLL BALLOT

After 27 years, you know the drill: This is your chance to duct-tape the critics' mouths shut and speak up about Austin music. Not sure whom to vote for? Turn on the radio, drop by the local record store, or head to the clubs. Your favorite band is probably playing.

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:

Best Performing Bands

ROCK:

PUNK:

METAL:

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:

DJ:

INDIE:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

KID BAND (MAJORITY OF MEMBERS UNDER 18):

NOVELTY:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)

FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS/PERCUSSION:

KEYBOARDS:

HORNS:

STRINGS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

RECORD PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, CD TITLE):

Related Categories

NEW CLUB:

LIVE MUSIC VENUE:

ACOUSTIC VENUE:

ALL-AGES VENUE:

RECORD STORE:

INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:

RADIO STATION:

RADIO PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

RADIO PERSONALITY (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

CONCERT POSTER (BAND, CLUB, DATE, ARTIST):

LOCAL LABEL:

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is yes.) Please circle one or fill in the blank*:

The Skunks	Spot Barnett
The Dicks	Barbara Lynn
The Motards	Major Burkes
American Analog Set	Roy Head
Bad Livers	Uncle John Turner
Byron Scott	Pinetop Perkins
Rosie Flores	Gary Primich

OTHER NOMINEE*

Who are these people and why should you vote for them? Visit the poll ballot online at **austinchronicle.com/musicpoll** *for more information!*

Required Information

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY **STATE**

ZIP

AGE **PHONE**

ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED!

Please mail to: Music Poll
The Austin Chronicle
PO Box 49066
Austin, TX 78765

· Entries must be postmarked by ***THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 2008****. · You can vote either by this mail-in ballot or on the Web at* **austinchronicle.com/musicpoll***. · Ballot must be mailed in; no hand deliveries accepted. · Absolutely no more than one ballot to an envelope. · Photocopied ballots will not be accepted. · Ballot-stuffing may be punishable by public ridicule or a week in the stocks.*

MUSLIM AMERICAN SOCIETY UDHIYA MEAT DRIVE In keeping with the traditions of the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, after which many Muslims donate meat to the poor, Austin's MAS joins the national effort today to distribute beef, lamb, and goat meat to those in need, regardless of faith. Call for details. *North Austin Muslim Community Center, 11900 N. Lamar, 659-1523. Free.* **outreach@masaustin.org**, **www.masaustin.org**.

PET THERAPY SEMINAR Wanna bring a little happiness into nursing homes, children's hospitals, and other places where people could use some cheering up? All you have to do is pass the Delta Society Pet Partners Evaluation, and you can bring the joy of pets to the people who need it most – learn how today. *9:30am-noon. Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter, 1855 S.E. Inner Loop, Georgetown, 219-8793. $35.* **www.austindogalliance.org**.

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free.* **www.austinsahajayoga.org**.

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Wanna help keep Austin beautiful? Join in on one of several outdoor volunteer projects today, where you'll be planting trees, gardening, maintaining trails, and more. Areas with projects planned include the Meadowbrook Housing Development, Becker Elementary School, Oak Springs Water Quality Protection Preserve, Mayfield Park, and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. See **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org** for details.

SEEDS TO STARTS WORKSHOP Learn about the bio-intensive gardening method as you help the Green Corn Project folks prep their spring gardens. Call for details and registration. *10am-1:30pm. Free.* **www.greencornproject.org**.

THE NUTRITIONAL CONNECTION TO SPIRITUAL LIVING This month's Second Saturday Workshop from Austin Recovery focuses on eating "to live, instead of living to eat." *10am-noon. Austin Recovery, 8402 Cross Park Dr., 697-8528. Free.* **www.austinrecovery.org**.

TILING FLOORS & WALLS CLINIC *Saturdays, 11am. All Home Depot locations. Free.* **www.homedepotclinics.com**.

VIDEO & DISCUSSION features a screening of *A Good Year*, followed by a guided group discussion on beginning new life phases (with grace). *7pm-12mid. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Davis Gallery, **Else Madsen Gallery**, **Okay Mountain Gallery**, **Wally Workman Gallery**, **Women & Their Work**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Macbeth *@ Southpark Meadows, 12:30pm*
Macbeth *@ Tinseltown North, 12:30pm*
Puppet Parts Festival *@ The Off Center, 1pm*
The Rocky Horror Picture Show *@ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid*
The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *@ Alamo Ritz, noon*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Junior Brown, **American Graveyard** *Antone's*
All in the Golden Afternoon, **the Bronze Age** *Mohawk*
The Sword/Yellow Fever *Emo's*
The Iguanas *Continental Club*

Sunday 13

ALR'S LUPUS RESEARCH UPDATE The Alliance for Lupus Research sponsors this discussion from UT-Southwestern researcher Chieko Mineo. See **walk.lupusresearch.org** to RSVP. *2-3:30pm. Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 866/WALK-ALR. Free.*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL FILM NIGHT features *The Letter*, about the relocation of 1,100 Somali refugees to a town in Maine. (See Special Screenings, p.78.) *8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. $5 suggested donation.*

ARTISAN STROLL is a monthly outdoor artists market with strolling musicians and performers to entertain you as you shop. *Second Sundays, 11am-5pm. Downtown Round Rock, 512/535-5761. Free.* **www.artisanstroll.com**.

BETTER AUSTIN TODAY COMING OUT PARTY Check out Austin's newest political action committee, Better Austin Today, which aims to bring this city's hodgepodge progressive groups together into one formidable champion of responsive, accountable government. Join them today as they make their grand entrance onto Austin's political stage. *6-9pm. Moose Lodge, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 573-6194. Donate what you can.* **www.batpac.org**.

BILINGUAL POWER YOGA FLOW A 90-minute session for all levels, taught in Spanish and English. *Sundays, 4:30pm; Wednesdays, 6pm. Esquina Tango, 209 Pedernales. $8 recommended donation.* **namaste.austin@gmail.com**.

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING Adam Gravois leads today's discussion on **Forethought**. *10am-12:30pm. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free.* **contact@esoa.org**, **www.esoa.org**.

GERMAN POTLUCK SOCIAL invites you to celebrate your German heritage and share your favorite *bauerntopf* or other tasty dish. *4-6:30pm. German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927.* **info@germantexans.org**, **www.germantexans.org**.

GRIEFSHARE invites anyone grieving from the loss of a loved one to join these weekly meetings. Each session begins with a video on grief recovery and ends with discussion. *Sundays, 7-9pm. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 472-8301. Free.* **www.griefshare.org**.

INTRO TO JAPANESE ROPE BONDAGE welcomes adults who wanna tie each other up all sexy-like. *6-9pm. Forbidden Fruit, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090. $25 ($20, advance).* **info@forbiddenfruit.com**, **www.forbiddenfruit.com/workshops.htm**.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS The Nobel Peace Prize-winning economist (known for his successful use of microcredit in creating "economic and social development from below") is in town today to discuss and sign copies of his new book, *Creating a World Without Poverty*. *1pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. Free.* **www.muhammadyunus.org**.

NOKIDDING! SUPPER Meet with fellow happily child-free adults at this monthly social for folks who prefer the grownup table. *6-8:30pm. Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.* **www.austinnokidding.com**.

PEACE SUNDAY This monthly Sunday gathering features quiet meditation followed by a friendly potluck brunch. *1-3pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Austin Texas Labor Against the War presents a discussion and screening of the short documentary "Meeting Face to Face: The Iraq-U.S. Labor Solidarity Tour," which chronicles a U.S. tour of Iraqi labor leaders discussing their perspectives with American union members. (See Special Screenings, p.78.) *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.* **www.austinuu.org**.

SINGLE PARENT RESOURCE NETWORK *Second Sundays, 11:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
"Meeting Face to Face" *@ First Unitarian Church, 11:30am*
Macbeth *@ Southpark Meadows, 2pm*
Macbeth *@ Tinseltown North, 2pm*
The Letter *@ MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
***Marathon* with Jesse Sublett & Darden Smith** *Continental Club*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Battle of Sabine Pass** has gone down in military history as one of the greatest battles, yet it has been largely overshadowed by other engagements during the Civil War. As most Texas schoolchildren know, 43 Irish-Texans with six cannons repelled a Union invasion force of 6,000 and saved the state from occupation.

Today, the site where the rudimentary fort stood is commemorated with a historic park about 14 miles south of Port Arthur. Huge oceangoing vessels move vast amounts of goods into the Gulf of Mexico through the narrow pass that separates Texas and Louisiana.

From the outset of the Civil War, the federal army tried to choke off the South's economic capabilities by blockading the ports. Sabine Pass became one of the most notoriously successful smugglers' routes along the southern coast. Ships carrying lumber and cotton from East Texas and Louisiana hid on Sabine Lake before making a dash for open waters. Galveston might have been the state's biggest official port, but Sabine Pass was the busiest unofficial route for goods and people.


GERALD E. MCLEOD

After several successes against southern shore batteries and the capture of Galveston, the U.S. Navy turned its attention to the Southeast Texas shipping channel in September 1863. The Union's battle plan was to steam up the Sabine Channel, land a small army, take control of the railroad between Houston and New Orleans, and then capture Houston. By occupying coastal Texas, the Union could control nearly the entire state.

The Confederate army had a much different plan. Concerned by rumors of a naval attack at Sabine Pass, military officials sent a Polish and a Swiss engineer to construct Fort Griffin two miles south of Sabine City. It was an excellent strategic location on a small hill on the otherwise flat marshland. The small fort's guns could cover the narrow channel that was divided by a large oyster reef. The bunker was manned by a group of Irish dockworkers lead by Lt. Dick Dowling, a 25-year-old Houston saloon keeper.

The rowdy Irish immigrants really didn't have a cause in the Civil War other than their love of a good fight. In fact, many of them deserted to the Union side when the overwhelming odds became obvious. Despite their barroom antics, the unit was an efficient artillery company. Before the battle began, they had practiced firing at markers placed around the reef.

The Union's navy's plans began unraveling almost from the beginning. It took hours to get the heavy ships over the sandbar at the mouth of the pass. By 3:30pm on Sept. 8, 1863, the gunboats were ready to begin the attack.

The *USS Clifton* slowly began the charge up the Texas side of the channel. Blinded by the sun and unable to gauge the accuracy of their cannon fire, most of the Union shells flew over the fort. The first ship to come into range of the fort's artillery was the *USS Sachem*, advancing up the Louisiana side of the channel, followed by the *USS Arizona*. The Irishmen's accuracy took out the boiler of the *Sachem*, leaving it disabled and blocking the right side of the oyster reef.

The *Clifton* kept advancing toward the fort until it ran aground a few hundred yards from the shore battery. The accuracy of the fort's guns soon forced the stuck skipper to raise the white flag. A transport ship following the *Clifton* saw the devastation and turned back rather than landing its troops according to plan.

According to Dowling's report, his gunners got off 137 shots during the 45-minute battle. His men captured two Union ships and 350 prisoners and routed the invasion without a casualty.

In 1971, the state purchased the site of Fort Griffin as a small park where a monument to Dowling and his men had been placed in 1936. There is no visible evidence of the Civil War fort at the park. Ammunition bunkers left over from World War II coastal batteries disturb the flat landscape. In 2005, Hurricane Rita destroyed many of the park's picnic tables and pavilions. The state Legislature transferred the property to the Texas Historical Commission in 2007.

The Sabine Pass Battleground Historic Site, south of Port Arthur on TX 87, is a tranquil place with no hint of the epic battle that took place here other than a monument to Dowling and his men. The shrill songs of birds mix with the clang of steel from oil-drilling platforms being constructed nearby. An occasional freighter passes where the oyster reef once blocked the channel. This is still an isolated corner of Texas, unconquered by the deeds of man.

The park is open daily during daylight hours. No services are provided at this time. There is no admission fee.

862nd 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

WINDOWS ON TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL features live music, conferences, musician showcases, and films. *Thu.-Sun., Jan. 10-13. Various locations, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2197. Free.* **www.texasrebelradio.com**.

SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO The nation's oldest stock show offers something for everybody with carnival games and rides, barns full of blue-ribbon animals, and the world's original indoor rodeo. *Jan. 11-Feb. 3. Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth, 817/877-2400.* **www.fwstockshowrodeo.com**.

GILLESPIE COUNTY YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW features local youths exhibiting and selling their 4-H and FFA projects. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 11-12. County Fairgrounds, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2359.* **www.gillespiefair.com**.

ARTIST OF THE YEAR SHOW showcases works of the local artists distinguished as Artist of the Month throughout 2007. (Artists reception: *Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8pm.*) *Jan. 11-31. New Braunfels Art League Gallery, 239 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, 830/629-8022. Free.* **www.newbraunfelsartleague.com**.

WINTER ANTIQUES SHOW includes furniture, glassware, pottery, paintings, toys, and collectibles for just about every interest. *Jan. 12-13. Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 10am-4pm. Knights of Columbus Hall, Brenham, 979/865-5618.* **otto@hal-pc.org**, **www.brenhamtexas.com**.

WINTERFEST features 200,000 pounds of snow along with a snow-tubing hill, ice-skating rink, carnival, midway games, petting zoo, arts & crafts, games, and refreshments. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10am-4pm (rain date Jan. 13). Independence Park, Pearland, 281/652-1673.* **www.pearlandparks.com**.

ELVIS FESTIVAL has grown more popular every year since 1995, when Simon Vega began holding a birthday celebration at his home and museum honoring the King. This year, the party of Elvis impersonators has moved to the rodeo arena, where singers from around the nation will entertain you between the look- and sing-alike contests, car shows, trivia contests, and tours of Vega's Little Graceland. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 12-13. Los Fresnos, 956/233-5482 or 956/233-4488. $5.* **chamberoffice@losfresnoschamber.com**, **www.losfresnoschamber.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. 25 issue is Monday, Jan. 14**. 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**.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

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

the young ones

VICTOR PETER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP This $500 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Society of Texas is available to graduating high school seniors. To apply, address one of the following two topics in a 300-word essay: 1) **A Family Member Who Represents Czech Heritage** or 2) **A Family Member Who Contributed to the Czech Heritage in the United States**. (Applicants need not be of Czech origin to apply.) Call for more details. *Deadline: Feb. 28. 281/342-4898.*

SEEKING POETRY SUBMISSIONS Kids in kindergarten through 12th grade are welcome to submit poetry to be considered for publication in the Austin International Poetry Festival's annual Diverse Youth anthology. See **www.aipf.org** for details. *Deadline: Jan. 31.* **aipfya@sbcglobal.net**.

SPRING TEEN FILMMAKING WORKSHOP Austin filmmaker Kat Candler teaches this course on screenwriting, directing, scheduling, marketing, festivals, and more. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin School of Film, 906 E. Fifth #106, 236-8877. $550.* **www.storieproductions.com**.

FREE MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES Westover Hills Club is offering a free month of Life Ki-do martial arts classes designed to help students improve their focus, confidence, social skills, body awareness, and coordination. Call or e-mail to register. *Through Feb. 29. Westover Hills Club, 8706 Westover Club Dr., 215-0064. Free month of classes.* **info@lifekido.com**, **www.lifekido.com**.

DEUTSCHE SAMSTAGSSCHULE/GERMAN SATURDAY SCHOOL hosts a 12-week German-language program for ages 3-13, set to begin *Jan. 19.* Students will be divided by age and skill-level into four different classes. All age groups will learn comprehension and speaking; older children will also learn reading and writing. *Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am. German Free School, 507 E. 10th; Saengerrunde Halle, 1607 San Jacinto, 482-0927. $165 ($150, German-Texas Heritage Society members).* **www.germantexans.org**.

LATINITAS NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST FOR GIRLS *Latinitas*, Austin's own homegrown online magazine for girls, invites Latina youth ages 14-21 to submit 800- to 1,000-word essays explaining "What It Is to Be Latina." The winning submissions will be published both in print and online. E-mail for further details. *Deadline: Feb. 10.* **latinitasawards@yahoo.com**, **www.latinitasmagazine.org**.

AUSTIN JEWISH ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Fourth- through seventh-grade students and parents are welcome to tour AJA's middle school this evening and meet with administrators, faculty, parents, students, and alumni. *Thu., Jan. 10, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin Jewish Academy, 7300 Hart Ln., 735-8350. Free.* **www.austinjewishacademy.org**.

MITCHIE'S STORY TIME This twice-weekly story time features African and African-American folktales, and each child receives a free gift, refreshments, and 30% off a book purchase. (Saturday story times also include sign-language instruction.) *Wednesdays & Saturdays, 1-2pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. Free.* **www.mitchie.com**.

HAND TALK Preceding the 2pm adult session, this sign language class for hearing and nonhearing kids also includes African and African-American folktales along with refreshments and discounts off book purchases. (Volunteer readers always welcome; call *323-6901.*) *Saturdays, 1-2pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.* **www.mitchie.com**.

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES EXPERIENCE In anticipation of the movie, the *Spiderwick Chronicles* Experience is touring the U.S. with interactive, educational activities bringing the filmmaking process to life. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 12-13, 11am-6pm. Gatti Town, 9900 S. I-35.*

BALLET AUDITIONS The Austin City Ballet, Austin City Youth Ballet, and En Avant Dance Company are looking for dancers age 8 and up to try out for spring productions of *Aladdin* and *La Vida* as well as for some original contemporary pieces. Call to schedule your audition. *Sat., Jan. 12. Austin Conservatory of the Arts, 14735 Bratton Ln. #125, 989-3363. $10.* **www.austin-conservatory-arts.com**.

COQUIES Y FAMILIA: BRINCA Y CANTA CLASS Parents (and grandparents, too) are welcome to bring their youngest ones, ages 0-4, to this weekly workshop teaching basic rhythm and creative movement along with traditional Puerto Rican songs. *Saturdays, noon. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery, 251-8122.* **www.prfdance.org/perfarts.htm#coquis**.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4-10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. *Jan. 13-Feb. 24. Sundays, 2-3pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. $5 (free, babies).* **jessica@arjet.net**.

SUNDAY KIDS SHOW Join Connie Coyote Cowgirl for some unicycling, juggling, acrobatics, and more. *Sun., Jan. 13, 10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.*

SHAKTI MOM! YOGA This Prana Flow yoga class invites moms to bring little ones for a weekly session of meditation, core strengthening, and parent-child bonding. Babies welcome. *Mondays, 1-2pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765. $7.* **yogi@shaktimom.com**, **www.shaktimom.com**.

BEGINNING CHESS CAMP & CHESS CLUB welcomes kids ages 10 and older to learn the fundamentals and strategic elements of this classic game. *Mon.-Fri., Jan. 14-18, 6-6:45pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188.* **staff@wblibrary.org**.

MAGNET PROGRAM OPEN HOUSES Find out what these middle schools have to offer, and sign your child up for shadowing a current student: Fulmore Middle School's **Humanities & Law Magnet for International Studies**: *Tue., Jan. 15, 6-8pm; 201 E. Mary, 841-4916*. **Kealing Middle School Magnet**: *Thu., Jan. 17, 6-8pm; 1607 Pennsylvania, 414-3180*. **www.austinisd.org/schools**.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE INFO SESSION welcomes interested students and parents to learn about Anderson High's prestigious program focusing on higher-level learning skills, creative thinking, interdisciplinary studies, and community service with an international perspective. *Tue., Jan. 15, 7-9pm. Anderson High School, 8403 Mesa, 414-7951. Free.* **mszabo@austinisd.org**, **austinisd.org/staff/123**.

MLK CHILDREN'S ORATORY CONTEST A bevy of astute fourth- through sixth-graders will ponder aloud today: "If you could share your dream with Dr. King, what would it be?" *Wed., Jan. 16, 6pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809. Free.*

STARGAZING Bring the kids for stories about Pantheon and the myths found in the stars. *Wed., Jan. 16, 8-10pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188.*

PAYING FOR COLLEGE BUS TOUR stops in Austin this evening to bring middle and high school students and parents information (in Spanish and English) about college admissions and financial aid. Dinner will be served (first-come, first-served), and one $1,000 scholarship will be raffled off. *Thu., Jan. 17, 6:30-8pm. Johnston High School, 1012 Arthur Stiles Rd., 800/292-0688. Free.* **www.thesalliemaefund.org**.

A Perfect Solution to the New Year's Resolution

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Northwest:	12001 Burnet Road	512.490.1200



Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

TNA WRESTLING TNA stands for Total Nonstop Action, in case you were wondering. For more info on the action, see **austinchronicle.com/sports**. Tickets available at **www.gettix.net**. *Thu., Jan. 10. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 854-4900.* **www.tnawrestling.com**.

THE HOME TEAMS

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Kansas State: *Sun., Jan. 13, 1pm.* Vs. Iowa State: *Wed., Jan. 16, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* **Women's Swimming** Vs. Auburn: *Thu., Jan. 10, 3pm.* Vs. Georgia: *Fri., Jan. 11, 5pm. Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr.* **Men's Swimming** Vs. Auburn: *Thu., Jan. 10, 3pm.* Vs. Georgia: *Sat., Jan. 12, 11am. Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus.* **www.texassports.com**.

AUSTIN OUTLAWS TRYOUTS Austin's own full-contact women's tackle football team is looking for new players to add to their roster. For ladies 18 and older. *Sat., Jan. 12, 9:30am-noon. Kealing Middle School, 1607 Pennsylvania Ave.* **www.austinoutlaws.com**.

TAKE A KID TO THE GAME NIGHT St. Edward's University is inviting all area youth 14 and younger to check out some NCAA basketball and get a free ticket with the purchase of one full-priced adult ticket. The official basketball mascot, J.J. Jumper, will be in attendance and is certain to get the joint rockin'. Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10., 6pm (women) & 8pm (men). Recreation and Convocation Center, 233-1637.* **athletics.concordia.edu**.

UT BASKETBALL GAME WATCHING PARTY Join our own **Chrontourage** for some UT men's basketball (vs. Missouri) and a couple of brews (or iced tea if your prefer). This game is only being broadcast on ESPN Plus. *Sat., Jan 12, 12:45pm. Ringers Sports Lounge, 415 Colorado.* **www.ringerssportslounge.com**.

AUSTIN TOROS For more on the Toros, see **austinchronicle.com/sports**. Vs. Albuquerque: *Thu., Jan. 10 & Sat., Jan. 12, 7pm.* Vs. Los Angeles: *Thu., Jan. 17, 10am. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. $8-23.* **www.nba.com/dleague/austin**.

AUSTIN ICE BATS Catch the Bats before they enter the All-Star break. Vs. New Mexico: *Fri., Jan. 11, 7:35pm.* Vs. Arizona: *Sat., Jan. 12, 7:35pm. Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 927-7825. $9-35.* **www.icebats.com**.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10, 8pm.* Vs. Lincoln: *Sat., Jan. 12, 8pm.* Vs. St. Mary's: *Thu., Jan. 17, 8pm. St. Edward's RCC. $5 ($3 seniors/students; $1, under 12).* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10, 6pm.* Vs. Lincoln: *Sat., Jan. 12, 6pm.* Vs. St. Mary's: *Thu., Jan. 17, 6pm. St. Edward's RCC. $5 ($3 seniors/students; $1, under 12).* **www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN SKIERS HAPPY HOUR A weekly get-together for ski and sports enthusiasts. *Thursdays, 5-7pm. Bikinis Bar & Grill, 6901 N. I-35, 261-1306. Free.* **www.austinskiers.org**.

BRIGHT LEAF PRESERVE'S GUIDED HIKES Bright Leaf is open to the public through guided hikes only. The two-hour, four-mile hikes depart from the parking lot at 8:30am. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 12-13, 8:30am. Bright Leaf State Natural Area, FM 2222 between MoPac & 360, 459-7269.* **www.brightleaf.org**.

Soccer WATCH

New **U.S. Women**'s National Team coach **Pia Sundhage** has named goalkeeper **Hope Solo** to the squad for the upcoming Four Nations Tournament, taking place in China, Jan. 16-20. Solo, of course, was last seen ripping former coach **Greg Ryan** (and, seemingly, teammate Briana Scurry) after she was benched for the team's embarrassing 4-0 loss to Brazil in the World Cup semifinal. Solo was persona non grata after that, but now – as I and many others predicted at the time – she's outlasted Ryan and is on her way back to the scene of the crime.

Portuguese midfielder **Luís Figo** is the latest international star to be linked to a move to **Major League Soccer**. Earlier this week, rumors were swirling that Figo was about to join old friend **David Beckham** at the traveling circus that is the **L.A. Galaxy**. At 35 and recovering from a broken leg suffered in November, it's unclear how Figo would actually help the team, but Galaxy General Manager **Alexi Lalas** is just star-crazed enough to actually pull the trigger on such a deal. – *Nick Barbaro*



DOUG POTTER

PLAYING THROUGH

BY THOMAS HACKETT

Guys who watch games in sports bars are probably not the most discerning of fans. That the Cowboys were taking a regular-season-ending 27-6 thumping at the hands of the Washington Redskins two weeks ago or that they went only 2-2 in the month of December or that the secondary has been porous, **Terrell Owens** has been hampered by an ankle sprain, and **Tony Romo** has been all thumbs in recent weeks (all injured thumbs, I should say) – none of that had the faithful particularly worried.

"I think we're already there," said **Sloan Harris**, an architect watching the Redskins game at the Tavern, meaning we might as well just fast-forward past Sunday's matchup against the New York Giants to a Feb. 3 Super Bowl showdown with the Patriots. "We've got the first-round bye. We've got home field. There's really nobody in the NFC who can stop us. Oh, shit!"

Just then, Washington's **Todd Collins** and **Santana Moss** took it deep to go up 26-3.

Harris made a minor adjustment.

"Well, okay," he said, "our deep-pass coverage is a concern. That's been a problem for us all year. But the way to overcome that is with a better pass rush, and ours is probably the best in the league. So, no, I'm not worried. Romo? Yeah, he's had a pretty average December. But the guy is completely clutch."

We'll see. Romo wasn't clutch in last year's playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks, fumbling a snap for what would have been a game-winning field goal. In his last three starts, he tossed five interceptions and only one touchdown.

And **Wade Phillips**' playoff record as a head coach doesn't exactly inspire confidence: He's 0-3.

Winning teams usually have a bit of momentum going into the playoffs, playing with purpose and intensity. Certainly the New England Patriots are oozing confidence. The Cowboys, on the other hand, treated the entire month of December as if it were the preseason, when nobody cares who wins, when it's all about staying healthy, making personnel adjustments, and working out the kinks in the system.

After dispatching the Green Bay Packers back in November, Dallas saw a clear path to the Super Bowl – and haven't looked nearly as sharp since. Before that game, the Cowboys were averaging nearly 33 points a game. Since then, they're down to 15 points per game.

No matter, said Phillips after the Redskins loss. "You take the whole season; you don't take one game, the last game of the year. You don't say, 'Hey, the sky is falling.' It's not. You can ask the players; I think they're going to be ready to play. They know we won 13 games. I don't know why you wouldn't have confidence."

Monday 14

ADVENTURE BOOT CAMP SAMPLER CLASS This free, four-day boot camp sampler gives you a taste of Austin Adventure Boot Camp's monthlong fitness program; completion will knock $10 off your enrollment in the regular class. *Mon.-Thu., Jan. 14-17. Times vary. Locations vary, 626-0504. Free.* **contactus@atxbootcamp.com**, **www.atxbootcamp.com/freeCampSamplerReg.htm**.

AUSTIN ORGANIC GARDENERS CLUB MEETING *7-9pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 443-7187. Free.* **www.austinorganicgardeners.org**.

ECOLOGY LECTURE NIGHT A discussion with Texas Solar Energy Society Executive Director **Natalie Marquis**, general manager of Austin's successful permaculture-based hotel, Habitat Suites. *7-8:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.* **djackson81@gmail.com**.

LEGAL AID CLINIC features free legal advice from the attorneys of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. *Mon., Jan. 7 & 14; Fri., Jan. 18. Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell, 374-2700. Free.* **www.trla.org**.

LIVE THE LANGUAGE SPANISH CLASS Learn Spanish from a native speaker in a class customized to your needs: **Beginner II**, *Mondays, 7-9pm*; **Intermediate**, *Tuesdays, 7-9pm. Jan. 14-May 20. Mr. Natural, 2414-A S. Lamar, 762-4907. $200/month.* **deidrekateri@yahoo.com**, **www.livethelanguage.org**.

UNDERSTANDING ALTERNATE FINANCING The city of Austin Small Business Development Program hosts this two-day workshop for anyone looking beyond conventional bank loans for financing. Advanced registration required. *Mon. & Wed., Jan. 14 & 16, 9am-noon. International Center of Austin, 201 E. Second, 974-7800. $35.* **www.austinsmallbiz.com/WebCOE/calofevents.php**.

WINEBAT BLIND WINE TASTING *7-8:30pm. Green Pastures, 811 W. Live Oak, 961-6151 or 877/WINE-709. $25 (plus tax & gratuity).* **www.winebat.com**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968 *@ Alamo Ritz, 10pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Like Dogs, **Aurora Plastics Company**, **Television Ends**, **Xathax** *Plush*

Tuesday 15

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS MEETING *6pm. Sicola's, 5416 Parkcrest, 424-6506. $18-30.* **www.aswaaustin.org**.

DROPPING POUNDS THE HEALTHY WAY Dietitian Hannah Wong leads this in-store tour. *11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2243. $5.* **hannah.wong@wholefoods.com**, **www.wholefoods.com**.

HILL COUNTRY NUDISTS welcome all to this monthly (clothed) introduction to the nudie lifestyle. *Third Tuesdays, 7pm. Mr. Natural, 2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223.* **www.hillcountrynudists.com**.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS meets this month for a viewing of PBS documentary *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie*. A discussion of Texas prairies, biofuels, carbon sequestration, and grassland birds follows. *7-9pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free.* **www.npsot.org/Austin**.

WRITING WINNING PROPOSALS The city of Austin Small Business Development Program hosts this six-hour workshop (split into two evening sessions) on writing business proposals. See **www.ci.austin.tx.us/sbdp** for details and registration. *Tue. & Thu., Jan. 15 & 17, 6-9pm. International Center of Austin, 201 E. Second, 974-7800. $50.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Deseada *@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Gallows *Emo's*
ECFA CD Release *Salvage Vanguard Theater*

Wednesday 16

FIVE SECRETS TO PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS *6pm. Natural Health Center of Austin, 4701 Westgate Blvd. Ste. B-202, 892-3366. Free.*

LEGAL AID CLINIC Texas RioGrande Legal Aid provides free legal advice to anyone who needs it at this weekly clinic. *Wednesdays, 7pm. Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. Johns, 374-2700. Free.* **www.trla.org**.

RAFE ESQUITH World-renowned public school teacher and National Medal of Arts recipient Rafe Esquith is in town today – with six of his students in tow – to discuss his latest book (*Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire*) and to share with you some of the unconventional teaching methods that have consistently placed his students in the top 5-10% on standardized tests. *7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. Free.*

SUNSET VALLEY DREAM DINNERS OPEN HOUSE Looking for a way to lighten the load when it comes to feeding your family? Check out Dream Dinners' kitchen, with its preprepped ingredients and to-go containers ready for you to store the week's meals right in your freezer. *4-6pm. Sunset Valley Dream Dinners, 5207 Brodie, Sunset Valley, 512/358-8833. Free.* **sunsetvalleyhometx@dreamdinners.com**, **www.dreamdinners.com**.

THE DREAM SHOP helps you learn to use the images in your dreams to resolve your emotional dilemmas. *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $20.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

BILINGUAL POWER YOGA FLOW (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Audience of One *@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Steelextravaganza *Hole in the Wall*

Thursday 17

AUSTIN 360 MIX & MINGLE Join the Jewish Community Association of Austin Women's Division for an evening of art and music to benefit the **Austin United Jewish Community Campaign**. *7-9pm. Haven Gallery, 1122 W. Sixth, 795-9937 x13. Free to qualifying UJC Campaign contributors.* **shira.weinstein@shalomaustin.org**, **www.shalomaustin.org/women**.

AUSTIN CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING *Third Thursdays, 7:30pm. Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd. (in Zilker Botanical Gardens). Free.* **www.austincss.com**.

SPEED DATING FOR DEADHEADS Enjoy one long, strange trip punctuated by seven-minute dates, $1 grilled cheese sandwiches, a nature walk, and the music of the Grateful Dead. *7-10pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634. $20.* **www.hubofthewheel.org**.

WINTER & SPRING IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY Learn about the history, wildlife, and politics of the Rio Grande Valley in this special Travis County Audubon Society presentation from veteran nature photographer **Steve Holt**. *7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 300-BIRD. Free.* **www.travisaudubon.org**.

EAT BETTER, SAVE MONEY (See Thursday 1/10.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Gallery Lombardi

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Six Organs of Admittance *Mohawk*
South Filthy, **the Golden Boys** *Beerland*
Moustache Party With the Black & White Years *Beauty Bar*
Adrian Legg *Cactus Cafe*

the GAY *place*

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

LADIES OF THE EIGHTIES Bitchin'! Kissing booth. Tubular! Eighties costume contest. Gnarly! Gag me with **DJ Pumpkin Spice** spinning tunes from women from, you guessed it, the same era of big hair and Hypercolor (suddenly back in style)! Yo! Imagine breakdancing in a smokey goth bar filled to the brim with ladies shaking it. To the Eighties. All to benefit **Equality Texas**. *Radical! Thu., Jan. 10, 9:30pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. $10 ($8, advance).* **www.eqfed.org/eqtx**.

WHOA. WET MANTIES. New year, new nights at the old bars. So you've started getting lunch at **Charlie's**. But Monday nights, you can get dessert. Second helpings, even. *And* get your undies in a wad. (In a good way.) Welcome to the **Lobo Andrew Christian Wet Underwear Contest** (oh, he of world-famous **Show-It Technology**), every first night of the week. Why not? Because boys, having a case of the Mondays ... well, it can get pretty hard. And when it does, you want it to look *good*. *Mondays, starting Jan. 14. Charlie's, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

BLOGGIN' IN A GAY PLACE STYLE C'mon to our cybersphere, you hottie cuties, you, and come comment on whut we do. Yup. We blog. True dat. Come comment. Maybe win yourself a nice unicorn or T-shirt or something. Or go naked for all we care. *454-5766.* **gayplace@austinchronicle.com**, **austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog**.

MLK MARCH, RALLY, AND COMMUNITY FESTIVAL Step up. Get in line. Join **Rep. Dawnna Dukes** in the annual march from UT to H-T. The ideals and accomplishments of the good Rev. Martin Luther King salve the hurts of all struggles. It's all part of one large struggle, now, isn't it? Come together. (Check the website for march route and details.) *Mon., Jan. 21, 9am. From the MLK Statue on the UT campus to the Huston-Tillotson campus.* **www.mlkcelebration.com/marchandrally.php**.

CORIANDER Some people think we use too much slang and jargon in the Gay Place. To that, I say: leather jacket. *Tue., Jan. 15.*

HRC AUSTIN GALA DINNER New year! New date! New location! New attitude! This is the **Human Rights Campaign**'s big'un, the once-a-year gala (previously held in mid-March during spring break and South by Southwest) where local folks are recognized for their contributions to the cause. What cause? Justice for all. And a fabulous wardrobe. (We threw in that last part.) Watch this space for more info on who's appearing and what to expect. For now, check HRC's site. *Sat., Jan. 26, 6pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 485-5999.* **austindinner@hrc.org**, **www.hrcaustin.org**, **www.boxofficetickets.com/hrc**.

HAPPY B-DAY OCH! It's hard to know what those silly boys at the Can are up to: pretty sweet young thangs wearing nothing but shot glasses, new drinks, old bartenders, and family. Ah, family. But did you know that place has been around for *18* years? (That's older than most shot boys ... what do you know about twinks?) Three days may not be enough, but drop by anyway, because the whole weekend is a celebration. Congrats OilCan's, and keep our town lubed. *Thu.-Sun., Jan 17-20. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.* **www.oilcanharrys.com**.

WHEN (MORE) PIGS FLY They told us more than 120 full costume changes in 90 minutes. Is that even possible, Blake Yelavich? Do show. Do show. Here is one fabulously gay costume musical, ready for the taking. (See Arts Listings, p.64 for review.) *Through Jan. 26. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat. 7:30 & 10pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787.* **www.artsonreal.com**.

BE AN OUTLAW Women tackle women. They play professional football, and they do it right here in Austin. Join the team. **Austin Outlaws**, our city's only pro ladies football team. America. *Sat., Jan. 12, 9:30am-noon. Kealing Middle School, 1607 Pennsylvania Ave., 414-3214.* **www.austinoutlaws.com**.

NEIGHBORLY WAY Bless this band. And bless Amy's hand, which has been in recovery and has kept our favorite little band from the stage. A new year. A new album. And a new show. **Darling New Neighbors** with Puff Puff & the Receivers. Sounds good to us. *Thu., Jan. 17, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747.*

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

Ongoing Events

REVEALING CAPITOL TREASURES The Capitol Visitors Center's newest exhibit features artifacts found during archaeological digs on the Capitol grounds, historic artwork and photos of the building, the original tools used to place the Goddess of Liberty atop the dome, and other Capitol curiosities. *Through Jan. 27. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400.* **www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com**.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is recruiting the next batch of students for the 13-week class kicking off *Feb. 12*. Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work for the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. Call or e-mail for details. *Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. 854-4989.* **vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us**.

REGISTER FOR THE CROP HUNGER WALK This spring marks the 30th anniversary of Austin's participation in this annual fundraising effort, which originally began in 1947 as an initiative to share the abundant grains of Midwestern farms with the hungry families of post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, proceeds from the two-day event benefit both local and international hunger-relief efforts, including food pantries, community gardens, and grassroots agencies around the world. *March 1-2. Sat., 9:30am; Sun., 1:45pm. Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park, 8200 Grove Dr., 451-2062.* **tx@churchworldservice.org**, **www.main.org/cropwalk**.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE: CALL FOR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS Pitch in on this annual East Austin volunteer day by suggesting a project yourself or joining someone else's. *Sat., Jan. 19, 9am-3pm. East Austin, 225-0360. Free.* **rene.carlin@unitedwaycapitalarea.org**, **www.handsoncentraltexas.org**.

WINE & FOOD FOUNDATION GRANT Any Texas business, resident, or organization involved with an educational project or program dealing with the culinary and viticulture arts is eligible to apply for $25,000 in grant money through the Wine & Food Foundation. Past winners have included the Sustainable Food Center and KLRU-TV. See **www.winefoodfoundation.org** for application and details. *Deadline: Feb. 15.*

VALLEY LAND FUND WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST With 98% of Texas' lands privately owned, the future of the state's wildlife lies, for better or worse, in the hands of property owners. This annual photography competition rewards these environmental stewards for good behavior by pairing them with talented photographers who will capture on film the natural beauty of their wildlife-friendly properties. Participants are eligible to win $130,000 in prizes for their work. See **www.valleylandfund.com** for details. *Registration: through Feb. 29.*

SIGN UP FOR AUSTIN WALK WITH US TO CURE LUPUS Join the Alliance for Lupus Research in the effort to help 1.5 million lupus sufferers find relief. All funds you raise by participating in this April's 5K walk will support the alliance's outreach initiatives and research into effective treatments for this debilitating disease. *Sat., April 19, 10am (check-in begins at 9am). Old Settler's Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/218-5540.* **walk.lupusresearch.org**.

SPANISH A TU GUSTO Sign up now for these adult conversational Spanish classes beginning mid-January. *Intermediate: Fridays, 5:30-7:30pm, Jan. 18-March 28. Beginners: Saturdays, Jan. 19-March 29, noon-2pm. Downtown, private residence. $275.* **june@spanishatugusto.com**, **www.spanishatugusto.com**.

OUTDOOR HATHA YOGA Bring your mat for this scenic class, taught daily on the docks overlooking the pond behind the Dougherty Arts Center. *Daily, noon-1pm. Meet in the park behind Dougherty Arts Center. Donations accepted (10% goes to KIVA.org to help entrepreneurial projects in developing countries).* **onetooneyoga@gmail.com**.

CANCER CONNECTION seeks cancer survivors and loved ones of survivors who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. The next orientation session will be *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 25-26*. See **www.thecancerconnection.org** for details. *342-0233.*

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 CALENDARS It's here. It's hot. And it's for a good cause. Let Austin's firefighters keep you on schedule this year as they grace the pages of two 2008 calendars (one with Austin's female firefighters in it, the other with the men) benefiting the **Austin Firefighters' Fund**. *441-7572. $15.* **austinfirefightersfund@yahoo.com**, **www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com**.

SIMS VOLUNTEERS ROCK! This new program needs dedicated volunteers to help get the word out about the SIMS Foundation's work providing mental-health services to Austin musicians. You'll be going to music events or working in the office. Call or e-mail if you're interested. *791-4929.* **volunteerinfo@simsfoundation.org**, **www.simsfoundation.org**.

CHARTER REVISION SURVEY The city of Austin Charter Revision Committee seeks your input regarding possible revisions of how City Council elections are conducted. Right now, council members are elected at-large, which means that all residents vote for all council seats. The committee is considering a single-member-district scenario in which residents will vote only for the seat that represents their area of the city. Go to **www.cityofaustin.org/charter** to let the committee know which system you'd prefer. *Deadline: Jan. 23.*

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIR DRIVE Every Tuesday through Thursday at Avant Salon this month, you may donate your hair to kids in need. Your hair will be made into a wig for a child who has lost hair due to illness, and in exchange, you'll get your hair shampooed, cut, and styled for free. Call to make your appointment. *Through Jan. 31. 318 Colorado, 472-6357; 9901 Capital of TX Hwy, 502-8268.*


Twiggy the Waterskiing Squirrel at the Austin Boat Show

GROOVEE FORTUNE WEB CRAFTY CHALLENGE As far as we can tell, here's how it works: You submit an *idea* for a website by Jan. 31. Ten finalists will be chosen from among the idea submitters to compete in the Web Crafty Challenge by doing ... well, we're not sure. You might have to make something with glitter and puffballs, according to the contest website (the deadline for that part is *Feb. 29*). Then, the winner, to be announced *March 8,* wins their very own Web page. Presumably there are no Web skills whatsoever required for this contest. See **www.grooveefortune.com/contest** for more. *Deadline: Jan. 31. 587-7183. Free.* **scarlotharlot@hotmail.com**.

FREE MONTH OF MARTIAL ARTS The Life Ki-Do Martial Arts & Life Education school teaches tai chi and qigong classes as well as martial-arts classes combining elements of tai chi, qigong, Brazilian jujitsu, and Systema Russian. Right now, you may register to try out their classes for a full month for free. *Through Feb. 28. Martial arts: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-8pm; Sundays, 3-5pm. Tai chi/qigong: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7pm. Westover Hills Club, 8706 Westover Club Dr., 215-0064.* **info@lifekido.com**, **www.lifekido.com**.

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP CONSORTIUM Since its inception four years ago, the HSC has raised more than $282,100 in scholarship funding, contributing to the college education of 80 students. Help the HSC continue its good work, and give them a donation at **www.hispanicscholar.org**.

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL RAFFLE This month, you can win prizes for supporting Keep Austin Beautiful's environmental stewardship. Three lucky raffle winners will receive a pair of mountain bikes, a Dell laptop, and a certificate for professional landscaping. See **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org** to purchase your tickets. *Drawing: Feb. 6. $10 ($50, six tickets).*

THIS WEEK ONLY

AUSTIN BOAT SHOW has all your boat-shopping needs, whether you're looking for a little fishing boat, a luxurious yacht, or something in between, and includes educational lectures on boater safety, fishing, wakeboarding, and more. Bring the kids for fishing in the catfish tank, and last but not least: Don't miss the performance from Twiggy the Waterskiing Squirrel. *Jan. 17-20. Thu.-Fri., noon-9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461. $8 ($4, seniors/kids ages 7-12; free, kids under 7).*

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST You could be the one who decides what 5,000 runners will be wearing in Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K this spring – and win $1,000 while you're at it. You may submit up to three designs; you must be at least 13 years old to participate. Mail entries to: *Schlotzsky's 2008 Bun Run T-Shirt Design Contest, 301 Congress #100, Austin, TX 78701. Deadline: Jan. 15.* **www.bunrun.com**.

DISH-FOR-DISH FOOD DRIVE If you haven't visited **Dishola.com**, now's the time to do it. Not only will Dishola let you post your own food reviews, but right now, for every review you post, they'll donate a dish in your honor to **Meals on Wheels**. *Through Jan. 15. Free.* **www.dishola.com**.

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT is seeking Crisis Response Team volunteers to work with Victim Services counselors in responding to distress calls from people involved in crisis situations. Volunteers should have some background in crisis intervention or counseling; training begins *Fri., Jan. 18*. Applications are available at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/police**. *974-4286.*

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO IMPROVE TEXAS' TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM? The Texas Department of Transportation is undergoing its periodic sunset review, which means that now is the time to speak up about any changes you hope to see in the state's transportation system in the next 12 years. The Sunset Advisory Commission is seeking public input in several areas, including: funding for alternate modes of transportation (such as rail), right-of-way purchases, partnerships on the local/regional/state/federal levels, alternative financing, management of vehicle titles/registrations, administration of regulatory programs, and management of contracts for highway construction/maintenance. E-mail your comments to: **sunset@sunset.state.tx.us**. *Deadline: Mon., Jan. 14. 463-1300.* **www.dot.state.tx.us**, **www.sunset.state.tx.us**.

When (More) Pigs Fly

Arts on Real, through Jan. 26

Running time: 1 hr, 40 min

Ah, the musical revue! Those compendiums of songs strung together with only the slightest of stories to support them. Theatregoers in Austin just can't seem to get enough of them, and if producers can't find a new one, they make up their own or cobble a couple of them together, as Naughty Austin director Blake Yelavich has done with this one. The story, such as it is, centers on the trials and tribulations that one Howard Crabtree, played with boyish exuberance by Kirk Addison, experiences when trying to put up his dream musical. That also might be the story of *When Pigs Fly*, which Naughty Austin produced a couple of years ago, or it might be the story of *Whoop-Dee-Doo!*, the other revue that Yelavich drew from to produce this, um, sequel. Whatever the case, it ain't about the story, people! It's about the songs!

Or, at the very least, it's about the costumes! As Yelavich says in his curtain speech, you'll see 120 costumes in 90 minutes (give or take), and see them you do: a centaur, Restoration Frenchmen, a Dream Curly, an Uncle Sam, someone dressed in plumbing supplies, multiple fairies, and more than a few men in drag. Yes, it's a gay musical revue; make no mistake about that. In fact, the most effective number in the show is the first-act finale, a patriotic ditty about gay pride opining, among other things, that you can't take the Mary out of Maryland or the sissy out of Mississippi. In the 22 years I've been watching live theatre in Austin, I can't recall a show that reveled in its gayness the way this one does. And I saw *Pageant*. Twice!

Among the performers, the always dependable Walter Songer and Bryan Schneider stand out, but Doug LeBelle steals the show with his Wicked Witch of the West schoolmarm, Miss Roundhole; his crazed musical-theatre producer, who writes her own musical revues (talk about irony); and especially his torch singer, who pines for Dubya, among others. LeBelle steals every scene he's in, and when he's out there solo, he dominates the stage. Despite minimal amplification, not once did I have a problem hearing or understanding the singers because of the more-than-able accompaniment provided by the twopiece band, Dr. Don McManus on keyboards and Terri Lord on percussion.

Yelavich wears so many hats in this production, I'm surprised he didn't turn into a coatrack: producer, compiler, director, choreographer, costume designer, lighting designer; he even wrote the lyrics to some of the songs. Stretching himself that thin, you might think that something in the show would fall down, and some things do: On occasion, actors aren't illuminated, the choreography is sometimes so pedestrian that you can catch the scent of a sidewalk, and some of the actors hit only one level, which is sinful even for a revue as kitschy as this. But the songs are catchy, I got more than a few laughs, and the costumes are almost worth the price of admission. And yes, there's a pig, but I won't tell you if it flies. You'll just have to see that for yourself. – *Barry Pineo*



Theatre

OPENING

BEIRUT Alan Bowne's stark and compelling drama, set in a near future where people are imprisoned for contracting a sexually transmitted (and potentially fatal) disease, returns to the Vortex stage after many years, starring the (newlywed) husband-and-wife team of Matthew Patterson and Melissa Vogt-Patterson. Directed by Bonnie Cullum, and rife with nudity and explicit material; for adults only. *Thu.-Sun., Jan. 10-26, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30 (two-for-one with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace, Thursdays).* **www.vortexrep.org**.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: GARDEN DISTRICT This is a double bill of Williams' classic one-acts – *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Something Unspoken* – directed by Norman Blumensaadt for Different Stages, featuring Sharon Elmore, Jenni Underwood, and other fine actresses. *Jan. 11-Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. 474-8497. $15-30.* **www.main.org/diffstages**.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM Stephen Sondheim's classic and fast-paced comedy is given a go by the Palace Theatre out in Georgetown, with Ron Watson directing the funniest Roman farce since Caligula made his horse a senator. *Jan. 11-Feb. 10. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. $20 ($18, seniors; $8, students, children).* **www.thegeorgetownpalace.org**.

FRONTERAFEST 15 That's right, the five-week juggernaut of short theatre night-after-night returns to brighten the dark of what passes for winter here in the capitol city. Austin Script Works and Hyde Park Theatre team up and work their dramaturgid fingers to the bone to present this sprawling anthology of original works from locals and intrepid out-of-towners. Short theatre, did we say? Full-length works, too, coming up, yes; but the monthlong festival *begins* with several nights of "a new bill of four or five plays no longer than 25 minutes each. Brilliant monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Short films? Multimedia?" Yes: any of those, any given night, in the Short Fringe – all the way to the end, even while the Long Fringe is going on.

We'll be running the basics – titles and times – here in the weeks to come, of course, but listen: Our own Robert Faires has compiled a guide to the festival, called "Anything Goes," on p.31 of this very issue. See it there now to plan in advance – and check the Hyde Park website for tickets and more.

Short Fringe: *Jan. 15-Feb. 16. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY.*

Long Fringe: *Jan. 22-Feb. 3. The Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale, 927-1118.* **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.

PUPPET PARTS: A PUPPET FILM FESTIVAL Geppetto Dreams Puppet Company hosts this first annual event to promote and celebrate the diverse artists and filmmakers who've chosen puppetry as their medium of expression. Later that day, after the films – 11 of them, from across the country, and sometimes what you might consider PG-rated – are screened, Geppetto Dreams will perform a live, puppety burlesque show and scenes from their blacklight-enhanced opus, "The Dead Pirates Society." *Sat., Jan. 12, 1-4pm (films), 7-8:30pm (live show). The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. $8-15.* **www.geppettodreams.com/puppet_parts_festival.htm**

A RAISIN IN THE SUN Lorraine Hansberry's classic drama about an African-American family living and struggling on Chicago's South Side in the 1950s is brought to the Boyd Vance Theatre by the Sankofa Players. *Sat., Jan. 12, 2:30 & 7pm. Carver Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 323-6901. $20 ($15, in advance).* **www.soulciti.com/raisin**

CLOSING

WHEN (MORE) PIGS FLY is a sequin-bedecked and thoroughly fabulous musical revue featuring more than 120 costumes in 90 minutes and starring some of Austin's favorite performers. (See review above.) *Through Jan. 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2788. $33 ($25, in advance).* **www.naughtyaustin.com**.

MACBETH Holiday season not bloodied enough for you? The Velvet Rut Theatre Company, under the direction of Japhy Fernandes (who also plays the title role), provides a, we reckon, unique look at one of Shakespeare's darkest creations. *Through Jan. 12. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Velvet Rut, 1612 E. Seventh, 236-1092. Donations accepted.*

A TUNA CHRISTMAS Yes, the Tuna crowd's been on Broadway and performed at the nation's capitol, but you know they'll shine brightest when bringing the "third smallest town in Texas" to life on the hometown Paramount stage. Stars Joe Sears and Jaston Williams will give you a manic eyeful of what Southern-fried busybodies, wacky reprobates, desperate housewives, good ol' boys, and just plain folks can turn Christmas into: a hilarious, tinsel-strewn, sugarplum-splattered catastrophe of fun. *Jan. 10-13. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. $22.50-52.50.* **www.austintheatre.org**.

DINNER THEATRE

A CRUISE SHIP CRIME Gary Payne and his madcap Capital City Mystery Players present this humor-laced, interactive sleuthing caper where *you* help to solve the mystery of thefts and murder aboard "the luxury cruise ship *Titanium*." With full-course Italian fare sating your appetite as you go. *Jan. 12-Feb. 2. Saturdays, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

AUDITIONS

BETTY'S SUMMER VACATION ACC's Drama Department is casting for this Christopher Durang comedy about a vacation gone horribly, hilariously wrong. Jason Hays will direct, and he's looking for men and women. Prepare a two-minute monologue, bring headshot and résumé. *Wed., Jan. 16, 6-8pm. Gallery Theater, ACC, 1212 Rio Grande. 223-3343.* **mmcquirt@austincc.edu**.

MUSICIANS SOUGHT FOR HAROLD & MAUDE Recent *Chronicle* cover subject Steve Bilich is directing the stage version of this classic quirky comedy; the show is cast, and now he's looking for musicians, composers, and original music that will reflect the sign of these times (the way Cat Stevens' music did in the film version). Contact via e-mail; include your phone number and links to any music you have online. **haroldandmaudeauditions@gmail.com**.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Director Rick Roemer of Southwestern University is looking for actors for this classic musical. All roles available, hey! Prepare one musical-theatre song; accompanist provided. *Mon., Jan. 14, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theater, Southwestern University, 1001 E. University, Georgetown.* **roemerr@southwestern.edu**.

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. 25 issue is Monday, Jan. 14.** 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**.



Benedetto Lupo, piano

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PETER BAY, Music Director

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Saturday, January 12, 2008
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This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.
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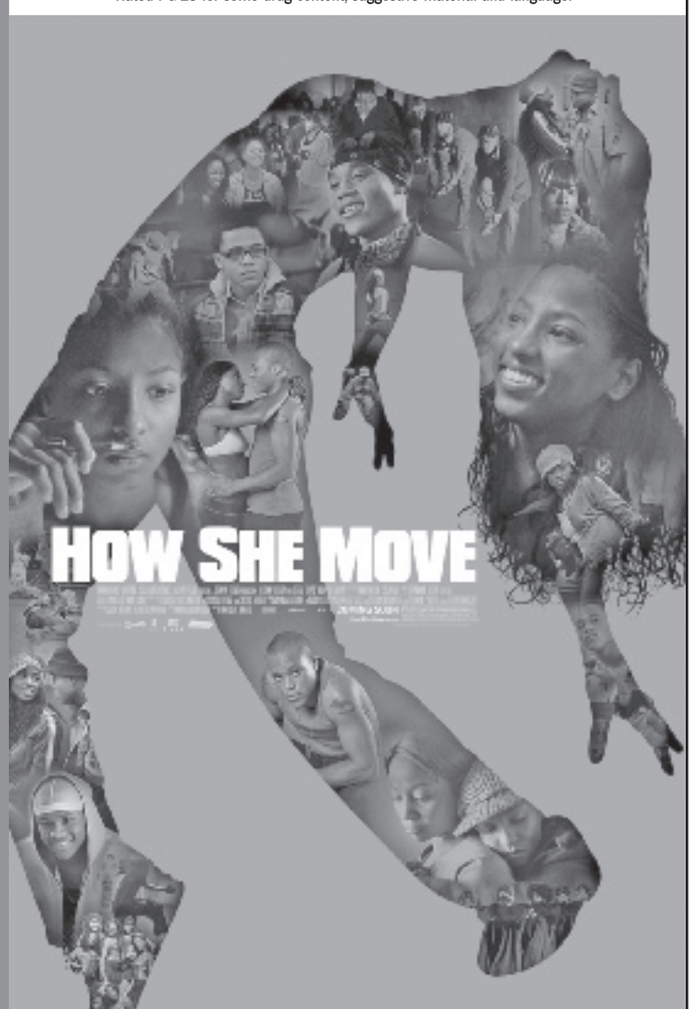
Special ADVANCE Screening
Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7:30pm

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm, Tuesday, Jan. 15

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CHRONICLE
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Happy New Year!

Original CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB

Steve Trevino
January 8-12
As seen at Cap City with Carlos Mencia!

Greg "Uncle Earl" Warren
January 15-19
From KBC's "Last Comic Standing"

Al Madrigal
January 22-26
A Comedy Central favorite!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Laughter is good for the soul & now comes in bulk! Discount Ticket Packets are now available! Contact a comedy counselor at 467-2333 for more information. capitycomedy.com

467-2333 WWW.CAPCITYCOMEDY.COM 8120 RESEARCH BLVD.

HENRY THE FIFTH Shakespeare's fierce drama will be staged by Velvet Rut Theatre under the direction of Japhy Fernandes in February. They're looking for men and women. NB: "You must have two years of stage acting experience at a college level or better to be eligible for the roles." Send an e-mail for appointment soon: **ceasarbnice@yahoo.com**.

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW The City Theatre Company is casting for all roles in this Shakespeare comedy. Call for appointment, bring headshot and résumé. *Sun.-Mon., Jan. 13-14, 6:30-10:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870.* **www.citytheatreaustin.org**.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

ACTORS, WRITERS, DIRECTORS: YOU CAN NEVER GET IT NEAT Paula Russell will lead you "from deep physical and relaxation work to unique text and character study to planned accidents and welcoming surprises" in this professional workshop where you'll "work/play in a positive environment where personal privacy is never invaded, creating a place to risk and experience yourself as an artist." Introductory session: *Thu., Jan. 24, 6-10pm*. Two-day intensive: *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 26-27, 10am-6pm. 1426 Toomey. $50-195.* **www.paula-russell.com**.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Steve Trevino Relentlessy on the road with Carlos Mencia after having opened for the Three Amigos Comedy Tour, this Texas native's built up a storehouse of funny that he's eager to unload on Austin. He'd better bring his best stuff, we reckon, if he hopes to outshine his own opener, the hilarious **David Huntsberger**. *Through Jan. 12. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

Greg Warren What causes a man, especially one who grew up in Missouri with a father who was the high school wrestling coach, to go into comedy? To kick funnybone ass on the BET network and Comedy Central? To do a show at Cap City this month? Come and see. Also: **Jason Kanter** opens. *Jan. 15-19. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $5.50-44.95.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. **www.coldtowne.com**.

Now This Is Improv! Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, add to their own varied delights with the likes of **one a.m.** and **Scram** for a night of impromptu concept-stretching and random brilliance. *Thursday, 8pm*. **The Cage Match** returns with a scenario called Nightmare Forest, the name itself recalling that scariest part of the chunin exams in *Naruto* (although we doubt Gaara's among the improvisers here). *Thursday, 10pm*. **UpTowne** is ColdTowne's foray into the scripted world of sketch comedy, searing like old-school *SNL* when they're really cookin'. *Friday, 8pm*. ***That Other Paper*** **presents Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. *Friday, 10pm*. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Saturday, 8pm*. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it, with another troupe to follow in their heady wake. *Saturday, 10pm*.

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

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional $5 for special reserved seats.*

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: a mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. *Thursdays, 9:30pm. $9.95.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which a trio of troupes battle for supremacy. *8pm. $10*. Then you've got a **Double Barrel** waiting for you, featuring two – count 'em: *two* – improv teams on creative fire. *10pm. $10*.

Saturday: Andy Crouch doesn't work for Avon, no, but he's making up for it by presenting a riotous group of comedians in a show of **Improvised Shakespeare** – likely to be one hell of a Bardic hoot. *8pm. $10*. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. $10*.

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

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them, fear them. This week's host: **David James**. *Thursdays, 10pm*.

Jay LaFarr This former New Yorker's had a bunch of Texas run through his system via San Antonio, a lot of life run through his system via the quirks of fate. See it all come spilling out onstage, after **Carey Moore** and **David Evans** open. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 11-12, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! *Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. $5.*

Dance

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: DANCE AUDITIONS Entry-level dance apprentices are invited to audition for this exciting troupe. The company is especially interested in men who like to dance (any level – dancers will receive training), as well as entry-level females possessing outstanding dance talent and vibrant stage presence. Previous knowledge of a Latin-folkloric dance style and acting skills a plus. Call for appointment. *Through Jan. 31. 251-8122.* **www.prfdance.org/auditions.htm**.

BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR ENTRIES A contemporary dance festival facilitated by Spank Dance is seeking choreographers to present new dance works at AustinVentures StudioTheater, Salvage Vanguard 2nd Stage, and the Off Center in June. Application and event details available online; applications also available at the venues. Deadline: *Feb. 15.* **www.spankdance.com**.

DIVINITY DANCE THEATER: AUDITIONS Prepare a dance to one song and wear jazz shoes to audition for this Praise Dance Company project. *Thu., Jan. 10, 5-6pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 803-6091.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

TWO LEFT FEET

CHERYL CHADDICK CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASSES Intermediate and advanced dancers are invited to participate in Craddick's ongoing classes. Two locations. *Sundays, 10:30am-noon. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock. Tuesdays, 6:45-8:15pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. 476-9051 x126. $10.* **www.balletaustin.org**.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary.* **www.dancein.org**.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800.* **www.luciladance.com**.



Aw, he may *look* like a sourpuss here, but Jay LaFarr's gonna make you laugh at the Velveeta Room this weekend.

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER: SPRING CLASSES PRFD offers classes in music and dance for all ages. Among the favorites: the *Brinca y Canta* class for pre-schoolers and their favorite adults (that's you!). Add to this the usual traditional dance and music classes, all steeped in the rich cultural heritage of Puerto Rico. See the company's website for details. *251-8122.* **www.prfdance.org**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188.* **www.twylabellydance.com**.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. *512/750-7037. $13 per class; $66 for six classes.* **www.desertpassion.com**.

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: WINTER, SPRING CLASSES Registration for Tapestry Dance Company's Winter and Spring Academy classes is ongoing. Sign up for ballet, rhythm tap, jazz, modern, hip-hop, ballroom, dance theatre, and yoga, as well as new classes in Bharata Natyam (traditional Indian), character/folk dance, and more. Classes for children age 3 and older, teens, and adults of all ages and experience. Check the website for even more offerings in 2008. *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. 474-9864.* **www.tapestry.org**.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research. 989-3939.* **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. $5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed but couples welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times; private lessons available. *2801 W 45th. 382-1366. $10 per class.* **www.estudioflamenco.com**.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails.* **www.tapestry.org**.

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. $8.* **www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers**.

SECOND FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING At this fragrance-free event, dances are called by expert teachers, so you can be a beginner and still enjoy this elegant form of dancing. No partner necessary! *Fri., Jan. 11, 7:30-10:00pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 266-9949. $6.* **www.austinuu.org**.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. $3.* **www.austinscandi.org**.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. $3.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. $10 each class.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.aifd.cc**.

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa**.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* **www.fouronthefloor.com**.

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**.

Classical Music

OPENING

RIVER CITY POPS: NOW AND THEN Lift your spirits with another high-energy performance by the Pops as the show chorus sings music of all types, including Latin, jazz, pop, swing, and rock & roll. *Jan. 10-13. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Reagan High School, Highway 290 East & Berkman. 350-7677. $15 ($10, seniors, students; $7, ages 11 and younger).* **www.rivercitypops.org**.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS: LET'S GO FOR BAROQUE! La Follia Austin Baroque takes off on a HIP (Historically Informed Performance) world tour that features music by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Couperin, Purcell, Telemann, and more, using the instruments and performance practices of the period. *Fri., Jan. 11, 8pm. Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 2205 Moffet, 225-1758. $20 ($15, seniors, students).* **www.gsaustin.org/music/concerts.htm**.

SAMUEL GASKIN, ORGANIST 16-year-old award-winning Gaskin hails from Beaumont. He'll perform selections by Bach, Franck, Mendelsssohn, and others as an early kick-off to this year's Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event. *Sat., Jan. 12, 2pm. University Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe. 219-7457. Free.* **www.acago.com**.

TEXAS EARLY MUSIC PROJECT: LAURIE YOUNG STEVENS AND FRIENDS Stevens has plenty of friends, and this annual concert features the following: Phoebe Carrai, cello; Paul Leenhouts, recorder; and (one of our faves) Jenifer Thyssen, soprano. Works range from the familiar to the rarely heard, by Pachelbel, Rameau, Merula, Biber, and more. *Thu., Jan. 17, 7:30pm. Bethell Hall, St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh. Fri., Jan. 18, 7:30pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 N. Capital of TX Hwy. 371-0099. $15 ($10, seniors, students).* **www.early-music.org**.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: GUEST ARTIST RECITAL The Southwestern Music Department presents James T. Miller, trombone, accompanied by pianist Kiyoshi Tamagawa. *Thu., Jan. 17, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theater, Southwestern University, 1001 E. University, Georgetown. 512/863-1379. Free.* **www.ssfa.southwestern.edu**.



'Roy Lichtenstein Prints 1956-97'

Austin Museum of Art – Downtown, through Feb. 3

Do you remember your first movie – your first encounter with characters both larger than life and yet somehow just like you? If you left the film inspired, admiring, more knowledgeable, or, in the case of horror, scared, you are probably in the majority. But how often have you left a film feeling mechanically coerced? More than likely coercion is not why you paid to sit before the big screen, but according to many contemporary philosophers and film theorists, the movie industry is a culture industry, a desiring machine that slowly but steadily teaches you how to desire, what to desire, and when to desire it. And we're not talking about adult films or films on power and relationships; we're talking about every movie from *Psycho* to *Bambi*. Apparently, it works by repeatedly packaging emotions, scenarios, personas, and combinations in ways that are both familiar and seemingly "natural." Then these tacit clichés map out every facet of our lives, from what to eat to how to love.

But historically, movies were not the only media to bring the culture industry to the general public. "Roy Lichtenstein Prints 1956-97" suggests the role that comic books and other pop-culture graphic arts played and still play in setting standards for our hopes and desires. Showing off more than 70 prints and a career's worth of work, this Washington State University traveling exhibition, currently at the Austin Museum of Art, demonstrates how Lichtenstein employed and advanced printing techniques to explore how cliché in pop culture, with aid from various mechanistic technological advancements, helped form these desires. In works such as his famous *Crying Girl* (1963) and others, Lichtenstein constructs "images of beauty" from the calculated use of techniques employed by comic-book illustrators: three primary colors, Benday dots, and carefully placed black lines. When asked about his own susceptibility to the beauties he created, Lichtenstein replied that to him they are "really made up of black lines and red dots. I see it that abstractly, that it's very hard to fall for one of these creatures, to me, because they're not really reality to me." Yet the enduring contemporary power of Lichtenstein's work matches back up with media studies and philosophy precisely at the point where we recognize that our everyday assumptions and constructions are often little more than a series of lines and dots that we learn to connect over time, over books, over film, over art, and even over comics. – *Nikki Moore*

ONGOING

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY AUSTIN MUSIC AUDITIONS The Oklahoma City University Summer Music Programs will be coming to Austin to hold admission auditions for its renowned summer training programs. Ninth grade through graduating seniors are invited to audition for high school musical theatre, opera, technical theatre, or drama precollege training intensives. Audition registration is required and can be found at the school's website. Scholarships and financial aid consideration are available. *Fri., Jan. 18. McCallum Fine Arts Academy, 5600 Sunshine. 405/208-5410.* **www.okcu.edu/music/academy/summerprg.aspx**.

NOTES & ENCORES

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: MUSICIAN AUDITIONS Professional musicians are invited to audition for PRFD's lively orchestra. The company is especially interested in singers and percussionists. Also: acoustic guitar players, performers of other stringed, wind, or brass instruments. As segments of Puerto Rico's traditional music are not in written form, musicians should have a proficiency for playing written music and playing by ear. Call for appointment. *Through Jan. 31. 251-8122.* **www.prfdance.org**.

CHORUS AUSTIN: AUDITIONS Chorus Austin is the umbrella for two of the area's finer vocal outfits: the Austin Civic Chorus and the Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble. Call for appointment. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10am-6pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 719-3300.* **www.chorusaustin.org**.

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The elusive dream of affordable housing in Austin.

The shortage of affordable housing is so acute it's even adding to the numbers of homeless in our town, now approaching 4,000. Consider these facts:

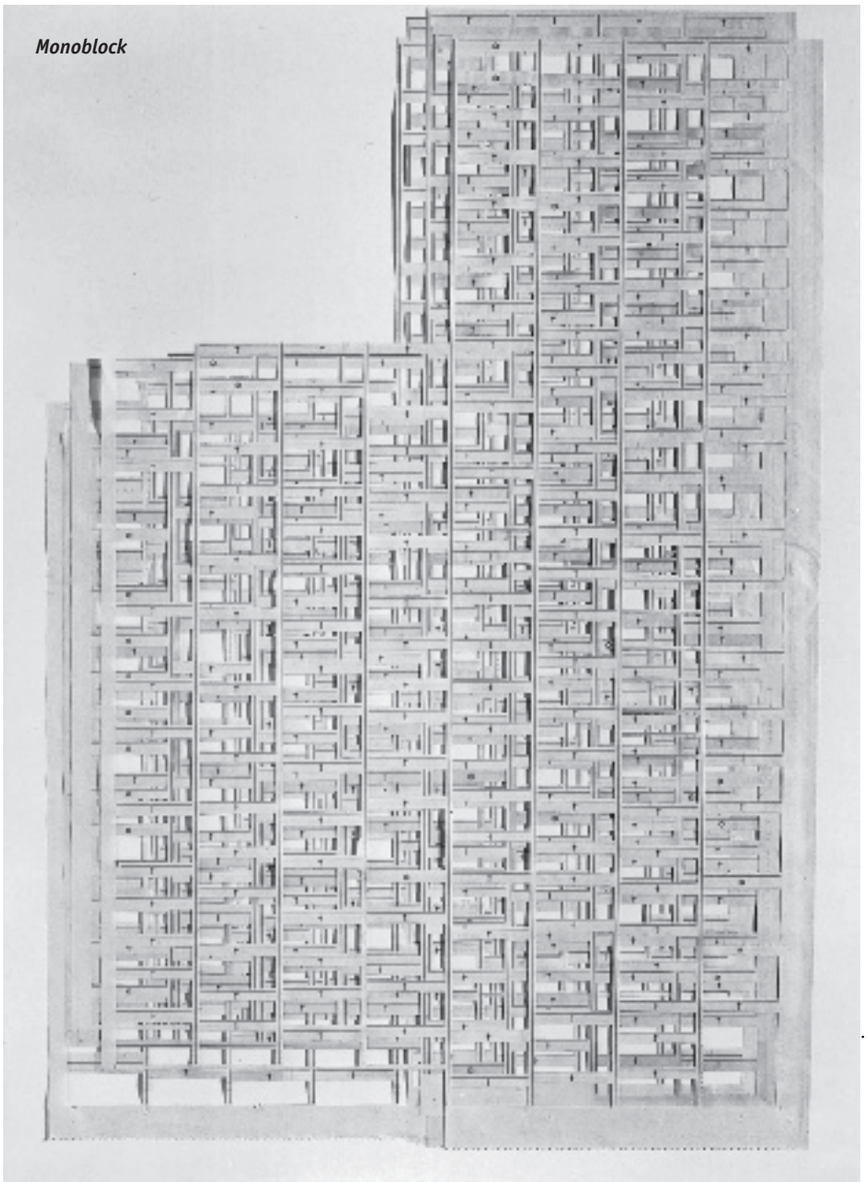
- A family needs to make $17.54 an hour to afford an average 2-bedroom apartment in Austin.
- The annual income required to purchase a median priced home in Austin ($179,000) is $56,756.

Several organizations in Austin are working on this problem.

For more info go to: www.ilivehereigivehere.org.

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Monoblock

Visual Arts

EVENTS

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Curator's Tour explores the current WorkSpace installation by Paul Ramirez Jonas with curator Ursula Davila-Villa. *Thu., Jan. 17, 12:30pm*. ***Bad Penny*** This Mac Wellman play is directed by Luke Leonard. *Sun., Jan. 20, 2pm*. **Artistic License**, Paul Ramirez Jonas discusses his WorkSpace installation. *Thu., Jan. 24, 6pm*. **Bach Cantata Project** Performances include a connection with artwork in the museum's galleries. *Tue., Jan. 29, noon*. **Curator's Tour** by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro considers Jorge Macchi's *The Anatomy of Melancholy*. *Thu., Jan. 31, 12:30pm. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

OPENING

DESIGN CENTER GALLERY The gallery in the Design Center debuts with "Tuscany" paintings by Kay Martin and "Vessel" paintings by Joan Lawson. *Through Jan. 31. 3601 S. Congress Bldg. C, 288-0574. Free.* **www.designcenterofaustin.com**

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR This is a highly recommended way to start (or add to) your collection. Extraordinary works from the gallery's 45 represented artists, each piece for less than a grand. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 12, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Jan. 12-29. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.* **www.wallyworkmangallery.com**.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: GOLD RUSH This fresh-as-baby-flesh show is curated by John Trippe of FecalFace.com, the popular visual arts website, and features work by Michelle Blade, Kelsey Brooks, Alika Cooper, Jeremy Fish, Tara Foley, Matt Furie, Jay Howell, Josh Keyes, Anthony Lister, and more. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 12, 7-10pm*. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 9. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B.* **www.okaymountain.com**.

DAVIS GALLERY: SANDRA LANGSTON Half a lifetime in Texas and half in southern Italy make for some intriguing contrasts. Works are in oil, pastel, and mixed-media. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 12, 7-9pm*. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 16. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: SECRET MUSEUM OF MANKIND Houston artist Donna Huanca excavates layers of memory to create an installation containing life-sized dioramas, sound tunnels, and primitive shelters to render a narrative from past to future. The opening reception for this show features live performances by artists including OWLEYES, MKF, and JR. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 12, 7-9pm*. Exhibition: *Jan. 12-Feb. 16. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: MAXIMALIST A multimedia show of drawings, paintings, and collage, featuring work by Meg Stone, Michael Abelman, and Shawna Mouser. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 12, 8-11pm*. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 16. 411 Brazos #99.* **www.elsemadsen.com**.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: IT'S A BEAUTIFUL WORLD This Scion-sponsored show features art by Andrew Pommier, Andy Mueller, Angela Boatwright, Blaine Fontana, Blek le Rat, and more. Reception: *Thu., Jan. 17, 6-10pm*. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 23. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

'Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy'

Blanton Museum of Art, through March 16

Blanton Museum of Art curator Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro surveys a little more than 15 years of Jorge Macchi's art with "The Anatomy of Melancholy," a spare exhibition that positions the artist as creating a "third space" between conceptual art and expressionist painting. More than 40 pieces in collage, sculpture, photography, and video provide the first comprehensive overview of Macchi's work presented in the United States. Originally organized for the sixth Mercosul Biennial in Porto Alegre, Brazil, the show stops in Austin before heading to the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

The formal simplicity of Macchi's work may draw comparisons with conceptual art, but it also brings to mind the poets Charles Baudelaire and André Breton, among other observers of the modern city's utter strangeness. Like the poets, Macchi explores the power of chance operations, the revelations of aimless walks, and – as the exhibition title suggests – the melancholy of everyday life.

Take *Buenos Aires Tour*, an artist book produced in collaboration with the writer María Negroni and the composer Edgardo Rudnitzky. Macchi allowed the lines of a broken glass to dictate the tour's itinerary through Buenos Aires, the artist's hometown. Texts, photographs, and sound illuminate points along each path, which draw eight jagged lines across the map. The virtual tour, explored largely via CD-ROM, eschews typical tourist sights in favor of banal spaces. In the spirit of Baudelaire's flaneur, it's a particular kind of stroll through the city: one not meant to reach a specific destination but taken simply for the sake of experience.

Other pieces evoke the city's alienation as much as they comment upon the human condition. A series of newspaper obituary notices, cut so that only a black frame topped with a cross remains, is collaged into a pile that resembles an apartment building in *Monoblock (Tower Block)* – an elegant memento mori. *Vidas Paralelas (Parallel Lives)* combines two panes of mirror glass broken in exactly the same places, with identical fragments removed. A manufactured coincidence, the broken mirrors nevertheless suggest loneliness and isolation, since two parallel lines (or lives) never meet.

Existential questions are balanced by a more playful mood elsewhere in the exhibition. The video *Caja de Música (Music Box)* features a stream of cars shot from above, with the camera positioned on a highway overpass. Macchi assigned a musical tone to each lane, which sounds every time a car passes through it. The result is an automotive tune that transforms traffic, a typically depressing feature of the urban landscape, into a delight.

"The Anatomy of Melancholy" has some rough spots: Two videos that draw on the conventions of film – *La Flecha de Zenón (Xeno's Arrow)* and *Fim de Film (End of the Film)* – complement each other but ultimately fall flat. And as one critic noted a few years ago, it is easy to overlook Macchi's work. His art is not spectacular. Macchi barely employs color. Often, his pieces are relatively small. Yet the artist has built a body of work rich in other ways. It may not grab you immediately, but such understated lyricism will linger. – *Amanda Douberley*

CLOSING

DIAZ GALLERY: MIGRATIONS & INTEGRATIONS Scenes with fabric by Stephanie Friedman and mixed-media photography by Heather Harris. *Through Jan. 13. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.* **www.diazgallery.com**.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Recommended for excellent shopping. *Through Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

ARTHOUSE: ONE AFTER THE OTHER Florian Slotawa is a Berlin-based conceptual artist who utilizes everyday items and spaces to create temporary sculptural assemblages and installations. *Through Jan. 13. 700 Congress, 453-5312.* **www.arthousetexas.org**.

D BERMAN GALLERY: HILLEVI BAAR AND STEVE WIMAN Baar's expertly designed pencil renderings on Mylar and Wiman's stunning arrangements of found objects are lovely and sufficient to drive the cold winter away. *Through Jan. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: ROY MCMAKIN "A Breadbox and a Mug, Each Depicted in Sculpture and Photography." Deceptively simple, simply gorgeous, well worth seeing. *Through Jan. 12. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965.* **www.lorareynolds.com**.

ONGOING

GALLERY AT THE J: MAGIC IN 3D MIXED MEDIA James Edward Talbot's vibrant beadwork, sculpture, and mosaics. *7300 Hart, (512) 735-8058. Free.* **www.shalomaustin.org/visualarts**

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577.* **www.eyecontactart.com**.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth*.

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, 385-3591.* **www.serieproject.org**.

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us**.

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest Prismacolor works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667.* **www.gallerypollock.com**.

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it's as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? (See review, p.xx.) *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224.* **www.amoa.org**.

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN + PUMP PROJECT In its second show, Art Alliance Austin has teamed up with Pump Project Art Complex to display the works of local artists at this new location. *315 Congress #100, 610-4211.* **www.artallianceaustin.org**.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.* **www.pablotaboadastudio.com**.

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**.

AVENUE GALLERY: THE MANY FACES OF DUNCAN features photographs of the popular Scottish Fold cat belonging to photographer Kip Holm. *1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600.* **www.avenuegallerysoco.com**.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART WorkSpace: Paul Ramirez Jonas *Through Feb. 3*. **Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy** (See review above.) *Through March 16*. **Jacques Callot** *Through April 27. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770.* **www.austinbluemoon.com**.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

BROCCA GALLERY New works by sculptor and painter Augusto Brocca. *1103 E. Sixth.* **www.broccagallery.com**.

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**.

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS Take a curator-led tour of "The Orbs of Ghost Road," Pepper's Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566.* **www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php**.

NEW EAST ARTS *1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438.* **www.diversearts.org**.

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961.* **www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com**.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.* **www.decola-eusebi.com**.

FLIPNOTICS: THE VISUAL WOLFY Todd V. Wolfson, photog extraordinaire, presents 13 new works of "musicians, artists, people: beyond candid." *Flipnotics @ the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097.* **www.flipnotics.com**.

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT *102 Krebs.* **ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com**.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

CYPRESS GRILL: CREATIVE ARTS SOCIETY *4404 W. William Cannon Ste. L, 358-7474.* **www.creativeartssociety.org**.

THE GREEN MUSE: J. LOWRY DOILE *519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.*

LAMBERTS: JOAN MCGUIRE New abstract works on paper. *401 W. Second, 494-1500.* **www.lambertsaustin.com**.

LOVEJOYS: BART FARAR New work and highly recommended. *604 Neches, 477-1268.*

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE *Through Jan. 15. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178.* **www.quattrogallery.com**.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. *1720 S. First, 442-6366.* **www.roadhouserelics.com**.

ABSTRACTS TO ACORNS Photography by Deana Newcomb. *Through Nov. 3. 101 W. Sixth, 477-7884.*

VIN BISTRO: KEVA RICHARDSON *Through Feb. 11. 1601 W. 38th.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

THE CREATIVE SIDE ACADEMY offers workshops and art classes for students ages 12 and older. Beginners and experienced artists are welcome. New semester starts Jan. 5. *628 Allen, 799-0589.* **www.creativeside.org**.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: *Feb. 29. 301 Chicon, Unit F, 296-6624.* **www.austinfigurativegallery.com**.

CREATIVE SIDE ACADEMY OF AUSTIN SPRING SCHEDULE Come discover your creative side that is dying to be released and explored in a relaxed, no pressure situation with accomplished artists and instructory! All levels welcomed. Enrollment Information: *Courtney, 799-0589; Mon.-Sun., 10am-8pm. 628 Allen St., 719-0900.* **www.creativeside.org**.

IDEA CLASSES Kid's Collage Club is a wonderful way to practice skills in color, shape, and composition, for ages 5-10. All materials provided, along with a healthy snack. *Sat., Jan. 5, 10am-noon & 1-3:30pm. $25.* **Women's Collage Jam** provides a community of women with an opportunity to explore creative possibilities with a fun and accessible art medium. Includes all materials and refreshments. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10am-1pm. $30. 701 Tillery, 921-7744.* **elementsart@sbcglobal.net**.

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to schoolchildren, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish, and, once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: *Sun., Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

RAFE ESQUITH The superteacher (who even copped an honorary member of the Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth) wants you to *Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire. Wed., Jan. 16, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner presents his latest book, *Creating a World Without Poverty*, imagining a world of business where the individual is concerned with more than profit. *Sun., Jan. 13, 1pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

SCOTT E. SUTTON The author of several children's books, including *The Family of Ree*series, gives a drawing demonstration and answers your questions. *Sat., Jan. 12, 1pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

DAVE PARSONS senses beyond the sensible in his collection of poetry, *The Color of Mourning. Sat., Jan. 12, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

THE TRIUMPH OF MY SOUL BOOK TOUR *The Triumph of My Soul* is an anthology written to inspire and uplift, to fortify and nourish, to comfort and reassure, but most of all, to bring you closer to a place of peace and resolve. Come meet authors Cheryl Donovan, Fon James, Keshia Dawn, and Lorraine Elzia. *Sat., Jan. 12, 1-4pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

BETH LISIK shares her hilarious true-life adventures of *Helping Me Help Myself*. She decided on Jan. 1, 2006, to take some self-help courses. Like, *all* of them. So from Covey to Richard Simmons, she spent a year becoming a professional self-help victim. *Fri., Jan. 11, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. *Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

PLAN B POETRY Austin formalist-leaning poet seeks to organize a workshop with a stable and small membership, to begin meeting in January. Dana Gioia's term "postmodern classicism" captures the spirit for which she aims. Serious poets with a nonexclusive commitment to form, especially those on the non- or recovering-MFA track, are invited to send inquiries to Rebecca via e-mail. **obliquus@aol.com**.

SHAKES ALOUD! is a fun exploration of the Bard. People of all ages are welcome to this ongoing weekly reading group offered by Austin Shakespeare and moderated by Melinda Hall. *Sundays, 5-7pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery. $5 each night.* **www.austinshakespeare.org**.

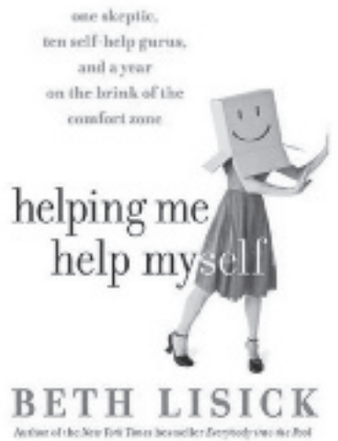
CONTEMPORARY FICTION GROUP traces *Ines of My Soul* by Isabel Allende, a tale of romance and history, intricate plots, and colorful characters. *Wed., Jan. 16, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

LAW OF ATTRACTION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks and other such books. *Saturdays, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

NOVEL CROSSROADS GROUP ponders or plunders the *Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10:30am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD wades ever deeper into paranoia with *Othello*, led by acclaimed Shakespeare teacher Aura Kruger. *Sun., Jan. 13, 4pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP can't forget *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. The group will



also select its next several titles for discussion. *Wed., Jan. 16, 10am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

THE MYSTERY GROUP elucidates *Lost Light* by Michael Connelly. *Tue., Jan. 15, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

THE CONTEMPORARY FICTION GROUP wings it off planet with *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell. *Wed., Jan. 16, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

THE WOMEN'S GROUP shakes the *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. *Tue., Jan. 15, 7pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

AAIM BOOK CLUB sips *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. *Mon., Jan. 14, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK is a mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. *Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872.* **www.austinwritersblock.com**.

THE FANDOM ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL TEXAS sponsors a speculative-fiction reading group on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The first book for discussion is *The Devil in the City* by Liz Williams. *Thu., Jan. 10, 7-9pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 707-2694.* **www.fact.org**.

PLEASANT HILL MYSTERY CLUB by-the-books it with *American Police Procedural: Hollywood Station* by Joseph Wambaugh. *Tue., Jan. 15, 7-8:30pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940.*

SPICEWOOD SPRINGS CLUB tarts it up in *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. *Tue., Jan. 15, 1:30-3pm. Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.*

UNIVERSITY HILLS CLUB steals it all from *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zuzak. *Thu., Jan. 10, 7:30-8:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.*

UNIVERSITY HILLS SPANISH CLUB tells *El Secreto* by Rhonda Byrne. *Wed., Jan. 16, 7:30-8:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS presents Jane Peddicord, author of *That Special Little Baby* and *Night Wonders*, talking about the Language of Picture Books. *Sat., Jan. 12, 11am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Free.*

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF SELF-PUBLISHING Workshop presenters Linda Everett Moyé, JD, and Al Chaney teach you all the basics from logo to getting it into the store. E-mail Moye for reservations. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10am-2pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 643-4365. $30.* **indamoye@aol.com**.

OPEN MICS

ARBORETUM POETRY is one of the oldest in the city. Join hosts Barbara Youngblood-Carr and John Berry with a featured poet and round robin to follow. *Thu., Jan. 10, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new

Author and unstoppable force of nature Beth Lisick's at BookPeople on Friday

day. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.* **www.southaustinstudios.com**.

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576.* **www.genuinejoe.com**.

HIDEOUT IN WINTER with your host, Thom the World Poet, and special guests. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry).*

MONTHLY URBAN POETRY READING always has a featured poet and open mic. Hosted by Reggie Goodwin. Refreshments served. *Sat., Jan. 12, 4:30-6:30pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 587-2185.* **www.mitchie.com**.

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**.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.freespeechart.com**.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, po-mo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. $100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200.* **www.nps2007.com**.

UNCENSORED OPEN MIC is hosted by Ed of Poetry Karaoke. All ages welcomed. Musicians, artists, dancers, all open living and free! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Sticky Fingers Boutique, 2201 S. First, 693-9570.* **www.myspace.com**.

VENTANA DEL SOL with Element 615. Reincarnate a word. *Sundays, 7-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447.* **www.ventanadelsoul.org**.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. *Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. $5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets).* **poetryatx@yahoo.com**.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE REFINED SAVAGE POETRY REVIEW is looking for well-crafted poems. Send three to five short poems (32 lines or fewer) with a brief biography and a photo (optional). **www.therefinedsavage.us/call_for_poets.htm**.

AIPF DIVERSE YOUTH Austin International Poetry Festival's Diverse Youth is accepting poetry submissions from students in grades K-12. Deadline: *Jan. 31.* **www.aipf.org**.

AIPF DI-VERSE-CITY Austin International Poetry Festival is accepting poetry submissions for its 2008 anthology. Adults only, please. Deadline: *Fri., Feb. 1.* **www.aipf.org**.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *… or what any day is in the river – a milk of hours or if she saw what the clouds with wide longings stretch inside such hearts – how we wrap horizons of her great joy round this heaven in our pacing to & fro amazed with light on such nights as these – dazzled with stars like her voice on fire & she is the shining of all that gladdens the turning of the world & she is the reach of what love gathers in.* For Kady. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

When I toured Chartwell,
the Churchill country home,
southeast of London in county Kent,
I almost met Jock II,
descendent of Winston's favorite feline, Jock.
The marmalade tom almost noticed
me, then yawned and stretched
and continued his nap
in the Prime Minister's favorite chair
in the dining room set for afternoon tea.
– Carolyn Reding, "European by Nature #4"

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

D: Julian Schnabel; with Mathieu Amalric, Emmanuelle Seigner, Marie-Josée Croze, Anne Consigny, Patrick Chesnais, Niels Arestrup, Olatz López Garmendia. (PG-13, 112 min., subtitled)



In his brilliant new film, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, painter/sculptor/director Schnabel (*Basquiat*, *Before Night Falls*) defies dozens of moviemaking conventions to tell the true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby. Which makes sense considering just how unconventional Bauby's story is. In 1995, at the age of 45, the French writer and editor of *Elle* magazine (French edition) suffered a massive stroke that left him with a rare condition called locked-in syndrome. He retained his ability to hear and understand and remember, but as far as the world was concerned, Bauby became little more than a vegetable with an impressive résumé: He was unable to speak and was completely paralyzed from top to toe, save for his left eye. I know this may sound like a description for the dullest protagonist in motion-picture history, but Bauby was able to work miracles with that eye. In just two years, using a dictation system developed by his speech therapist that involved an adjusted alphabet and repetitive blinking, Bauby managed to write a 150-page memoir full of wit and imagination that went on to become a bestseller. (Meanwhile, with my two perfectly good eyes and able body, I'm struggling to write a 400-word movie review.) Bauby's story presents innumerable hurdles for a filmmaker, but artist-turned-filmmaker Schnabel has made a career out of defying expectations and pushing boundaries, and he uses all the considerable skills at his disposal (among them a stunning visual sense that blurs the line between experience and memory, between desire and reality; a bottomless well of curiosity about the nature of human creativity; and a healthy sense of cynicism) to create an original world that exists almost entirely inside his protagonist's head and that's equal parts reverie, despair, and social experiment. His Bauby (Amalric) is no pity case; he's a sophisticated ironist aware of the confusion and fear he engenders in those around him, and his memoir is a testament to human ingenuity and the beauty that can be found in resignation. *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* could easily have tipped over into melodrama, but Schnabel is too much an artist to let that happen; he realizes that in order to make his hero truly substantial, and not just sympathetic, he has to present him as an ordinary man making the best of extraordinarily lousy circumstances. By doing so he's created a character we not only marvel at but identify with. If there's a better example of the miraculous stubbornness of otherwise-despairing humanity than a paralyzed man leering at his nurse's cleavage, I can't imagine what it is. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★★ Arbor

New Reviews

THE BUCKET LIST

D: Rob Reiner; with Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman, Sean Hayes, Beverly Todd, Rob Morrow, Alfonso Freeman, Rowena King, Annton Berry Jr., Verda Bridges. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Edward Cole (Nicholson) is a white man with a passion for women, exotic coffee, and money. Carter Chambers (Freeman) is a black man with apparently no passion at all. Cole is a corporate millionaire and three times divorced. Chambers is a car mechanic with a wife and grown kids. Apart from their advanced years, their shared hospital room, and terminal cancer, they have nothing in common. Which means, of course, they're destined to become best friends. In Reiner's latest exercise in syrupy nonsense, Cole and Chambers leave behind their depressing hospital beds and chemotherapy sessions and jump into Cole's private jet to check items off their bucket list (that being the list of things they want to do before they kick the bucket). For an hour, they drive sports cars at high speeds, travel to exotic countries, and check out the Himalayas, whooping and hollering as they go. They also aim for slightly vaguer, more "mystical" goals, such as laughing until they cry, witnessing something majestic, and finding the joy in their lives, making *The Bucket List* the 400th movie to come out of Hollywood in the last 10 years to mistake bumper-sticker self-help platitudes for spirituality: Be as You Are, Live Every Day Like It's Your Last, Follow Your Bliss, Dance Like Nobody's Watching, Eat Like Nobody's Listening, Don't Forget the Pine Nuts, Look Out for Washbasins, Don't Be Worried About Not Being Afraid That You're Scared of Being Terrified. All the classics. Which I guess are pleasant enough prescriptions for getting a little something more out of life, but they make for exceedingly bland moviemaking. Which is exactly what *The Bucket List* is: white-bread storytelling made by, for, and about people who think joy and meaning can be acquired by simply taking a step or two out of life's comfort zones and into African-safari packages and skydiving excursions. It's safety-first adventuring and safety-first filmmaking, both of which should be mortal sins. What Reiner should have done, instead of giving himself over to his most commercial instincts, is aim to capture the true desperation of sick men staring into that good night and realizing that the opposite of going quietly is going brazenly. Who wouldn't want to watch Nicholson and Freeman daring each other to commit brash acts of wildness and anti-social amorality in the name of seizing the day? What a bucket list those two could come up with then: 1) Rob a bank. 2) Snort heroin. 3) Kill a man. The list could go on and on, only to end when Cole crash-lands his jet into the Taj Mahal while Chambers is in the bathroom having his first (and last) homoerotic experience with the plane's pilot. "Carpe diem!" they'd holler as they scratch that last item off their list before being consumed by a giant fireball of their own making. Put that on a bumper sticker, Meathead. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FIRST SUNDAY

D: David E. Talbert; with Ice Cube, Katt Williams, Tracy Morgan, Loretta Devine, Chi McBride, Michael Beach, Keith David, Regina Hall, Malinda Williams, Clifton Powell, Nick Turturro. (PG-13, 98 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This new comedy, featuring an all-black cast, was not screened in advance for critics. Ice Cube and Morgan play bumbling criminals who devise a desperate scheme to rob their neighborhood church, but instead spend a night reckoning with the lord. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

IN THE NAME OF THE KING: A DUNGEON SIEGE TALE

D: Uwe Boll; with Jason Statham, Leelee Sobieski, John Rhys-Davies, Ray Liotta, Matthew Lillard, Burt Reynolds, Will Sanderson, Ron Perlman, Claire Forlani, Brian J. White, Kristanna Loken, Gabrielle Rose. (PG-13, 124 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Boll, the legendary critic-bashing director, is back for another of his live-action fantasy film renditions of an established video game. Though this new film can boast the presence of several reliable thesps, the one constant that hasn't changed is the presence of swill master Boll. Unsurprisingly, the film was not screened for press. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan

Openings

The Bucket List (PG-13)

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13)

First Sunday (PG-13)

In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale (PG-13)

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (G)

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

ONE MISSED CALL

D: Eric Valette; with Ed Burns, Shannyn Sossamon, Ana Claudia Talancón, Ray Wise, Azura Skye. (PG-13, 87 min.)

Genre fans will need no heads-up on this ill-advised stateside remake of Takashi Miike's 2003 foray into techno-phobic Japanese horror – they're avoiding it in droves, and, judging by the nonexistent audience I caught it with over the weekend, so is everyone else. Smart move. The J-horror trend initiated by Hideo Nakata's 1998 viral freakout *Ringu*, which along with nearly every other film in the genre has been remade multiple times throughout Asia and the U.S., is way past its expired-by date, asphyxiated on soggy tendrils of lank, black hair and kabuki-doomy, fright-faced shock cuts. For every solid attempt to translate the maddeningly intricate cultural psychoses of Asian cult horror into boffo American box office (*The Ring*, *Dark Water*) there are an equal number of hideous misfires: *Pulse*, *The Grudge 2*, and now this. The original *One Missed Call* was itself a lame departure from the legendarily prolific Miike's exhilarating, apparently lifelong mission to be the directorial equivalent of the *Videodrome* signal. Anyone who has ever (intentionally or otherwise) subjected themselves to the triple-mindscraping of *Audition*, *Ichi the Killer*, and *The Happiness of the Katakuris* is the stronger for it, although Miike's sprawling, tentacular oeuvre defies easy anything. Except, of course, for *One Missed Call*, which found Miike attempting to create his own spin on the already mortally wounded J-horror tropes by ripping off *Ringu* and *its* Korean rip-off, *Phone*, to no great success. (Or not. Miike's original promptly spawned two dud sequels. Go figure.) Here and now, Valette's Americanization, which deals with cell-phone calls from the soon-to-be-deceased to their predemised selves, is significantly less engaging than the original, although that may have to do with the lack of subtitles. It's a puzzler, all right, and since Burns is on board as a stodgy, tired-looking detective who has lost his sister to the ring tones o' woe, female lead Sossamon has someone to furrow brows with and mull over the unmullable. Apart from some borderline-clever cinematography courtesy of Glen MacPherson, there's precious little to make anyone want to answer this doleful call. Do yourself a favor and go rent any Miike film other than *this* one. You've got somewhere in the vicinity of 75 from which to choose. – *Marc Savlov*

½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIETALES MOVIE

D: Mike Nawrocki; with the voices of Nawrocki, Phil Vischer, Tim Hodge. (G, 85 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this new pirate adventure undergone by the series' animated, faith-based, vegetable characters. Walk the plank with Larry the Cucumber. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

First Runs

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

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

D: Greg Strause, Colin Strause; with Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, John Ortiz, Johnny Lewis, Ariel Gade. (R, 86 min.)

This sequel to the much-maligned (though, to be fair, probably just misunderstood) *Aliens vs. Predator* is an orgy of mindless violence, a random collection of bloody bodies, alien misanthropy, and slobbering carnage designed to bore straight into the pleasure centers of 13-year-old boys and leave the rest of us wondering when the movies got so damn loud. I won't go too deeply into the film's plot because I don't want to ruin it for you, but I can tell you that a UFO carrying a pack of salivating aliens like those that tormented Sigourney Weaver back in the Eighties crash-lands in the woods outside a small town in Colorado, followed by the arrival of a predator (of the dreadlocked variety that tormented Jesse "the Body" Ventura back in the Eighties), who's hunting down the aliens one by one. Needless to say, it isn't long before the first human being gets caught in the cross fire. *(12/28/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

D: Tim Hill; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney. (PG, 92 min.)

What's it all about, Alvin? Apparently it's about rebranding a musty old comic conceit for a whole new generation of proto-Willards. The adenoidal animated vermin of Ross Bagdasarian Sr. and Jr. have arrived via CGI in this live-action updating/companion to the Bagdasarian family's lengthy *rodentia comicus*-related history, the pinnacle of which remains 1958's holiday novelty tune "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)." Hill's Chipmunk tale is a strictly by-the-numbers affair, aimed in the most generic direction conceivable. Lee plays Dave, a well-intentioned but bumbling songwriter aided and abetted in life and love (and icky-sweet pop music) by My Three Chipmunks. *Mr. Show*'s Cross is a duplicitous record mogul, who plays nice with Dave while conniving behind his back (boo!), and Richardson is the mutant-model-photographer-chick-thing Dave's all gooey on. Will true love prevail? Will Dave grow a backbone (and some real songwriting talent)? They shoot rodents, don't they? *(12/14/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



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Mon–Thurs: 7:10, 10:00

JUNO
Fri: (4:30) 7:20, 10:10; Sat/Sun: (1:30, 4:30) 7:20, 10:10;
Mon–Thur: 7:20, 10:10

INTO THE WILD
Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:50;
Mon, Wed, Thurs: 6:50, 9:50; Tues: 9:50

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD
Fri–Sun: (4:10) 9:40; Mon–Thurs: 9:40

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
Fri, Mon–Thur: 7:00; Sat/Sun: (1:10) 7:00

SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, JAN. 11 – THUR, JAN. 17
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Showtimes

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ *320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.*

AFS Doc Tour: ***Audience of One:*** Wed, 7:00pm
AFS: ***Deseada:*** Tue, 7:00pm
Music Monday: ***James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968:*** Mon, 10:00pm
Real Genius **Quote-Along:** Thu (1/17), 7:00pm
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 11:55; Sat, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 9:45, 11:55; Sun, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; Mon, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 4:15, 7:00; Wed, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20; Thu (1/17), 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
Bateman Birthday Party: ***Teen Wolf Too:*** Wed-Thu (1/17), 12mid
Terror Thursday: ***Troll:*** Thu (1/17), 12mid
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Sat, 2:00, 4:30; Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30; Mon, 4:30, 7:30; Tue, 4:30pm; Wed, 4:30, 9:45
High for the Holidays: ***The Wizard of Oz*** **With** ***Dark Side of the Moon:*** Sat, 12mid
Weird Wednesday: ***Yin and Yang of Mr. Go:*** Wed, 12mid

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-8135.*

***The Bucket List:** 12:15, 3:25, 7:15, 10:15
***First Sunday:** 12:25, 3:05, 7:25, 10:30
***The Golden Compass:** 12:30, 3:40
***The Great Debaters:** Fri-Wed, 11:50am, 3:05, 7:10, 10:15pm; Thu (1/17), 11:50am, 3:05, 7:10pm
***I Am Legend:** 12:10, 3:00, 7:15, 10:00
***No Country for Old Men:** 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05
***One Missed Call:** 12:35, 3:10, 7:45, 10:25
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** 7:30, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*

Alamo Trailerthon Showcase: Fri-Sat, 12mid
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35; Tue, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:25, 7pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
***Juno:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20pm; Mon, 3:50, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20; Tue, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 3:50, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 12:35, 3:45, 7:30, 10:40; Mon, 3:45, 7:30, 10:40; Tue, 12:35, 3:45, 7:30; Wed, 3:45, 10:40; Thu (1/17), 3:45, 7:30, 10:40
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35pm; Mon, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35; Tue, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:45pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
The Orphanage: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; Tue, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:50, 7:35, 10:10
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Tue, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

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.
***The Bucket List:** Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 9:45; Mon, 4:05, 7:10, 9:45; Tue, 1:15, 4:05, 7:10; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:05, 7:10, 9:45
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50; Tue, 1:00, 3:55, 7:05; Wed-Thu (1/17), 3:55, 7:05, 9:50
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 12:50, 4:00; Mon, 4:00pm; Tue, 12:50, 4:00; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:00pm
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:15, 7:25, 10:15; Mon, 4:15, 7:25; Tue, 1:20, 4:15, 7:25; Wed-Thu (1/17), 4:15, 7:25, 10:15
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
TV at the Alamo: ***The Sarah Connor Chronicles:*** Mon, 10:00pm
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Mon, 7:30, 10:00; Tue, 7:30pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 7:30, 10:00

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.*

Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Atonement: 11:50am, 1:00, 2:35, 4:00, 5:20, 6:50, 8:05, 9:50pm
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Juno: 12:10, 12:40, 2:25, 2:55, 4:45, 5:15, 7:10, 7:45, 9:30, 10:05
The Kite Runner: 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40
No Country for Old Men: 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45
The Savages: 12:20, 4:10, 7:20, 9:55

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.*

Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:40, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
***The Bucket List:** Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25pm; Sun, 12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:55, 5:20, 8:00, 10:25
Enchanted: Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 12:55, 3:30, 6:05pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:55, 3:30, 6:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:15, 3:30, 6:05
***First Sunday:** Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45
I Am Legend: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40pm; Sun, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:15, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40
Juno: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
The Kite Runner: Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55pm; Sun-Thu (1/17), 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets **(closed captioned):** Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20
No Country for Old Men: 8:20pm
***One Missed Call:** Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 1:25, 3:40, 6:15, 8:35, 10:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/17), 1:25, 3:40, 6:15, 8:35, 10:50
***The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie:** Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:20, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:45, 4:55, 7:20, 9:30
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm; Sun-Thu (1/17), 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35pm; Sun-Mon, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35; Tue, 1:40, 4:25, 10:35; Wed-Thu (1/17), 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:20, 4:50, 7:35

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK *1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
***The Bucket List:** Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
***First Sunday:** Fri, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
I Am Legend: Fri, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:55, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
***Juno:** Fri, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15
***The Kite Runner:** Fri, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:00, 6:30, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 3:45, 7:15, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 10:25; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:45, 7:15, 10:25
***One Missed Call:** Fri, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:50, 5:10, 7:20, 10:10
***The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie:** Fri, 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:00
P.S. I Love You: 6:50, 9:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri, 3:15, 7:05, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:15, 7:05, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:15, 7:05, 9:45
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 4:00pm; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 4:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 4:00pm

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA *12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 2:10, 3:45, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 3:45, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:10, 3:45, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40
***The Bucket List:** Fri, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35
Enchanted: Fri, 2:35, 5:20, 7:55; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:35, 5:20, 7:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:35, 5:20, 7:55
***First Sunday:** Fri, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
The Great Debaters: Fri, 3:55, 6:55, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:55, 6:55, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:55, 6:55, 10:10
I Am Legend: Fri, 2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00, 10:30
***In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale:** Fri, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:40, 7:00, 10:05
***Juno:** Fri, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:15, 9:35, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:15, 9:35, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:15, 9:35, 10:20
***One Missed Call:** Fri, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20
P.S. I Love You: Fri, 6:35, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 6:35, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/17), 6:35, 9:45
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:00, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.*

Discounts daily before 5pm.
Bee Movie: Fri, 1:20, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:20, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
***Dan in Real Life:** Fri, 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05
***Fred Claus:** Fri, 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55
The Game Plan: Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
***Hitman:** Fri, 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:30, 3:55, 6:40, 9:20
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: Fri, 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40
Rush Hour 3: Fri, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15
***30 Days of Night:** Fri, 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK *4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 1:15, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:15, 2:45, 3:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55
***The Bucket List:** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:45, 3:30, 6:40, 9:15
Enchanted: Fri, 12:50pm; Sat-Sun, 10:10am; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:50pm
***First Sunday:** Fri, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
The Great Debaters: Fri, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:10, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
I Am Legend: Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20
***In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale:** Fri, 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:00, 4:05, 7:05, 10:10
***Juno:** Fri, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 12:50, 1:40, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:40, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00
***One Missed Call:** Fri, 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30
P.S. I Love You: Fri, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30; Mon-Thu (1/17), 3:15, 6:30, 9:30
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 1:45, 4:25, 7:40, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:45, 4:25, 7:40, 10:25

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS *9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.*

***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** 7:10, 9:45
***Alvin and the Chipmunks:** 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 9:30
***The Bucket List:** 1:10, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05
***Charlie Wilson's War:** 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40
***First Sunday:** 12:45, 4:10, 7:00, 10:10
***The Great Debaters:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sun, 7:30, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
***I Am Legend:** 12:40, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35
***In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale:** 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 10:10
***Juno:** 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50
***The Kite Runner:** 12:50, 4:25, 7:40, 10:30
Metropolitan Opera: ***Macbeth:*** Sat, 12:30pm; Sun, 2:00pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 1:00, 4:15, 7:20, 9:55, 10:25
***One Missed Call:** 1:30, 4:05, 7:35, 10:00
P.S. I Love You: 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 12:40, 3:35, 7:05

DOBIE THEATRE *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu (1/17), 9:40pm
Into the Wild: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50; Mon, 6:50, 9:50; Tue, 9:50pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 6:50, 9:50
Juno: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/17), 7:20, 10:10
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 7:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 7:00pm
The Orphanage: Fri, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 7:10, 10:00

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.*

No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40; Sat, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
The Bucket List: Fri, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25
First Sunday: Fri, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55, 12mid; Sat, 10:30am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55, 12mid; Sun, 10:30am, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 9:55
The Great Debaters: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
I Am Legend: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12mid; Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12mid; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 11:40; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 11:40pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
One Missed Call: Fri, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:50; Sat, 11:15am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:50pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*

Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55; Sun, 12:05, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40
The Bucket List: 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55
Charlie Wilson's War: 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20pm
Enchanted: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:35, 7:35, 10:15pm
First Sunday: 11:55am, 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25pm
The Great Debaters: 12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35
I Am Legend: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:45, 10:30pm
In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale: 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 3:25, 7:05, 10:00; Sat, 12:30, 7:05, 10:00; Sun, 3:25, 7:05; Mon, 3:25, 10:00; Tue-Thu (1/17), 12:30, 3:25, 7:05, 10:00
National Treasure: Book of Secrets **(in DLP digital):** 12:00, 2:55, 6:35, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets **(open captioned):** Fri, 12:30pm; Sat, 3:25pm; Sun, 12:30, 10:00; Mon, 12:30, 7:05
One Missed Call: 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:55, 10:10
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: 12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 6:55, 9:25
P.S. I Love You: 12:25, 3:15, 7:00, 9:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Mon, 12:40, 3:20, 7:20, 10:05; Tue, 12:40, 7:20; Wed, 3:20, 10:05; Thu (1/17), 12:40, 7:20
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street **(open captioned):** Tue, 3:20, 10:05; Wed, 12:40, 7:20; Thu (1/17), 3:20, 10:05
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 12:35, 3:10, 7:10, 9:45

IMAX THEATRE *Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.*

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 4:00, 9:00; Sun, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 12:00, 4:00
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 6:00, 8:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 11:00am, 2:00, 6:00, 8:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00pm; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/17), 10:00am, 1:00pm
Wildfire: Feel the Heat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.*

Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:15
The Bucket List: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25
Charlie Wilson's War: 10:10pm
Enchanted: 1:00, 4:20, 7:20, 9:55
Juno: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45
One Missed Call: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40
P.S. I Love You: 12:40, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.*

Alvin and the Chipmunks: 11:50am, 12:15, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5:05, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00pm
Beowulf: Fri-Wed, 12:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; Thu (1/17), 12:35, 4:25, 7:15
Enchanted: Fri, 12:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55; Sat, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55; Sun-Thu (1/17), 12:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55
First Sunday: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
The Golden Compass: 12:35, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05
The Great Debaters: 12:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:30
Hitman: 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30
I Am Legend: 11:50am, 1:00, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:45, 10:25pm
In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale: 12:40, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Metropolitan Opera: ***Macbeth:*** Sat, 12:30pm; Sun, 2:00pm
One Missed Call: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35
The Orphanage: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 8:05, 10:40

MILLENNIUM THEATRE *1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.*

Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. Adults, $6; children, $4.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 8:15pm; Wed-Thu (1/17), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 5:15pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE *713 Congress, 472-5470.*

Blade Runner: The Final Cut: Wed, 7:30pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.*

Special 3-D attraction price is cost of normal ticket plus $1.50 premium.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:45am, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 12:20, 2:05, 3:10, 4:35, 5:35, 7:25, 9:45
Atonement: 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:20
The Bucket List: 12:00, 1:50, 2:35, 4:25, 5:10, 7:00, 7:45, 9:35, 10:30
Charlie Wilson's War: 11:55am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30pm
Enchanted: 1:05pm
First Sunday: 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
The Golden Compass: 1:20, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
The Great Debaters: Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 7:05, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/17), 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00
I Am Legend: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 8:05, 10:05, 10:40pm
Juno: 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
The Kite Runner: 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:45
Metropolitan Opera: ***Macbeth:*** Sat, 12:30pm; Sun, 2:00pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 4:10, 7:20, 10:25
National Treasure: Book of Secrets **(in DLP digital):** 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:40
One Missed Call: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25pm
The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie: 11:55am, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40pm
P.S. I Love You: 1:30, 4:45, 7:40, 10:45
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 1:15, 4:00, 6:50, 9:35

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.*

$10 "special event" ticket prices apply to Indian films.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri, 4:30, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:20; Sat, 1:30, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:20; Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/17), 4:30, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:20
Atonement: 3:55, 7:05, 10:15
The Bucket List: Fri, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30; Mon-Thu (1/17), 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45, 10:30
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 4:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 2:05, 4:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/17), 4:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:20
Juno: Fri, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Thu (1/17), 4:35, 7:20, 10:05
The Kite Runner: 3:15, 6:30, 9:50
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 4:40, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/17),

ATONEMENT

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Vanessa Redgrave, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brenda Blethyn, Juno Temple, Daniel Mays. (R, 130 min.)

Imagination typically should be encouraged in children, but an excess of it leads to tragedy in this more than worthy adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel. Thirteen-year-old Briony (the wonderfully unnerving novice Ronan) is indulged, but also largely ignored, by her family, which includes her headstrong 19-year-old sister, Cecilia (Knightley, seductively husky, wincingly angular). One day in 1935, Briony witnesses a bewildering act that involves Cecilia and the housekeeper's son, Robbie (McAvoy). Only later does she realize how one person's vantage, one person's *truth*, doesn't always square with another's. But that epiphany doesn't arrive until the film's second of three sections, when a now-18-year-old Briony (Garai) attempts to write a novelization of that day in 1935. (The film's epilogue takes place in modern times.) *Atonement* is a work consumed with the nature of storytelling and the moral responsibility of the storyteller. The film is not quite as brutalizing as McEwan's brilliant source novel, but it ravishes nonetheless in its grand exploration of the sins of the daughter and a lifetime spent making reparations. *(12/14/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of beedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. *(11/02/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ Movies 8

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan, Bryan F. O'Byrne. (R, 116 min.)

Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry story to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. *(11/09/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Dobie

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief: Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it

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	FREE TERROR THURS: GALAXY OF TERROR		MIDNIGHT		
FRI, JAN 11	SWEENEY TODD	130	415	700	705
	SWEENEY TODD	940	945	MIDNIGHT	
	90s 1-HIT WONDER SINGALONG VOL II			1000	
SAT, JAN 12	SWEENEY TODD	130	415	700	705
	SWEENEY TODD		940	MIDNIGHT	
	WALK HARD: DEWEY COX STORY			200	430
	DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW			MIDNIGHT	
SUN, JAN 13	SWEENEY TODD	130	415	700	940
	WALK HARD: DEWEY COX STORY		200	430	730
	DICK-E-OKE				1000
MON, JAN 14	SWEENEY TODD		415	700	945
	WALK HARD: DEWEY COX STORY			430	730
	$2 MUSIC MONDAY: JAMES BROWN LIVE 1968				1000
TUES, JAN 15	SWEENEY TODD			415	700
	WALK HARD: DEWEY COX STORY				430
	AFS ESSENTIAL: DESEADA				700
WEDS, JAN 16	SWEENEY TODD			415	700	920
	WALK HARD: DEWEY COX STORY				430	945
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needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is crackerjack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. *(11/16/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Metropolitan

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

D: Mike Nichols; with Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Denis O'Hare. (R, 97 min.)

Accents by way of *Hee Haw* aside, not once in this would-be political romp do we forget that the man and woman before us, embodying such outré real-life characters as a hard-partying congressman and a born-again Houston socialite, are anyone other than the beloved institutions of Tom and Julia. Based on George Crile's book, *Charlie Wilson's War* tells the true-life story of how Texan Rep. Wilson (Hanks), best known for boozing and keeping company with *Playboy* Playmates, managed to raise $1 billion with the help of socialite Joanne Herring (Roberts) to secretly fund Afghanistan's mujahideen in their fight against the invading Soviet Union in the early Eighties. Sounds a little wonky, I know, but, as adapted by *The West Wing*'s Aaron Sorkin, the historical context and current affairs are laid out clearly and engagingly. That said, there's a hokeyness afoot. Same goes with Nichols' flat direction. This is a visually and emotionally soft affair, and the material calls for something with far sharper edges. *(12/21/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DAN IN REAL LIFE

D: Peter Hedges; with Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, Dane Cook, Alison Pill, Brittany Robertson, Marlene Lawston, Dianne Wiest, John Mahoney, Emily Blunt, Norbert Leo Butz. (PG-13, 99 min.)

If this is "real life," then count me out. It's not that there's anything terribly awful with it; it's just that what passes for real life here is as genially inoffensive and predictable as the average TV sitcom. More had been hoped for in this second writer/director project from Hedges. His previous effort, *Pieces of April*, followed a similar trajectory of family entanglement, though the characters had more edge and personality than they do in *Dan in Real Life*. Hedges also wrote the screenplays for *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* and *About a Boy*, other works whose distinctive characters stand apart from mediocrity. This new film will garner Hedges his biggest audience, and let's hope that it allows him to return to his more quirkily crafted characterizations. Carell is in his subdued, *Little Miss Sunshine* seriocomic mode here as a widower who falls in love with the girlfriend (Binoche) of his brother (Cook). *(10/26/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Movies 8

Audience of One

***Audience of One* (2007)** *D: Michael Jacobs. (NR, 88 min.)* **AFS Documentary Tour.** A Pentecostal preacher receives a vision from God to make a biblical film epic. This documentary (which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival) follows him as he leads his congregation in this grandiose endeavor that is underwritten with very little but faith. Filmmaker Jacobs and producer Matt Woods will be in attendance for a Q&A. See "God Is My Co-Producer," p.50, for an interview with Jacobs. @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 7pm; $6, $4 AFS members.



ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)

It's difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing's for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she's perfectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maiden. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love before she is cast out by a jealous queen (Sarandon) and lands in the center of Times Square. What's more, she's no longer animated. Though writer Bill Kelly's script takes extreme liberties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sardonic fairy tale. *(11/23/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*
★★★½ Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FRED CLAUS

D: David Dobkin; with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Spacey. (PG, 115 min.)

How many laughs can one movie try to squeeze out of Vaughn being attacked by elves? Sadly, it's an awful lot. Vaughn plays Fred, the embittered older brother of the sainted (literally) Nicholas "Santa" Claus (Giamatti). Trading in jolly for neurotic, Giamatti's Santa possesses a self-deprecating everyman demeanor that makes him a brilliant actor. Meanwhile, Vaughn exploits a schtick that plays well with an ensemble (*Old School*) or in a supporting role (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith*) but cannot carry the comedy of an entire movie. Awash with amazingly talented actors, including Spacey as an efficiency expert, Higgins as a lovelorn elf, Richardson as Mrs. Claus, and Bates as Fred and Santa's mom, *Fred Claus* is sadly just an early lump of coal under the tree. *(11/09/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*
★ Movies 8

THE GAME PLAN

D: Andy Fickman; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Madison Pettis, Kyra Sedgwick, Roselyn Sanchez, Morris Chestnut, Brian J. White. (PG, 110 min.)

How's this for a movie slogan: "The Rock Cries!" Maybe it doesn't have the same ring to it that "Garbo Laughs!" did when *Ninotchka* was first released in 1939, but dammit if it isn't something remarkable seeing a professional wrestler put away his muscles and turn on the waterworks. It's like watching middle-American machismo itself wilt in your hand. The reason the Rock is crying is because he's playing a self-centered superstar football quarterback whose perfectly empty, materialistic little life is being turned upside down by an 8-year-old daughter (the absurdly doe-eyed Pettis) he didn't know he had. *The Game Plan* was written by two women, Nichole Millard and Kathryn Price, and their female take on the world of professional football – though ridiculous – gives their movie a comic flavor that is refreshingly free of the masculine chest-bumping that defines other football films (and football in general). *(09/28/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★★ Movies 8

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

D: Chris Weitz; with Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards, Ben Walker, Eva Green, Jim Carter, Tom Courtenay, Sam Elliott, Christopher Lee, Simon McBurney; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Ian McKellen, Ian McShane, Kristin Scott Thomas. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Although *The Golden Compass* rejects the anti-organized-religion bent of the source material, British children's author Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, the film interprets the novels' evil Magisterium – a society-controlling organization meant to stand in for the church (any church, really) – as something just as evil but more Nazi-inspired. The film charts the coming of age of Lyra Belacqua (Richards, a dirtied delight), a 12-year-old orphan living in a steampunk universe parallel to Oxford, England, whose fate – which has something to do with a holy, multiverse war yet to come – was long ago predicted by witches. Yup, it's that kind of world: witches, gyptians (seafaring gypsies), and, most delightfully, daemons, which are the animal manifestations of human souls. This is a terrifying world in which trouble is visited regularly on small children. Writer/director Weitz far exceeds here, in vision and ambition, the perfectly passable entertainments of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. The special effects are mostly spectacular. *(12/07/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE GREAT DEBATERS

D: Denzel Washington; with Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Kimberly Elise, John Heard. (PG-13, 123 min.)

In his second outing as a director, Washington chooses an inspirational story, yet even though *The Great Debaters* is a historical story worth telling, the film is hobbled by the narrative predictability that inevitably governs this type of drama. Like his first directorial effort, *Antwone Fisher*, *The Great Debaters* is based on a true story in which Washington casts himself in the role of the elder leading man, the guiding figure who helps characters from the younger generation overcome the damage of their past and grab hold of the opportunities for their future. Although Washington is perfectly fine in his performance here as the professor and coach of Wiley College's national-championship-winning debate team in 1935, the role calls for no special showmanship on the part of the dependably brilliant actor. So, too, as the director, Washington brings no special stylistic flourish to the film, instead placing himself at the straightforward service of the Oprah Winfrey-produced story. *(12/21/2007)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it's also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel's moribund *XXX* character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited director Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as "What the hell?" since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko's generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. *(11/23/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*
★ Movies 8, Metropolitan

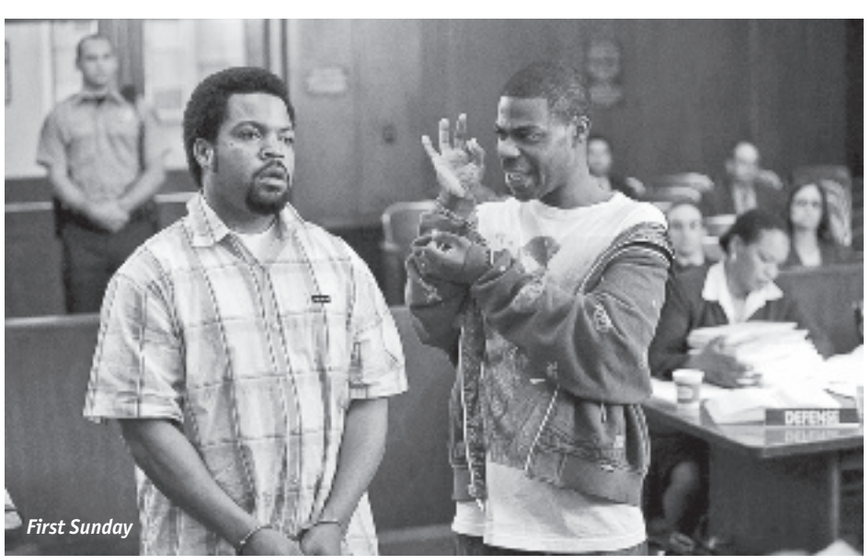
I AM LEGEND

D: Francis Lawrence; with Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, Salli Richardson, Willow Smith, Dash Mihok, Darrell Foster, April Grace, Joanna Numata. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Smith plays Robert Neville, a military immunologist who is the only real human left in New York. By day he wanders the city's empty avenues with his German shepherd, scavenging for food and gasoline; by night he barricades himself in his apartment with his rifle to wait for the living dead to break down the door. All this happens during the film's first 10 minutes, so initially I was optimistic. First of all, Lawrence's desolate Manhattan is a



In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale



First Sunday

wonder to behold. And secondly, Smith's Neville is no unblinking model of action-film courage; he is terrified, lonely, and racked with guilt over his inability to save the lives of … well, anyone – a guilt he tries to assuage by working on a vaccine to save humanity, not to mention his own soul. Unfortunately, after the first 10 minutes, it's all downhill for *I Am Legend*, as the film descends into a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters. *(12/14/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. *(10/19/2007)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Dobie

JUNO

D: Jason Reitman; with Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 92 min.)

When 16-year-old Juno (Page) pays for her pregnancy test with the stick still in hand, the cashier wisecracks, "This is one diddle that can't be undid, home skillet." That quip, care of screenwriter and freshly minted Hot New Thing Diablo Cody, almost had me audibly groaning: So it's gonna be like that, is it? Well, yes and no. The quips keep coming, but they slow, and *Juno* settles into a sharp, winning relationship comedy. But, like everything else in the winsome *Juno*, what plays for laughs has an undeniable ring of real emotion. Spend enough time with Juno's deadpan and her irony, and you learn how to read between the lines, to the scared, confused, and royally pissed teenager underneath the brazen, Buddha-bellied exterior (a "cautionary whale," she calls herself). Page (*Hard Candy*) is marvelous, especially considering what a balancing act the role is between bitchy and twee, and she's backed by a terrific ensemble cast. *(12/21/2007)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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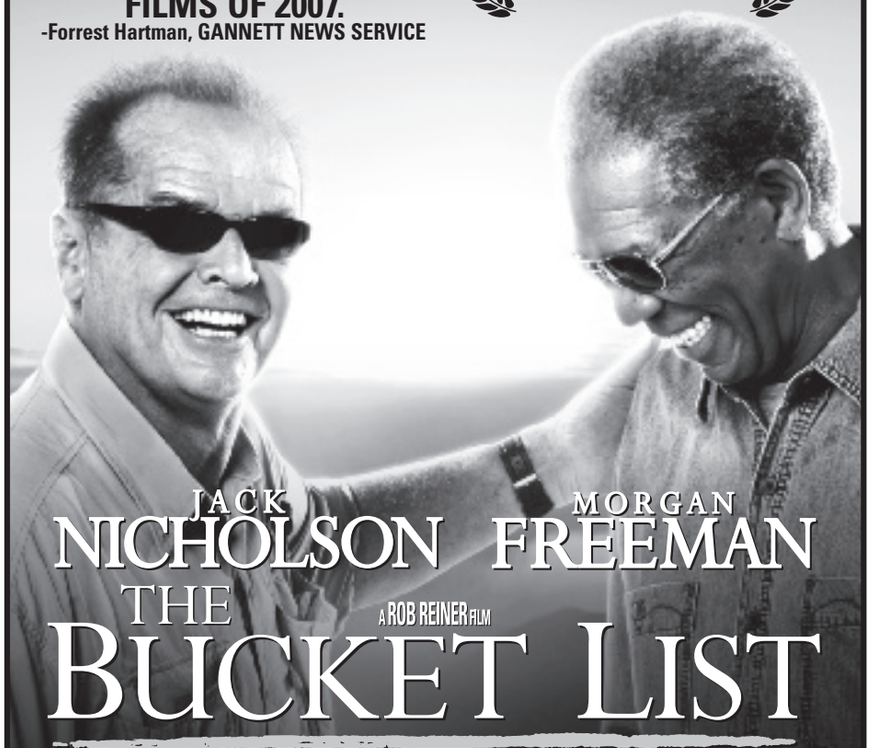
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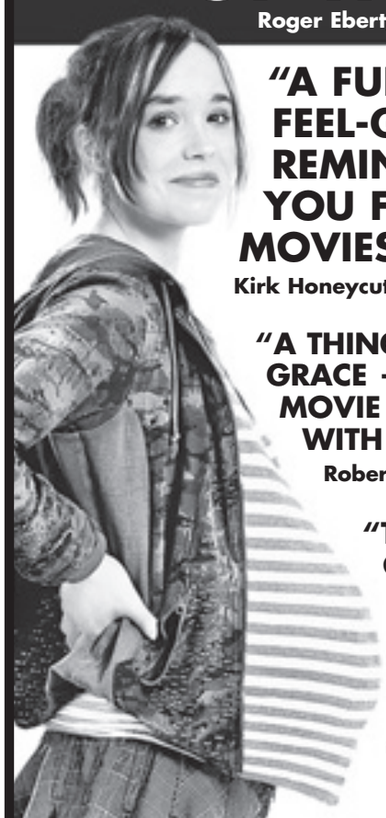
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***Macbeth* (2008)** (NR, 200 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** Giuseppe Verdi's opera is broadcast live on Saturday and repeated on Sunday, with James Levine conducting and Lado Ataneli performing the lead. For more info see **www.fathomevents.com/details.aspx?seriesid=622**. @Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, Saturday, 12:30pm, Sunday, 2pm; $22, $20 seniors/$15 children.

Deseada



***Deseada* (1951)** *D: Roberto Gavaldón; with Dolores del Rio, Jorge Mistral, José Baviera, Anabelle Gutiérrez. (NR, 85 min.)* **Austin Film Society: 3 Mexicanas en Hollywood.** In this Mexican melodrama, a woman prepares her younger sister for marriage to a rich man's son, who was raised in Spain. Once he returns to the Yucatan, however, the prospective groom falls in love with Deseada, the older sister. See "Border Crossing," Dec. 28, 2007, for more on the series. @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 7pm; $4, AFS members free.

THE KITE RUNNER

D: Marc Forster; with Khalid Abdalla, Homayoun Ershadi, Shaun Toub, Atossa Leoni, Said Tashimaoui, Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada. (PG-13, 122 min.)

The screen version of Khaled Hosseini's phenomenally successful novel about friendship, betrayal, and redemption, set against the turmoil in Afghanistan during the last 30 years, is a disappointment. Screenwriter David Benioff and director Forster are faithful to the novel to a fault, retaining a level of narrative detail that bogs down the principal storyline about a haunted Afghan-American man who is blessed with the chance "to be good again" and rectify a wrong he committed years ago. The film's early scenes set up the tragic turn of events that forever separates the two childhood friends. But as the film progresses, the narrative focus gets diluted and never really recovers. Some of the improbabilities in the third act of Hosseini's book seem even more unlikely on the screen – the villain is a sadistic pedophile high in the ranks of the Taliban – and the thematic essence of the film is equally marred by the heightened melodramatics. Still, the kite-fighting sequences here are magnificent. *(12/21/2007)* *– Steve Davis*

★★½ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical, as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for child-like eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he's come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy; 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills); and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning he's lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and jigging and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film's one saving grace is Bateman. *(11/16/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*

★½ Movies 8

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Helen Mirren, Justin Bartha, Diane Kruger, Harvey Keitel, Bruce Greenwood. (PG, 124 min.)

Less twisty than its 2004 predecessor and yet somehow more incoherent, *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* plays like a duplicate schematic of the first. Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates (Cage) lights on a noble cause; enlists a plucky cast of fellow hunters, code crackers, and danger enthusiasts (including the unsung Bartha, as Gates' geekboy Friday); then goes on a globe-hopping quest that amounts to a cinematic series of Russian nesting dolls – crack one clue, and you're awarded with another, equally inscrutable one. I don't mean to sound like a sourpuss: There's certainly a place for this kind of entertainment, and the first outing – same director, same screenwriters (husband-and-wife team Cormac and Marianne Wibberley), same cast – was pleasantly rompy and even sweetly patriotic in its history-buff bent. *Book of Secrets*, however, isn't so much a romp as a long trudge through American history factoids and conspiracy-theory gobbledygook. Cool car chase, though. *(12/28/2007)* *– Kimberley Jones*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre conflations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern Gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with $2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps to the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. *(11/16/2007)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE ORPHANAGE

D: Juan Antonio Bayona; with Belén Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, Mabel Rivera, Edgar Vivar, Geraldine Chaplin, Monserrat Carulla. (R, 100 min., subtitled)

At the risk of ticking off producer Guillermo Del Toro, the Spanish shocker *The Orphanage* is no *Devil's Backbone*. It's hardly spineless, but neither is it on par with several of the other scary movies from which it borrows heavily, either in tone or tale, chief among them *The Omen*, Alejandro Amenábar's *The Others*, Mario Bava's *Kill, Baby … Kill!*, and at least a deuce of Dario Argento *gialli*. It has neo-Gothic style to spare and a dense, suffocating atmosphere. It strives mightily to have a heart in the midst of all the miasmatic, ghostly goings-on. Bayona and his cast pull out all the stops, and for a while, you're immersed in the increasingly creepy story of married couple Laura (Rueda) and Carlos (Cayo) and their adopted son, Simón (Princep). Sergio Sánchez's lyrical, occasionally poetic script is played out in a tragic key that feels far too minor, and ultimately the composition comes off as both overplayed and underdone. *(12/28/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie, Metropolitan

P.S. I LOVE YOU

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Gina Gershon, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy Bates, Harry Connick Jr., Jeffrey Dean Morgan, James Marsters. (PG-13, 126 min.)

LaGravenese is usually a terrific screenwriter, but this adaptation (with Steve Rogers) of Cecelia Ahern's novel is almost insufferably sufferable. It's a chick flick of the tallest order, with schmaltz galore and the sort of ongoing romantic hubris that practically screams, "This is codswallop, right?" Swank, as grieving widow Holly, is all knees and elbows and cheekbones and denial. Until, that is, her 30th birthday, when she receives a letter from her dead spouse, who has thoughtfully seen fit to keep the love – and by extension, the healing – flowing from beyond the grave. Together with mother-in-law Bates (doing a canny impression of Shirley MacLaine), possible new love Connick Jr. (doing an uncanny impression of Michael Cera in *Juno*), and BFFs Gershon and Kudrow, Swank embarks on a teary journey of Lifetime proportions. Hope floats all over the place in *P.S. I Love You*, but it's Connick Jr.'s goofy, lovesick bartender who makes it all tolerable. *(12/21/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*

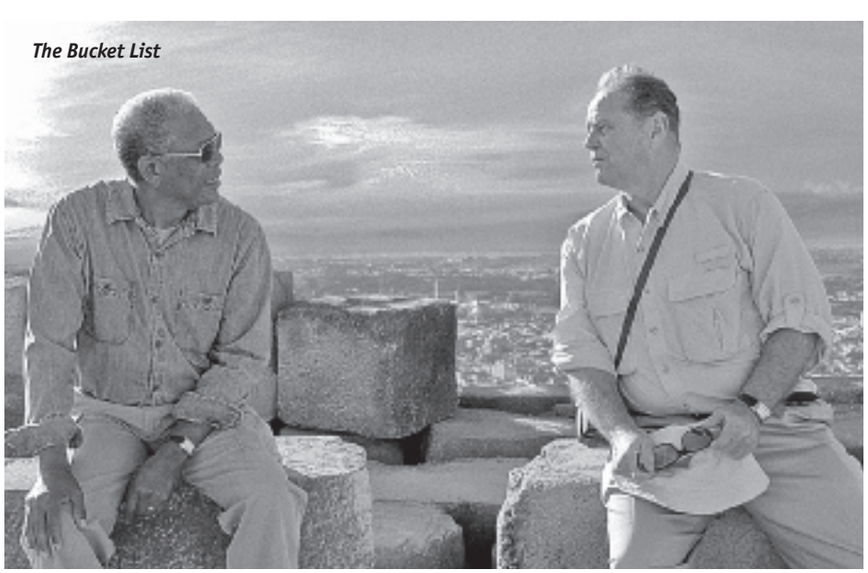
★½ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

RUSH HOUR 3

D: Brett Ratner; with Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Vinnie Jones, Max von Sydow, Noémie Lenoir, Hiroyuki Sanada, Youki Kudoh. (PG-13, 91 min.)

It says something that the most inspired comedic performance in *Rush Hour 3* comes from director-cum-fugitive Roman Polanski, whose turn as the head of the Parisian police arrives midway through the film: He and his flunkies torture returning intercontinental buddy cops Los Angeles Detective Carter (Tucker) and Hong Kong Inspector Lee (Chan). It's either the most inspired *Chinatown* gag ever or a sure sign the diminutive Oscar winner has gone 'round the bend. Either way, this third outing in the series falls flat faster than most of Chan's goofy line readings. The film is *The Bourne Ultimatum*'s evil twin, relying, as it repeatedly does, on tired, cookie-cutter, cliché action set-pieces (Chan no longer has the sinewy grace of his younger *Police Story*-era self, nor is Tucker's pop-eyed, horn-dog cop schtick anywhere near as funny as he thinks it is) and a by-the-numbers script. As it is, it just signals a series that's plainly out of gas. *(08/10/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*

★ Movies 8



The Bucket List

THE SAVAGES

D: Tamara Jenkins; with Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Philip Bosco, Peter Friedman, Gbenga Akinnagbe. (R, 113 min.)

Don't pay any attention to the synopsis of this film. It'll make it sound like something for non-masochists to sidestep, and nothing could be further from the truth of this smart, funny, thoughtful, and exquisitely realized film. Jenkins' movie is a deft blend of realism and playful touches of structural whimsy and Brechtian distancing. Jon (Hoffman) and Wendy (Linney) are the grown and distant children of Lenny Savage (Bosco), who is showing the first signs of senile dementia. The subtlety of the interplay between siblings is one of the joys of *The Savages*. The film is likely to play differently to people of different age groups, maybe even sexes. To what extent one identifies with, recognizes, and fears each of the characters may govern the viewer's disposition toward the subject matter. Younger viewers may have to wait awhile before they're able to locate their inner Savage. *(12/28/2007)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Arbor

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

D: Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jamie Campbell Bower, Laura Michelle Kelly, Jayne Wisener. (R, 117 min.)

Like some religious fanatic, Sweeney Todd (Depp) plays the same note over and over again: "Revenge, revenge, revenge," he crows. Watching Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's 1979 stage musical, I was struck by just how dull violent retribution can be when it's all someone ever talks (or, in this case, sings) about. Burton's gorgeously grim film (his sixth with Depp) is loyal to Sondheim's original, both in spirit and structure; it's dark and Gothic and drenched in blood, and it forgoes excessive dialogue in the name of getting quickly to the next murky, malevolent, yet strangely forgettable tune. Poor Depp, though, isn't up to the challenge of a musical. So by the time he gets that long-wished-for shot at restitution, I didn't care anymore if he succeeded or not so long as he stopped singing about it. By that point I'd already decided life would be better inside a quiet meat pie. *(12/21/2007)* *– Josh Rosenblatt*

★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

D: David Slade; with Josh Hartnett, Melissa George, Ben Foster, Danny Huston, Manu Bennett, Craig Hall, Joel Tobeck. (R, 113 min.)

Adapted from Steve Niles' graphic novel, this film's high-concept stroke of genius lies not with its vampire clan but with the setting: the tiny hamlet of Barrow, Alaska, where residents do indeed experience the title's lengthy nightfall. On the eve of this yearly perma-night, Sheriff Eben Oleson (Hartnett) incarcerates a ratty, possibly insane drifter (Foster), who has arrived, Renfield-like, to herald the coming of far worse. Cut off from the outside world by the naturally inclement weather and wholly unnatural sabotage, the sheriff and a handful of Barrow's citizenry (including George as his estranged wife, Stella) are systematically attacked by the vampires. So much so that they're eventually forced to hole up in squalid attics and crawl spaces, able to do little more than peek out the windows and wait for the faraway sunrise. At its core, *30 Days of Night* is a siege Western relocated to the frozen North. *(10/19/2007)* *– Marc Savlov*

★★★ Movies 8

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY

D: Jake Kasdan; with John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, Kristen Wiig, Tim Meadows, Chris Parnell, Matt Besser, David Krumholtz, Jack Black, Paul Rudd, Jason Schwartzman, Harold Ramis, Martin Starr, John Michael Higgins. (R, 96 min.)

The creative forces behind *Walk Hard* adhere to one simple rule: If it's funny once, it'll be funny 10 times over. And throughout this absurdist spin on musical biopics, the good news is that sometimes they're right. Taking cues very specifically from *Ray* and *Walk the Line*, this film spans 70 years in the life of its hero, the fictional music legend Dewey Cox (Reilly). The story follows a rise-fall-and-rise-again structure as Dewey meets the love of his life (Fischer), develops multiple drug addictions, loses his love, finds her again, and along the way falls prey to every generational music trend in the book. Whether traveling to India with the Beatles, writing protest songs, or hosting a variety show, Dewey manages to enact all the rock & roll clichés. Simultaneously dumb and enjoyable, the silliness manages at times to be both wonderful and cringe-worthy. In the end, Reilly's oblivious swagger successfully carries much of the film. *(12/21/2007)* – *Toddy Burton*

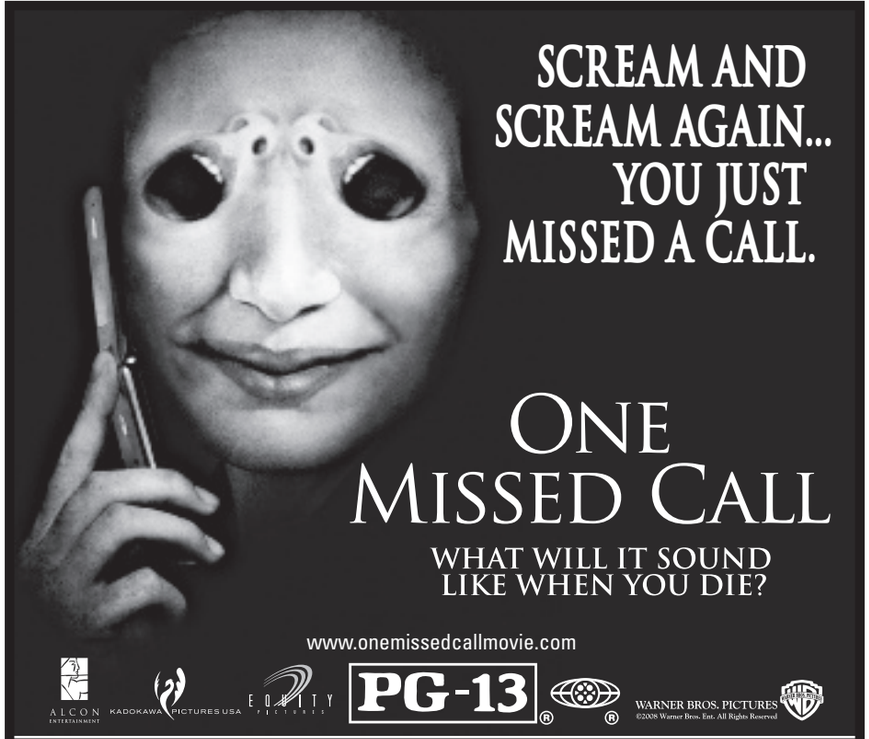
★★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Metropolitan

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

D: Jay Russell; with Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka Xi, Marshall Napier, Brian Cox. (PG, 111 min.)

A family film in the best sense, *Water Horse* plays like a cross between a World War II-era *Boy's Own* adventure and *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend*, minus the soppy treacle of the latter but with just the right amount of RAF fighter flybys to qualify it as a rather ripping yarn, indeed. Set on the coast of Scotland, the ingratiatingly plucky Etel plays Angus, a young dreamer whose mother and sister tend to Lord Something or Other's sprawling country estate, while he skitters around the tide pools digging up neat stuff. The discovery of a barnacle-encrusted egg reveals the titular "water horse," aka the Loch Ness beastie, and coincides with the arrival of a pair of dueling surrogate father figures for Angus. With its *Shrek*y ears and newborn, puggy snufflings, the water horse is extremely – and unthreateningly, to younger members – well designed, via CGI and more tactile effects work. Despite the title, however, this is Etel's film all the way. *(12/21/2007)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



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AJFF 6TH ANNUAL
AUSTIN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
January 26 - February 1, 2008
Film Schedule
Everything Subject to Change

Regal Arbor Cinema
9828 Great Hills Trail Austin, TX 78759

Sat, Jan. 26
7:00 pm STEEL TOES
9:30 pm JELLYFISH
Sun, Jan. 27
12:00 pm RABBIT MAN
2:30 pm SIXTY-SIX
5:00 pm MAKING TROUBLE
9:30 pm STEEL TOES
Mon, Jan. 28
12:00 pm OUT OF NIGHT
4:00 pm A MOTHER'S JOURNEY
7:00 pm WEST BANK STORY with MY FATHER, MY LORD
9:00 pm VOICE WITHOUT A FACE with ALMOST
Tues, Jan. 29
12:00 pm THE GIRLS FROM BRAZIL
4:00 pm MY FATHER, MY LORD
7:00 pm Screen 1: WEST BANK STORY
Screen 2: OBSESSION with THREE MOTHERS
9:00 pm LOCAL CALL
Wed, Jan. 30
12:00 pm HER STORIES MY HANDS with STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME
4:00 pm SILVER JEW
7:00 pm ARRANGED
9:00 pm A DIFFERENT SIDE OF WRESTLING WITH ANGELS PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER
Thurs, Jan. 31
12:00 pm JELLYFISH
3:00 pm VOICE WITHOUT A FACE with ALMOST
7:00 pm BLUES BY THE BEACH
9:00 pm THE BUBBLE
Fri, Feb. 1
12:00 pm "GRANDMA'S FORTUNE" HER STORIES MY HANDS KHARKIV MOTHER CHEFTZI ON AIR WEST BANK STORY
4:00 pm TRUE TO LIFE: STORIES BY PAMELA YOUTHS

UT Campus
Garrison Hall 23rd & Speedway
Mon, Jan. 28
7:00 pm WEST BANK STORY with MAKING TROUBLE
Wed, Jan. 30
7:00 pm WEST BANK STORY with THE GIRLS FROM BRAZIL
FREE ADMISSION to films at UT and Hillel through the generosity of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies

Texas Hillel
2105 San Antonio St.
Tue, Jan. 29
7:00 pm SILVER JEW

City Lights Theatre
Georgetown, TX
Thur, Jan. 31
7:30 pm ARRANGED

AJFF Badges, Passes and Tickets
are ON SALE NOW
at the JCAA Welcome Desk - 7300 Hart Lane
Mon. and Fri. 2 - 4 pm and Wed. 10 am - 12 noon, Jan. 14 - 25
and through the website www.austinjff.org

- FRIEND of the FESTIVAL FILM BADGE - Valid for admission to all films at all viewings during the festival with VIP entrance starting 15 minutes before each screening. Special Sale Price of only $120 each through January 18, 2008. After that, the price increases to $150 each.
- FLEX PASS - $80/each. Good for 10 admissions to film(s) of your choice at any venue. Flex Pass holders will be seated after Badge holders and before general admission ticket holders.
- GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS - $8 adult, $6 student/senior. A limited number of individual general admission tickets will be sold in advance online. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the theatre box office 15 minutes before the start of each film, after passing seating is given to Film Badge and Flex Pass holders.

*A Service Charge will be added to all online and credit card purchases.

Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: **austinchronicle.com/film.**


James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968

THURSDAY 10

The 90s One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Vol. 2 @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm, 12mid.

***Beg!* (1994)** *D: Robert Golden; with Peta Lily, Philip Pellew, Julian Bleach, Olegar Fedoro, Jeremy Wilkin. (NR, 108 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** A murderer is loose in a hospital in England. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

***Galaxy of Terror* (1981)** *D: Bruce D. Clark; with Edward Albert, Erin Moran, Ray Walston, Bernard Behrens, Zalman King, Robert Englund. (R, 81 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** The fears of interstellar space travelers are made manifest by their imaginations in this science-fiction suspenser. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

***Real Genius* Quote-Along (1985)** *D: Martha Coolidge; with Val Kilmer, Gabriel Jarret, Michelle Meyrink, William Atherton, Jon Gries, Patti D'Arbanville, Stacy Peralta. (PG, 108 min.)* Jon Gries will be in attendance at the Wednesday event. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

***The Simpsons Movie* (2007)** *D: David Silverman; with the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, Marcia Wallace, Joe Mantegna, Albert Brooks, Tom Hanks. (PG-13, 87 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 11

Alamo Trailerthon Showcase The Alamo raids its trailer archives for this two-hour-plus inspection screening of trailers, advertising "snipes," "daters," shorts, and various and assorted film oddities. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 25 issue is Monday, Jan. 14**. 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**.

SATURDAY 12

Alamo Trailerthon Showcase @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid. (See Fri., 1/11.)

***Macbeth* (2008)** (NR, 200 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** See p.76.

***The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975)** *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info, see **www.austinrocky.org**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Wizard of Oz* With *Dark Side of the Moon *D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Charley Grapewin, Munchkins. (G, 101 min.)* Find out whether there's really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

Puppet Parts Festival **Gepetto Dreams Puppet Company.** Austin's first annual puppet film festival showcases 11 films from across America. The group will present their live puppet burlesque show later in the evening. See **www.geppettodreams.com/puppet_parts_festival.htm** and p.45 of this week's Screens section for more info. @The Off Center, 1pm; $8.

SUNDAY 13

***Macbeth* (2008)** See p.76.

SPACES

Big Preview *D: Various.* Local filmmakers screen their latest projects. @Austin School of Film, 7pm.

***The Letter* (2003)** *D: Ziad Hamzeh. (NR, 76 min.)* **Amnesty International.** A firestorm erupts when 1,100 Somali refugees relocate to economically depressed Lewiston, Maine. @MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm; $5 suggested donation.

"Meeting Face to Face" (2005) *D: Jonathan Levin. (NR, 27 min.)* **TxLAW: Public Affair Forums.** A discussion will follow this film about the Iraq-U.S. Labor Solidarity Tour, during which six senior Iraqi labor leaders visited 25 U.S. cities in June 2005. @First Unitarian Church, 11:30am; free.

***Old School* (2003)** *D: Todd Phillips; with Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell, Vince Vaughn, Ellen Pompeo, Juliette Lewis, Leah Remini, Rick Gonzalez, Matthew Carey, Jeremy Piven, Craig Kilborn. (R, 91 min.)* **Moonlight Cinema – Waterloo Video.** Dinner specials. Jerm Pollet hosts. (*) @Belmont, 8pm; free.

MONDAY 14

***James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968* (2004)** (NR, 80 min.) **Music Monday.** This is the famous James Brown concert that was broadcast on WGBH in Boston, on April 5, less than 24 hours after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As violence was breaking out across America, Boston Mayor Kevin White was considering canceling all public events, including the James Brown concert. But the "hardest working man in show business" kept the date, dedicated the show to King, and electrified the audience. WGBH broadcast the show live at the mayor's urging, to encourage people to stay home and watch TV instead of roam the streets and riot. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm; $2.

The Sarah Connor Chronicles **TV at the Alamo.** @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

TUESDAY 15

***Deseada* (1951)** See p.76.

SPACES

***Dazed and Confused* (1993)** *D: Richard Linklater; with Jason London, Wiley Wiggins, Rory Cochrane, Matthew McConaughey. (R, 103 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 16

***Audience of One* (2007)** *D: Michael Jacobs. (NR, 88 min.)* **AFS Documentary Tour.** See p.50.

***Blade Runner: The Final Cut* (2007)** *D: Ridley Scott; with Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Edward James Olmos, M. Emmet Walsh, William Sanderson, Joanna Cassidy, Brion James. (R, 117 min.)* Recut more times than a plastic-surgery junkie, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* promises to be exactly what its title promises: director Scott's last word on the subject. Cops and androids fight it out in 21st century L.A. in this Philip K. Dick film adaptation with fabulous art direction. This remastered and subtly rejiggered print is most notable for its inclusion of the "scene with the unicorn," which makes abundantly clear that Ford's blade runner is indeed an android and not a human. The film remains a landmark spectacle. @Paramount, 7:30pm; $8, $6 children/students/seniors.

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. **thomasallen@501studios.com**.

Rewind Kindly: A Filmmaking Competition Inspired by the upcoming Michel Gondry feature, *Be Kind Rewind*, this competition challenges you to remake (in a five-minute version of low-budget glory) any popular Hollywood film. Entries will be screened at the Alamo Drafthouse, and the winning films will get cash and AMD/Dell hardware. See website for details. Deadline: *Jan. 18*. **www.filmmakingfrenzy.com**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened 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, and 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**.

Spring Classes from the Austin School of Film **Script to Screen Workshop** covers all aspects of filmmaking. *Jan. 22-April 22. Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm*. **Teen Filmmaking Workshop**. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm*. Register now; see the Austin Film School website for details and other classes available. **www.austinfilmschool.org**.

SXSW Volunteers Needed Wanna see what happens behind the scenes at the music, film, or interactive festivals, earn a chance to see shows, and generally be *involved* in the glory and the grime? Volunteer! Jobs range from festival production to conference activities including registration, information, trade show, technical support, and more. Day and night positions are available. Volunteers must be able to work a minimum of 30 hours or four nights during the event, depending on their crew type. Sign up today. See website for details. **www.sxsw.com/volunteer**.

The Screenplay Workshop: Classes Forming Austin's premier screenwriting program is offering a free class on screenplay story structure: *Sat., Jan. 12, 1:30-3pm*. Also, they're registering for upcoming workshops that begin on Jan. 14: feature-film screenwriting (*Mondays, 7-10pm, or Saturdays, 1-4pm*) and screenwriting according to the masters (*Tuesdays, 7-9pm*). All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See their website for details. **www.thescreenplayworkshop.org**.

***The Spiderwick Chronicles* Experience** is an interactive mobile tour featuring two huge vehicles packed with a variety of educational and interactive attractions based around the forthcoming movie. Just the sort of thing to make your *Spiderwick*-loving kiddos' day, we reckon. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 12-13, 11am-6pm. Gatti Town, 9900 S. I-35.*

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

***African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango* (2007)** *D: Ben Stassen. (NR, 40 min.)* Come face-to-face with hippos, crocodiles, elephants, lions, and many types of antelopes and bird species. *Closes Friday.* (*) Thu. (1/10), noon, 4pm; Fri.-Sat., noon, 4, 9pm; Sun., 4pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/17), noon, 4pm

***Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure* (2007)** *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.) National Geographic* uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*) Thu. (1/10), 11am, 2, 6, 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 11am, 2, 6, 8, 10pm; Sun., 2, 6, 8; Mon.-Thu. (1/17), 11am, 2, 6, 8pm

***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. Thu. (1/10)-Sat., 10am, 1pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/17), 10am, 1pm

***Wildfire: Feel the Heat* (1999)** *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.)* Crews put out *really big* fires around the world. Thu. (1/10)-Thu. (1/17), 3, 5, 7pm

***Teen Wolf Too* (1987)** *D: Christopher Leitch; with Jason Bateman, Kim Darby, John Astin, Paul Sand. (PG, 95 min.)* **Jason Bateman's Birthday Party.** Bateman replaces Michael J. Fox as the hirsute teen werewolf. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

***Yin and Yang of Mr. Go* (1970)** *D: Burgess Meredith; with Meredith, James Mason, Jeff Bridges, Broderick Crawford, Peter Lind Hayes, Clarissa Kaye, Jack MacGowran. (NR, 89 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** Meredith wrote and directed this espionage oddity that seems to have captured many big-name stars at the nadir of their careers. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

***Finding Nemo* (2003)** *D: Andrew Stanton; with the voices of Albert Brooks, Alexander Gould, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe, Geoffrey Rush, Brad Garrett, Allison Janney, Stephen Root, Vicki Lewis. (G, 104 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 17

***Real Genius* Quote-Along (1985)** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thu., 1/10.)

***Teen Wolf Too* (1987)** @Alamo Ritz, 12mid. (See Wed., 1/16.)

***Troll* (1986)** *D: John Carl Buechler; with Noah Hathaway, Michael Moriarty, Shelley Hack, Jenny Beck. (PG-13, 82 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** An evil troll inhabits the body of a little girl in order to take over the San Francisco apartment building into which she has just moved. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

***Superbad* (2007)** *D: Greg Mottola; with Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Emma Stone, Martha MacIsaac, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader. (R, 114 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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music listings



Six Organs of Admittance
MOHAWK, THURSDAY 17

Ben Chasny is quickly becoming the Michio Kurihara of the West, an impressionistic and versatile guitarist capable of bridging meditative psych-folk narratives with epic, acid-rock freak-outs. To date, he's collaborated with Magik Markers (whose guitarist, Elisa Ambrogio, joins him for this tour), Current 93, and Badgerlore and is a full-time member of cosmic San Francisco steamroller Comets on Fire. He even found time to tour Europe as a member of Bonnie "Prince" Billy's backing band.

"That was kind of difficult for me, because I have such respect for him as a songwriter and for the music that I didn't really know how I was supposed to contribute – like, does he want me to explode?" asks Chasny, who's currently working on a collaboration with Steven Stapleton of industrialists Nurse With Wound. "What happens when you meet up with someone you really admire is that each person wants to play how the other person plays. I'll be ready to do some fucking crazy shit, and then they're like, 'No man, do that folk thing you do.'"

Chasny's main fix is Six Organs of Admittance, his SF-based drone-folk project. *Shelter From the Ash* (Drag City), his latest LP, revels in the afterglow of 2006's blustery and brilliant *The Sun Awakens*. Produced by and featuring the Fucking Champs' Tim Green, *Ash* finds Chasny exploring more traditional tunings and constructing intricate acoustic structures, buoyed by his high tide of feedback.

"I plot the listening curve before I ever start to write," Chasny confides. "I may not know what the music is going to end up sounding like, but I know how I want it to move and feel. Sometimes I want the sound to make the listener just drop out." – *Austin Powell*

Locals My Education and Headdress support.

Gallows
EMO'S, TUESDAY 15



The stripped-down hardcore and lunatic stage provocations of UK quintet Gallows scanned brain-pans and ear-drums alike at South by Southwest 07. Epitaph debut *Orchestra of Wolves*, featuring suicidally catchy single "In the Belly of a Shark," is equally incendiary. *NME* recently named frontman-cum-ticking-timebomb Frank Carter "the Coolest Man in Rock & Roll," and, in response, Carter reportedly got a "Fuck the *NME*" tattoo. Toronto's Cancer Bats and Long Island's This Is Hell complete the international hardcore trifecta. – *Marc Savlov*

Steelextravaganza
HOLE IN THE WALL, WEDNESDAY 16

Nothing soothes the winter chill like a healthy dose of steel, and alt.country night at the Hole highlights a few of Austin's best wielders. Lonesome Heroes dish resonator-bled psychedelic country, while the pedal-steel-fronted Gary Newcomb Trio eases into swaying soul. Bill Elm cuts a dusty, Southwestern swath through Friends of Dean Martinez's instrumentals, and opener Combo Mahalo serves it up Hawaiian style. Somewhere, Sneaky Pete Kleinow is smiling. – *Doug Freeman*

Rock & Roll Benefit for Jennifer
RUTA MAYA, FRIDAY 11



TODD V. WOLFSON

A blazing, 10-act battalion comes to the aid of Ruta Maya promoter/bartender Jennifer Marchand, who sustained serious injuries in a November auto-pedestrian accident. From 7:30pm 'til closing, big-hearted locals like Amplified Heat, Chili Cold Blood, Summer Wardrobe, Carolyn Wonderland, the Alice Rose, Murdocks, Tony Scalzo, Jade Day, Paul Minor, Ralph White, and the requisite "surprise guests" brew up a mind-walloping pot of pure rock goodness to benefit one of their own. Eight dollar suggested donation. – *Greg Beets*

The Dazzling King Solomon Band
HOLE IN THE WALL, FRIDAY 11

We were distraught when local garage rockers the Nervous Exits hung it up. Now, the advent of supergroup the Dazzling King Solomon Band gives us hope for a gritty tomorrow: part Nervous Exits, part Oakland's the Time Flys, all old-school. The reverbed bliss of local trio Horse + Donkey cleanses the palate come midnight, and local sometimes-fivepiece Pataphysics freaks out first. – *Darcie Stevens*

Junior Brown, American Graveyard
ANTONE'S, SATURDAY 12

Junior Brown supposedly envisioned his trademark guit-steel in a dream, a plausible origin given that the double-necked hybrid is an ungodly beast combining all that's razor-sharp and right in the instrumental world. Even more impressive is his wielding of the axe, with blistering honky-tonk fretwork that's matched his deep country baritone for more than two decades. Locals American Graveyard open with their own high-octane assault on Americana. – *Doug Freeman*

The Sword/Yellow Fever
EMO'S, SATURDAY 12



SANDY CARSON

Pitting local trio Yellow Fever's psych strum against the firebranded metal of Red River-born the Sword yields a good fight, the former gliding on an infectious EP and 7-inch and the latter emerging from hibernation on November's split 12-inch with Sweden's Witchcraft. Inside, Fever's local support comes via Mutating Meltdown's menagerie of bass, keys, and beats, plus the sweet pop glow of the Hunnies and Bear Claw's mellow acoustics, while outside, the Roller lays waste before the Sword. – *Doug Freeman*

South Filthy, the Golden Boys
BEERLAND, THURSDAY 17



AUBREY EDWARDS

A bill boasting neo-garage sons the Golden Boys and blood-pounding Cramps enthusiasts the Jungle Rockers is already a heart-stopper, but wait, there's more! When supergroup South Filthy, featuring local harpy Walter Daniels and Memphis guitarist Jeffrey Evans, dumps its punk moonshine into the still, everyone's drunk with happiness. Three bands to yank the shag carpet out from under your feet. Where else but Beerland? – *Margaret Moser*

In-Stores

Thursday: The **Band of Heathens**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

BASIC, FACELESS WEREWOLVES, DIAGONALS, SHAPES HAVE FANGS
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A stellar local gulp of pop, pop, fizz.

MEDIUMS, BALMORHEA, DAVID ISRAEL
Lamberts, Friday 11
The hills are alive with the sound of acoustic(s).

THE IGUANAS
Continental Club, Saturday 12
Jazz and swamp rock radiate from the *Plastic Silver 9 Volt Heart*. Not so Weary Boy Mario Matteoli opens.

'MARATHON' WITH DARDEN SMITH & JESSE SUBLETT
Continental Club, Sunday 13
Greek tragedy in West Texas set to music.

LIKE DOGS, AURORA PLASTICS COMPANY, TELEVISION ENDS, XATHAX
Plush, Monday 14
Just another manic Monday mind-meltdown.

ECFA CD RELEASE
Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tuesday 15
Release the jazz! Attic Ted helps out, too.

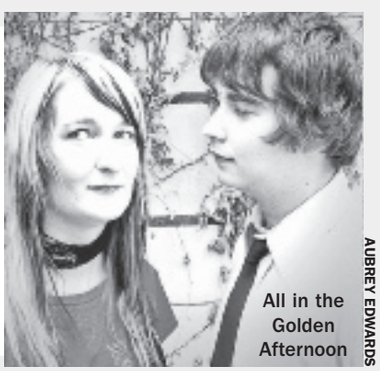
ADRIAN LEGG
Cactus Cafe, Thursday 17
This Brit is a one-man Guitar Center.

MOUSTACHE PARTY WITH THE BLACK & WHITE YEARS
Beauty Bar, Thursday 17
No word on the price of rides, but the Black & White Years promise some art-'stache rock.

live music VENUES p.82

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows p.84

ALL IN THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON, THE BRONZE AGE
Mohawk, Saturday 12
Austin bliss-pop wafts downwind; headliners Transona Five and the Theater Fire stoke it.


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TUES. 1/15/08 @ 8PM
INSIDE SHOW
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RYAN PERREY
THE DEWAYN BROTHERS

INSIDE FRI 11 JAN — BLANK PANDA
I KILL CARS, KOREAN KIDS, PEPPERONI'S

INSIDE SAT 12 JAN — TRANSONA 5
THE THEATER FIRE, QUIET LOVELY
ALL IN THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON

INSIDE SUN 13 JAN — PEEL
THE POISON CONTROL CENTRAL
FISHBOY

INSIDE THU 17 JAN — SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE
HEADDRESS, MY EDUCATION

OUTSIDE FRI 18 JAN — MICHAEL IAN BLACK/ MICHAEL SHOWALTER
(THE STATE/STELLA)

INSIDE SAT 19 JAN — MOONLIGHT TOWERS
MANDIBLE, RADAR RADAR

INSIDE SUN 20 JAN — DEAD CONFEDERATE
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TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil Dr., 331-9831
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON, 5244 Hwy 71 E., Del Valle, 512/247-5119
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
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THU JAN 31



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FRI FEB 1



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SAT FEB 2



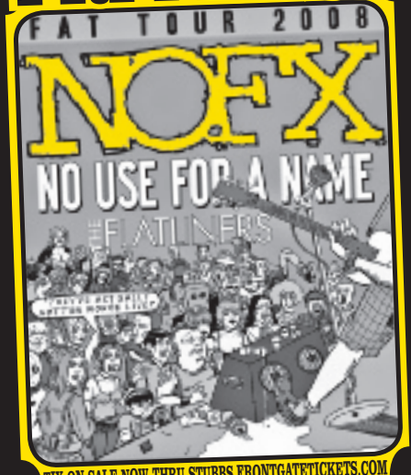
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SAT FEB 23



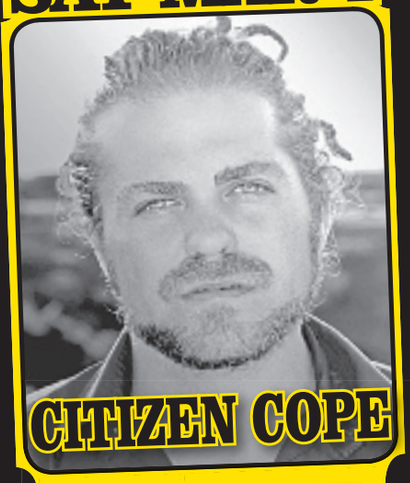
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FRI FEB 29



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SAT MAR 1



SUN MAR 2



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WED MA[illegible]



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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 10
LANGUAGE ROOM
WITH ELIOT FITZGERALD

FRI JAN 11
DREMNT THE END
WITH SPACE CADET
AND EMBER

SAT JAN 12
COLOR AND LIGHT
WITH HOMER HICCOLM
& THE ROCKET BOYS

SUN JAN 13
GOSPEL BRUNCH
WITH
THE DURDENS

THU JAN 17
AN EVENING WITH
COREY SMITH

FRI JAN 18
BACKDOOR SLAM
WITH ELECTRIC TOUCH

TUE JAN 22
FIVE TIMES AUGUST
WITH STEPHEN SPEAKS

WED JAN 23
GRACE POTTER
AND THE NOCTURNALS
[illegible] RANDI SHEARER

[illegible] AN 25
[illegible] ELONELY H
[illegible] HE ALICE ROSE

[illegible] AN 26
COURSE OF RUIN
CD RELEASE PARTY
WITH WITHIN CHAOS
ANGER KILL
AND DEAD EARTH POLITICS

WED JAN 30
JEFF KLEIN
WITH ESKIMO JOE

FRI FEB 8
KEVIN DEVINE
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MUSIC BY THE GREYHOUNDS

SUNDAY JANUARY 13
ALEX COKE
JAZZ LEGEND

FRIDAY JANUARY 18
CADAQUES
LATIN

FRI & SAT 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm

@WESTGATE

THURSDAY JANUARY 10
AZUI
LATIN

SUNDAY JANUARY 13
RUMBULLION
PARIS IN THE 1930'S

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16
RIDGETOP SYNCOPTERS
WESTERN SWINGS

THURSDAY JANUARY 17
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WED & THURS 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 pm

DATES & BANDS:

UPCOMING:

@ CENTRAL PARK:
Jan 19 - FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS
Jan 20 - DJEMBABES
Jan 25 - SUZANNA CHOFFEL
Jan 26 - DONNA HIGHTOWER

@ WESTGATE:
Jan 23 - JIMI LEE BAND
Jan 24 - LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
Jan 27 - CIENFUEGOS
Jan 30 - JEFF LOFTON

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club listings

Thu 10

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S Fever Dreams, Haunting Oboe Music, Black Before Red, White Denim (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny Santos
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess
BOTTICELLI'S Joanna Barbera, Jon Napier
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Azui (6:30)
CLUB 115 Mudphonic & Topaz, Eat a Peach (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49; In the Club: Onion Creek Crawdaddies (6:30), Monstas, Barfield (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
DETOUR BAR & GRILL Johnny Tequila
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Robert Banta, 2 Hoots & a Holler
ELEPHANT ROOM Dylan Meek Trio, Butch Miles' Jazz Express
EMO'S Inside: Bridges & Blinking Lights, Cavedweller, Dazzling King Solomon, Rubble Golden Boys; Lounge: The Story Of, Horse + Donkey, the Boxing Lesson, My Education, Ringo Deathstarr; Outside: Snafu Kitties, Death Is Not a Joyride, the Laughing, Lax, Crash Gallery
EVANGELINE CAFE The Monstas (10:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)
FRANK ERWIN CENTER Sarah Johns, Little Big Town, George Strait (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

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.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is 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**.

roadshows

JANUARY

THU 10
Butch Miles' Jazz Express, Elephant Room
Bridges & Blinking Lights, Emo's
George Strait, **Little Big Town**, **Sarah Johns**, Frank Erwin Center
DeWayn Brothers, Mohawk
Robbie Taylor, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
Agents of Change, **Hoodlum Circus**, Red 7
Rusty Sheriff's Badge, Room 710
Poorman's Sharp Knives, Trophy's

FRI 11
The Lee Boys, Antone's
Shawn Mullins, Cactus Cafe
Dan Deacon, **Ultimate Reality**, Emo's
Matt Wilson, Meow
Splinter Cake, **Boy**, **Chris Paddock**, Natrix Natrix Records
The Roebucks, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
Pickled Punks, **Moral Decline**, **Sofa Kingdom**, Red 7
Benedetto Lupo, Riverbend Centre
Free to Kill Again, Triple Crown
Ledaswan, **Kala**, Trophy's

SAT 12
Junior Brown, Antone's
Shawn Mullins, Cactus Cafe
Havana NRG!, Clay Pit
The Iguanas, Continental Club
The Roebucks, Ego's
Long Shadows, **Trigger Renegade**, **Bear Claw**, Emo's
Sofa Kingdom, **Written Off**, Headhunters
Sons of Perdition, Hole in the Wall
Leatherhand, Latitude 30
Transona Five, **the Theater Fire**, Mohawk
Possessed by Paul James, the Oaks
Flatfoot 56, **Last Hope**, Red 7
Benedetto Lupo, Riverbend Centre
Kill the Client, **Pretty Little Flower**, **50/50**, Room 710
Dr. Zoom, Trophy's
Bob Cheevers, Waterloo Ice House

SUN 13
Andrew Jackson Jihad, **Parkway Wretch**, Headhunters
Bill Isles, **Jan Seides**, Java Lounge at Austin Java
The Poison Control Center, **Fishboy**, Mohawk
President Kennedy Is Assassinated, **Carriers**, **Jenken**, Red 7

MON 14
Cadillac Sky, Saxon Pub

TUE 15
Dikes of Holland, Beerland
Jonathan Byrd, **Jess Klein**, Cactus Cafe
Toni Price, Continental Club
Gallows, **Cancer Bats**, **This Is Hell**, Emo's
As I Lay Dying, **August Burns Red**, **Evergreen Terrace**, **Still Remains**, La Zona Rosa
Emily Herring, Triple Crown

WED 16
Estrogen Highs, Beerland
Grabass Charlestons, **the Tim Version**, **Brickfight**, Headhunters
The Last Starfighter, **BTWR**, **Pack of Wolves**, **WAKWAT**, Red 7
River City Ramblers, Riley's Tavern
Vinyl Dharma, Triple Crown

THU 17
Adrian Legg, Cactus Cafe
Dimitri's Ascent, **Sleep & Zellyrock**, Flamingo Cantina
Whiskey Throttle, Lamberts
Matt Wilson, Meow
Six Organs of Admittance, Mohawk
The 71's, Momo's
David Olney, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill
Under the Gun, **Murder Majesty**, Red 7
Corey Smith, Stubb's

for your benefit

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

FRI 11
Jennifer Marchand Medical Benefit w/ Paul Minor, Jade Day, Tony Scalzo, Carolyn Wonderland, the Murdocks, Ralph White, Summer Wardrobe, the Alice Rose, Chili Cold Blood, Amplified Heat, **Ruta Maya**

SAT 12
Jimmie Hill Benefit w/ Jeff Banks, Nasty Nathan, Brandon Raines, Derek Murphy, Carson Alexander, George Devore, **Hanover's**
Benefit for a Friend w/ Fastball, the Resentments, Hayes Carll, Bob Schneider, Stephen Bruton, **Momo's**

TUE 15
Shotgun Party **Caritas Benefit, Continental Club**

THU 17
MonkeyWrench Benefit w/ Steve Arceri, Wax Museum Pandemonium, Canopy, the Carnies, **Carousel Lounge**

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

ART BY MICHAEL NORRIS

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PARIS '49

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MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO

MONDAY • 10PM
CRY BEAR

TUESDAY • 10:30PM
EPHRAIM OWENS

WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

THURS JAN 10
HAPPY HOUR
ONION CREEK SAWDADDIES





12AM
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS

MON JAN 14
HAPPY HOUR PARIS '49



12AM
BARFIELD
TYRANT OF TX FUNK



TUESDAY JAN 15
HAPPY HOUR 6:30
TONI PRICE



THE MONSTAS



12AM
DAVID GARZA
Alejandro Escovedo



10PM

FRIDAY JAN 11
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS





12AM
THE DERAILERS

WEDNESDAY JAN 16
H.H. SHOTGUN PARTY
JAMES McMURTRY



12AM



10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM

THURSDAY JAN 17
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM
MOTHER TRUCKERS
TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
ZAPATA



10PM
TEXAS SAPPHIRES

SATURDAY JAN 12
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT



12AM
THE IGUANAS

FRIDAY JAN 18
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
12AM JESSE DAYTON
10PM TWO TONS OF STEEL

SATURDAY JAN 19
MATINEE 3-7PM REDD VOLKAERT
12AM BIG SAM'S FUNKY NATION
10PM BLACK JOE LEWIS AND THE HONEYBEARS



10PM
MARIO MATTEOLI

SUNDAY JAN 13
WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL

HEYBALE 10PM

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THURSDAY JANUARY 10 / $5
WILL SEXTON 8
11 FINGERED CHARLIE 10
MUCH LOVE 12

FRIDAY JANUARY 11
SETH WALKER 9:30
T-BIRD & THE BREAKS 12
JEREMY NAIL 8
TYLER JORDAN FREE HAPPY HR 6-7:30PM

SATURDAY JANUARY 12 / $15
Benefit for a Friend
BOB SCHNEIDER
STEPHEN BRUTON
FASTBALL
HAYES CARLL
THE RESENTMENTS
VISIT BENDSTUDIO.COM FOR TIX INFO

SUNDAY JANUARY 13
WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30-12
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 8
MICHAEL DART 6:30

MONDAY JANUARY 14
DUSTIN WELCH & THE HOUSE BAND 10:15
JEFF PLANKENHORN 11:45
BUKKA ALLEN 9
NATHAN HUBBLE
HAPPY HR 5:45-6:45PM / $2 DOMESTICS $3 WELLS TIL 8PM

TUESDAY JANUARY 15
CHARLIE FAYE 10:45
DANA FALCONBERRY 12
JOANNA BARBERA 9:30
LA TAMPIQUENA & SAHARA SMITH 7

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16 / $5
DAN DYER 9:30
JEREMY NAIL 10:45
MARCUS ELDRIDGE 8
CD RELEASE PARTY
JO CAROL PIERCE HAPPY HOUR 6-7:30

UPCOMING SHOWS
GINGER LEIGH 01/18
THE Heathens 01/19 DVD RELEASE

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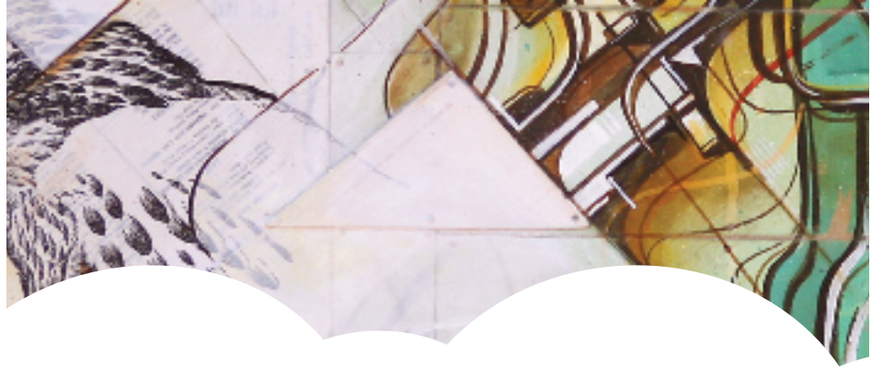
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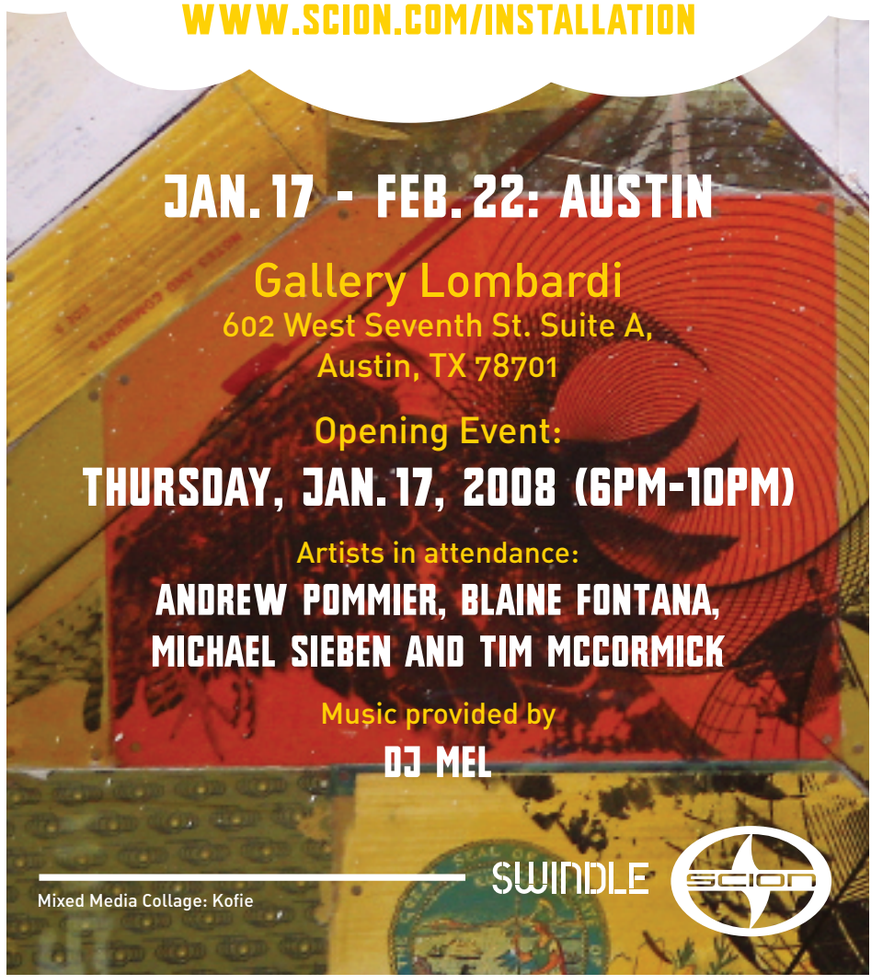
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KELSEY BROOKES - KENTON PARKER - KOFIE - THE LONDON POLICE
MEL KADEL - MICHAEL SIEBEN - MIKE GIANT - R. GRIMES
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ANDREW POMMIER, BLAINE FONTANA,
MICHAEL SIEBEN AND TIM MCCORMICK

Music provided by
DJ MEL

Mixed Media Collage: Kofie

SWINDLE SCION

club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Adam Carroll, Owen Temple (6:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Hugh Fadal Band
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HILL'S CAFE Phil Wiseman (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Stayton Bonner, James Bullard, No Show Ponies (9:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Bees Knees Revue (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Breezy
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Nuveau (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MOHAWK Ryan Perrey, Danny Malone, DeWayn Brothers
MOMO'S Will Sexton, 11-Fingered Charlie, Much Love
THE OAKS Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, Jimmy Butler (7:00)
ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)
THE PARLOR The Bill Jeffreys
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Robbie Taylor (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Porterdavis
RED 7 Inside: Jesus Causes Cancer, Comanche Abortion, Hoodlum Circus; Outside: Agents of Change, Heroes, Word Association
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Nate Lange
THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip
ROOM 710 The Nematoads, Rusty Sheriff's Badge, Shootin' Pains, Zero Skills
RUTA MAYA Meagan Tubb & Shady People (7:00)
SAXON PUB Denim, Carolyn Wonderland, Bruce Smith, Uncle Lucius (6:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SPEAKEASY Subrosa Union (9:30)
STUBB'S Eliot Fitzgerald, Language Room
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Brandon Raines, Carson Alexander
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Lucky Strikes (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Mochate
TROPHY'S Plutonium Farmers, Poorman's Sharp Knives, the F & the C, Diamondhead
Z'TEJAS Señor Gato (6:00)

Fri 11

311 CLUB George Rarey, Joe Valentine (8:30)
AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANTONE'S The Lee Boys
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Patterson Barrett
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Randy Weeks
BEERLAND Shapes Have Fangs, Diagonals, Faceless Werewolves, Basic
THE BELMONT Jack Roe Combo (9:00)

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BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BOTTICELLI'S About: Blank
'BOUT TIME DJ Element
BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson
CACTUS CAFE Shawn Mullins (8:30)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Unfortunate Heads
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Paula Nelson (6:30)
CLUB 21 Sam Bentley Band (8:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Texas Sapphires, the Derailers (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Southbound (8:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE DJ Orion
DETOUR BAR & GRILL Tim & the Time Bombs
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Abra Moore (8:00)
EGO'S Yarmigos, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Bill Jerram
ELEPHANT ROOM George Carver Trio, Elias Hanslanger Quintet
EMO'S Lounge: The Banner Year, Killer Crocs of Uganda, She Craves, Steamroller; Inside: When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Ultimate Reality, Dan Deacon
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Hilary York (9:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (7:30)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (6:30)
HANOVER'S Low Rent, Eric Tessmer Band
HEADHUNTERS Big Bad Love, Head Panic, Enemy of Mankind, the Homicides
HILL'S CAFE John Burkland & Chris Morris (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Pataphysics, Horse + Donkey, Dazzling King Solomon Band
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Matt Maye (7:00)
JOVITA'S Sumner Erickson & the Texcentrics, Mandy Mercier (7:30)



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with Jimmy Butler

Friday, January 11 • 8pm
Joel Hoffman (CD release)

Saturday, January 12 • 8pm
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possessed by
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FRIDAY JANUARY 11 • 10PM • $5
THE MONSTAS
SEE THEM UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

MONDAY JANUARY 14 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX

TUESDAY JANUARY 15
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER
& GREG ANDERSON 8PM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16 • 7PM
CHARLIE IRWIN & FRIENDS

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LOUNGE: RINGO DEATHSTARR
MY EDUCATION • THE BOXING LESSON
HORSE + DONKEY • THE STORY OF
INSIDE: RUBBLE • DAZZLING KING SOLOMON
CAVEDWELLER • BRIDGES AND BLINKING LIGHTS
OUTSIDE: CRASH GALLERY • LAX
THE LAUGHING • DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE • SNAFU KITTIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
INSIDE:

DAN DEACON
ULTIMATE REALITY
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH
INSIDE: ROCK SHOW PROMOTIONS PRESENTS
STEAMROLLER • SHE CRAVES
KILLER CROSS OF UGANDA • D.E.M.O.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
LOUNGE: LONGSHADOWS
GARY NEWCOMB TRIO • TRANSGRESSORS
OUTSIDE:


TRIGGER RENEGADE • THE ROLLER
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
INSIDE: YELLOW FEVER
MUTATING MELTDOWN • THE HUNNIES • BEAR CLAW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

GALLOWS
THIS IS HELL
CANCER BATS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17
LOUNGE: MICE AND RIFLES
LEATHERBAG • FRANK SMITH
INSIDE: FRONTIER BROTHERS • ABBY BIRDS
CHRIS MCFARLAND • TED HADJI AND THE WHOLLY GHOSTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18
INSIDE:

TWO TON BOA (DUETS)
RED LEAVES • RED X RED M
LOUNGE: WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
DUSTIN WELCH • SHOTGUN PARTY
EARLY IN THE LOUNGE:
PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19
INSIDE: MEGON FEST!
CRIMINAL DAMAGE
(MEMBERS OF TRAGEDY)
THE MARKED MEN • THE HEX DISPENSERS
DESKONOCIDOS
OUTSIDE:

LES SAVY FAV
FATAL FLYING GUILLOTEENS • ATTACK FORMATION
EARLY IN THE LOUNGE:
PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK
LOUNGE:
SHARON TATE'S BABY • RED LIGHT LOVE
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS • TBA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20
INSIDE: NASHVILLE PUSSY
GRADY • BLACK EARTH

MONDAY, JANUARY 21
LOUNGE: EUGENE ROBINSON
(SINGER OF OXBOW) SPOKEN WORD
ANTHONY ROMERO • LOREN DENT

INSIDE:
HOWL • ST. JUDE
CANYON OF THE SKULL • TBA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22
INSIDE: YEASAYER • MGMT • THE LAUGHING
OUTSIDE:
HOT 93.3 PRESENTS
LUPE FIASCO


THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

WHITE WILLIAMS

COMING SOON:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2
OUTSIDE:

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
HOLY FUCK
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
OUTSIDE,
DOORS @ 9PM:
101X PRESENTS:
THE BRAVERY

SWITCHES
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

COMING SOON: 1/25 SOLE • 2/1 BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH, WESTBOUND TRAIN, BEAT UNION (IN, ON SALE NOW)
• 2/10 BLACK MOUNTAIN AND DEAD MEADOW W/ BLOOD ON THE WALL (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW)
• 2/14 SHERWOOD, THE MATCHES, THE HIGHER, WE SHOT THE MOON (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 2/16 METEORS • 2/22 COBRA STARSHIP, METRO STATION, WE THE KINGS, THE CAB (MOVED OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/23 AIDEN • 2/23 BLACK LIPS, WHITE DENIM (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 3/4 THE BLACK SWANS • 3/7 BEACH HOUSE, PAPERCUTS (LOUNGE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/8 SILVERSTEIN, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • 3/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 3/27 THE DIRTBOMBS W/ KELLEY STOLTZ (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/4 RJD2 (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/27 CARIBOU W/ FUCK BUTTONS (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 5/17 NEW BOMB TURKS / QUADRAJETS

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records, end of an ear records, & sound on sound records

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FRI 1/11 LOW RENT 7:30PM
ERIC TESSMER 10PM

SAT 1/12 BENEFIT JIMMY HILL
FEATURING: DEREK MURPHY, BRANDON RAINES, NASTY NATHAN, JEFF BANKS BAND, CARSON ALEXANDER, GEORGE DEVORE
NO COVER SHOW STARTS AT 6PM

SUN 1/13 FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

TUE 1/15 KEVIN HAVRON 8:30PM

WED 1/16 OPEN MIC WITH ARMADILLO ACTION FIGURES 8PM

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Friday 01.11.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
SIX PACK DEEP
CHANNEL ONE, ECHOSQUAD
THE RASPAS, HEART&SOUL SNDSYSTM

Saturday 01.12.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
RIVAL CITY
BOMBASTA, JOJO'S BAD APPLES

Wednesday 01.16.08 Doors 8:30, Show 9:00
GOOD VIBES WEDENSDAY
INDOFIN and TRI OPUS
BENNY VS THE BEAST AND MORE!

Thursday 01.17.08 Doors 8:30, Show 9:30
DIMITRI'S ASCENT
SLEEP & ZELLY ROCK CD RELEASE
MERIDIAN PRIME CD RELEASE
DJ SHOESTRINGS & EMCEE CALI ZACK

UPCOMING SHOWS:
01.18: Felipe Gelsen Y Sus Skarnales, Boca Abajo, Sulfrosa Union
01.19: Mr. Brown&Dubkids, Full Service CD Release, Little Brian
01.20: VUK CELEBRATION Grimy Styles, PPT, Beau Bleiker, Zeale 32
01.21: Ari Hoenig 'Punk Bop' Trio, Smarty Puppy
01.24: Damp Hoist, MouseAbout, Drivelt Like You Scelelt, Squidley
01.25/26: The Steelers Join us For TWO Soulful Nights!

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club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Kat Edmonson (6:30), David Israel, Balmorhea, the Mediums (10:30)
LIGHT BAR Meagan Tubb & Shady People (10:00)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Li'l Steph & the Chromatics, Stone Free
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Primm (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MEOW Matt Wilson (9:00)
MOHAWK Pepperonis, the Koreans, I Kill Cars, Black Panda
MOMO'S Tyler Jordan, Jeremy Nail, Seth Walker, T-Bird & the Breaks
NATRIX NATRIX RECORDS Chris Paddock, Boy, Splinter Cake, Whitman
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol Karaoke
THE OAKS Joel Hofmann CD Release (8:00)
ONE 2 ONE BAR Henry Roland One-Man Band
THE PARLOR Seven Black Tornadoes, Walabama, Wallmart (8:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE The Roebucks (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues (9:00)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED 7 Sofa Kingdom, 13th Victim, Moral Decline, Pickled Punks
RED FEZ An Arabian Night, DJ Inverse (8:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Opie Hendrix & the Texas Tallboys
RIVERBEND CENTRE Benedetto Lupo w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)
THE ROCK ROOM The Detentions, Wesley Lundsford (5:00)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 The Sanguinistas, Every Other Fate, Abby Birds, Muchos Backflips!, Opposite Day
RUTA MAYA Jennifer Marchand Medical Benefit w/ Ralph White, Jade Day, Carolyn Wonderland, Paul Minor, Tony Scalzo, the Murdocks, Summer Wardrobe, the Alice Rose, Chili Cold Blood, Amplified Heat (7:30)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Omar & the Howlers, Shelley King (9:00)
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Bunkhaus Showcase w/ Carrie Clark, Scott Adair, Foot Foot (10:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Jukebox Heroes (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Sprung (9:30)
STUBB'S Space Cadet, Ember, Dremnt the End
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Brandon Raines & Cora
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Los Gallos, Flash Boys, Free to Kill Again, Rogers Porn Collection
TROPHY'S Kala, Ledaswan, the Unbearables, Alexander's Dark Band
THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Karaoke w/ Jonn
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ruby Jane Smith (7:00)

Sat 12

311 CLUB Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S American Graveyard, Junior Brown
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jim Stringer
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Grass Onions (10:00am)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Venson & Lee
THE BELMONT Cienfuegos (9:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Shawn Mullins (7:00, 10:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE ML Frank
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Bill Stidham (6:30)
CLAY PIT Havana NRG! (11:00)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Darrin Kobetich & Eric Christopher (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), Mario Matteoli, the Iguanas (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Smokin' Gun (9:00)
DETOUR BAR & GRILL Unnamed Band
DONN'S DEPOT Nash Hernandez Orchestra
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
EGO'S Black Market Revival, Eric Hisaw, the Roebucks
ELEPHANT ROOM Flyjack (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather (10:30)
EMO'S Inside: Bear Claw, the Hunnies, Yellow Fever; Outside: The Roller, Trigger Renegade, the Sword; Lounge: Gary Newcomb Trio, Transgressors, Long Shadows
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Colin Gilmore (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Daniel Cioper (9:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00), James Hand (9:00)
GRUENE HALL White Ghost Shivers (1:00), the Gourds (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Erin Jaimes (6:30)
HANOVER'S Jimmie Hill Benefit w/ Jeff Banks, Nasty Nathan, Brandon Raines, Derek Murphy, Carson Alexander, George Devore (6:00)
HEADHUNTERS Written Off, Sofa Kingdom
HILL'S CAFE Nigel Edison (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL KAOS Radio Benefit w/ Lonesome Heroes, the Down Here Band, Frank Smith, Sons of Perdition, McMercy Family Gospel Band (8:00)
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Kathleen Taylor (7:00)
JOVITA'S Melancholy Ramblers, Jake Andrews (7:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band, Topaz (6:30)
LATITUDE 30 Leatherhand (9:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Adam McInnis (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey's Blues Happy Hour (6:00)
MEOW Kenny Luna (9:00)
MOHAWK The Bronze Age, All in the Golden Afternoon, the Theater Fire, Transona Five
MOMO'S Benefit for a Friend w/ Fastball, the Resentments, Hayes Carll, Bob Schneider, Stephen Bruton (8:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Ernesto Marquez (6:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Randy Weeks
THE OAKS Scott H. Biram, Possessed by Paul James (5:00)
ONE 2 ONE BAR Derrick Davis (10:00)
THE PARLOR Fever Dreams
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE The Eggmen (7:00)
PLUSH Table Manners Crew (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Doug Warriner, Josh Allen & the Whiskey Bros.
RED 7 Sore Losers, the Anchor, Capital Scam, Last Hope, Flatfoot 56, Brewtality Inc.
RED FEZ I Need More Cowbell, DJ Kurv (8:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash
RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S Becca & the Troublemakers (8:00)
RIVERBEND CENTRE Benedetto Lupo w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)
THE ROCK ROOM Boogie Monsters (9:00)
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
ROOM 710 50/50, Pretty Little Flower, Kill the Client
RUTA MAYA Cranes of the Republic (6:00), Funky Formal w/ BobKats, Michael Shay Band (9:30)
SAXON PUB W.C. Clark, the Monstas (8:00)
SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jeremy Miller
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Black Water Gospel, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five
TROPHY'S Easy Pills, Sheboygan, Dans la Lune, Dr. Zoom, the Sultans
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Bob Cheevers (7:00)

Sun 13

ANTONE'S Bruce Smith (8:00)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Joe Gee (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BEERLAND Late Night w/ Comanche Abortion
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Alex Coke (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Rumbullion (12:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (8:00), *Marathon* w/ Jesse Sublett & Darden Smith (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

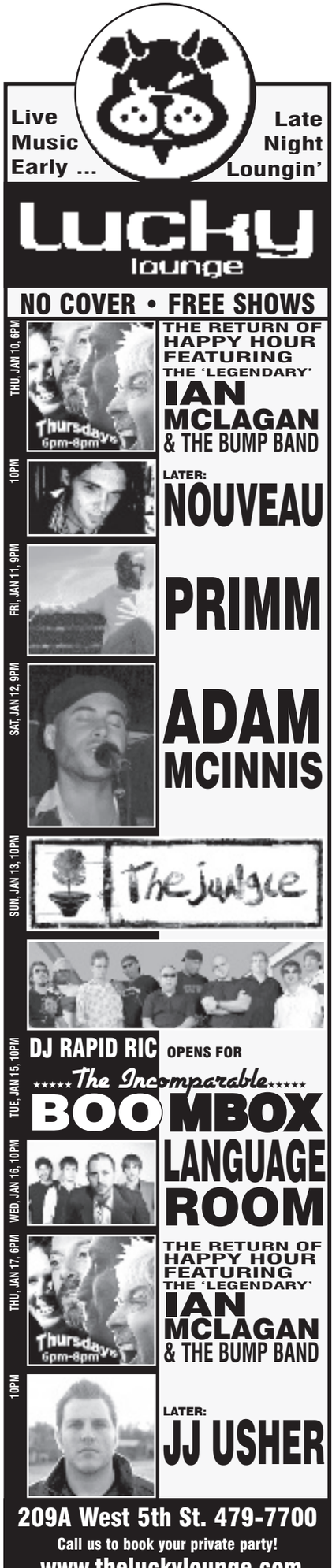
EARACHE! MUSIC BLOG

Girlie Action's stamp of approval:

"The best reason to see Robbie Taylor at any or all of his three shows this week is that in 1982 he serenaded me with Buddy Holly songs while standing in the middle of a deserted Hill Country road at 5am outside Junction."

- Margaret Moser





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WEDNESDAYS 7PM
PTARMIGAN



club listings ◂◂ FROM SUNDAY

EGO'S Mallory Valentine, Horse Operas, Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM John Fremgen Trio w/ Kat Edmonson (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Andrea Campise (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Dialtones (8:00)
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
GRUENE HALL Matt the Electrician (noon), Jesse Dayton (4:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR The Monstas (3:00)
HEADHUNTERS Parkway Wretch, Saw Wheel, Tagalongs, Andrew Jackson Jihad, Capitalist Kids, O Pioneers!
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Jan Seides & Bill Isles (7:00)
JOVITA'S Aftermath (5:00)
LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Red Young, J.J. Johnson (6:30)
LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Angelo Lambesis (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE The Jungle (10:00)
MANUEL'S Estrella Acosta Latin Trio (11:30am)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)
MOHAWK Fishboy, the Poison Control Center, Peel
MOMO'S Michael Dart, Marshall Ford Swing Band, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Strong Medicine (noon)
NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
THE OASIS The Brew
THE PARLOR Rage Against the Doo
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED 7 Jenken, Carriers, President Kennedy Is Assassinated
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen
THE ROCK ROOM Open Mic w/ Brandon Raines (6:30)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Mercyy
RUTA MAYA Bus Stop Stallions, D-Madness, MCO Band
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Sarah Guzman & Joel Fox, Leeann Atherton (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Michelle
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Gospel Brunch w/ LZ Love (11:00am), Austin Friends of Traditional Music (2:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
TROPHY'S Azoustin
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Aubrey Slackey (7:00)

FREE GUITAR CLINICS
SLIDE GUITAR w/ GEOFF HARTWELL
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Mon 14

ANTONE'S T-Bird & the Breaks (7:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Rhino Room (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs
THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess, Upstairs: Aaron Navarro
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Crybear (10:00); In the Club: Paris 49, Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (6:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Open Stage w/ Robert Banta
ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Andrew Sherman, David Ohlerking (10:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading
HOLE IN THE WALL Landis Armstrong's Guilty Pleasures (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
HYDE PARK THEATRE Eddy Hobizal (7:30)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
MOMO'S Jon Napier, Bukka Allen, Dustin Welch

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Th 10	RC Banks 6pm Móchate - *Salsa Night* 9pm
Fr 11	Los Gallos 6pm Rogers Porn Collection, Free To Kill Again, Flash Boys 9pm
Sa 12	Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five, Winter Dance Party, Black Water Revival 10pm
Su 13	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 14	Bob King 6pm Doomsday Device 10pm
Tu 15	Emily Herring 6pm San Marcos River Rat Brass Band 9pm
We 16	Leo Rondeau 6pm Falcon Buddies, Vinyl Dharma, Spooky TX 9pm
Th 17	Joel Hofmann Band 6pm Silver Pines, Clay Nightingale 9pm
Fr 18	Highly Likely 6pm Kallisti Gold, Spank 9pm
Sa 19	Enemy of Mankind, Ethereal Architect, Ruins of Honor, Hor 9pm

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thu 1/24/08
+ THE JOHNS, ORANGE, CAREER CRIMINAL
@ RED 7

coming soon:

2/6 Nina Nastasia [Hawk] • 2/9 Will Johnson (Centromatic) [Hawk] • 2/16 Liars/ No Age/ Cex [Hawk] • 2/21 Baby Dee [Lambert's] • 2/23 Spectrum (Sonic Boom/Spacemen 3) [Hawk] • 2/26 Joe Lally (Fugazi) [Hawk] • 2/28 Leslie and Ly's [Beauty Bar] • 3/1 108 [Red 7] • 3/2 Dr. Know [Red 7] • 3/28 Dengue Fever [Deville] • 3/28 Fleshtones [Hawk] • 3/29 Fu Manchu [Hawk] • 3/29 Unseen [Red 7] • 4/5 Xiu Xiu [Hawk] • 4/17 Dirty Projectors [Hawk]

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LOUNGE & GRILL

Thu, Jan 10 TRES 6PM
CASEY McPHERSON 9:30PM
JOHNNY GOUDIE 10:30PM

Fri, Jan 11 ROBERT JOHNSON'S SOUL VALLEJO 10PM
TIX ON SALE AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

Sat, Jan 12 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE
THE WILL EVANS PROJECT 10PM
THE SOLDIERS THREAD 11PM
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6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE

Tue, Jan 15 PIANO BAR
$3 YOU CALL IT

Wed, Jan 16 CAMERON ROAD
BRIAN HANKINS &
BREWER NATION 9PM

Thu, Jan 17 TRES (LATIN JAZZ) 6PM
PRIDE & JOY 10PM

Fri, Jan 18 DAN QUINN ACOUSTIC SET 6PM
LC ROCKS 10PM

Sat, Jan 19 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE
$200 CASH PRIZE
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1/18 ZACH WALTHERS
1/19 GARY P. NUNN

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NIGHTLY MUSIC

THURSDAY
Twilight Broadcast 8:00-10:00
The Weekend Warm-Up 10:30-2:00
FRIDAY
An Arabian Night 8:00-11:00
DJ In/Verse 11:00-2:00
SATURDAY
I Need More Cow Bell 8:00-10:00
DJ Kurv 10:00-2:00
SUNDAY
DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00
MONDAY
DJ Jeff Jupiter 10:00-2:00
TUESDAY
Bruce James Quartet 8:00-10:00
Twist Up w/DJ Manny 10:00-2:00
WEDNESDAY
Atash 10:00-12:00

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THURSDAY, JAN 10 SUBROSA UNION 9:30PM
FRIDAY, JAN 11 SPRUNG 9:30PM
SATURDAY, JAN 12 LC ROCKS 9:30PM
MONDAY, JAN 14 *S.I.N.* JONATHAN TERRELL ON TERRACE 59
TUESDAY, JAN 15 "BLACKTOOTH" TUESDAYS
WEDNESDAY, JAN 16 *LATIN WEDNESDAY* THE BREW 9:30PM SALSA LESSONS 9PM

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Friday, January 11
JOHNNY DEE & THE ROCKET 88s
Saturday, January 12
JOSH ALLEN & THE WHISKY BROTHERS
DOUG WARRINER
OPENER
Thursday, January 17
DAVID OLNEY
Friday, January 18
SHELLEY KING
Saturday, January 19
MARY CUTRUFELLO
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WAX ON WEDNESDAYS!
1/16: KID & BUTCHER BEAR
1/23: ADAN/EXCEED/DAVEED
1/30: URSULA1000
2/6: SIRJACKSON/JOE/BASSJUNKIE
Navdo Presents:
Future Clouds and Radar
w/The Boxing Lesson,
The Breathers, & Hollywood Gossip
BROTHERS & SISTERS
w/The Strange Attractors,
Ripe, & The Golden Boys
ROUGE WAVE
W/ MIDNIGHT MOVIES
Pharoahe Monch
w/ Orgone and DJ Eleven
1/29: GRAM RABBIT & DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE 1/31: SUNSET (BILL BAIRD FROM SOUND TEAM), THE DRAWING BOARD & THE MERCERS
2/1: LOTUS (MOVED FROM CLUB 115)
2/7: JABARVY/GRIMYSTYLES/MOVING MATTER/ODOS 2/9: REIVERS
REUNION 2/14: BURLESQUE OVER BROADWAY 2/15: GOVINDA/CARMEN RIZZO 2/21: KANKO/GOLEM
2/23: BRAND NUBIAN
W/CONNIE PRICE & THE KEYSTONES
2/29: STATE RADIO
3/1: OUTFORMATION
Send all booking inquiries for ROUX and the PARISH to:
booking@theparishroom.com

club listings ◂◂ FROM MONDAY

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (10:30)
THE PARLOR Loy Bones
PLUSH I Am Like Dogs, Aurora Plastics Company, Television Ends, Xathax
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Blue Monday w/ Willie Sampson (8:00)
RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Breck's Open Blues Jam (8:30)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, James Bullard, Cadillac Sky (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Lee Duffy, Joe Manuel, Warren Hood, Floyd Domino, Marvin Dykhuis (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Bob King, Doomsday Device

Tue 15

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Station, Diasporic (8:30)
ANTONE'S Josh Allen & the Whiskey Boys (10:30), Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (11:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BEERLAND Dikes of Holland, Smile Says Hello, Cellar Door, Sweet Lee Morrow
THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega
BOTTICELLI'S Brian Carey
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow's Hardcore Country Band, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (8:00)
CACTUS CAFE Jess Klein, Jonathan Byrd
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)
EGO'S Bonnie Holmes, Suzanne Sherwin
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Longoria's Los Impossibles (9:30)
ELYSIUM 90's Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EMO'S This Is Hell, Cancer Bats, Gallows
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Kevin Gallaugher, Greg Anderson (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits (7:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ Barfield, the Tyrant (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HANOVER'S Kevin Havron, Jay Dirks (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Bruh, Josh Halverson
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE SingerSlashSongwriter Open Mic Night w/ Chase Holbrook (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice
HOLE IN THE WALL Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S Mo Pair, Success on Saturday (6:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Still Remains, Evergreen Terrace, August Burns Red, As I Lay Dying (7:30)
LAMBERTS Jitterbug Vipers (6:30)
LANIER HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (2:15)
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)
MCCALLUM HIGH SCHOOL THEATER Austin Symphony Orchestra (10:15am)
MOMO'S Sahara Smith, La Tampiquena, Joanna Barbera, Charlie Faye, Dana Falconberry, Drew Smith
THE PARLOR Monster Sleeps Quiet
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
RED 7 In the Company of Wolves, Earth Eater, Falsetta, the Harlots, Destroyer Destroyer
RED FEZ Bruce James Quartet, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Dance Lessons w/ Li'l Bit & the Customatics, Takin' Back Texas (9:00)
ROOM 710 Stickfigure Flowers
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Attic Ted, ECFA CD Release
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)
SAXON PUB Julieann Banks, Phil Brown, Bruce Hughes, Deadly Viper Assassins
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Hilary York, Aimee Bobruk (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Emily Herring, River Rat Brass Band
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (7:00)
Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

Wed 16

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)
311 CLUB Open Mic w/ Stephanie Bradley (8:30)
ANTONE'S Eric Tessmer Band (9:00)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove & the Roadrunners
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Ethan Azarian, Fence Monsters, Estrogen Highs, Black Panda
THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega, Upstairs: Curtis Grimes
BOTTICELLI'S Sarah Sharp
BROKEN SPOKE Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers
CACTUS CAFE Tenlons Fort (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Austin Collins, Graham Weber, Leatherbag
CEDAR STREET John Pointer, the Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Mark Rubin's Ridgetop Syncopators (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party Caritas Benefit, Jon Dee Graham, Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash (10:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)
CROCKETT HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (1:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)
EGO'S Ego's Trip w/ Red Line Riot
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Monster Big Band (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister
EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie Irwin
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Michael Fracasso Piano Hour, Nathan Hamilton, Kevin Carroll (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Avogadros, the Dirty Sound (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Zach Walther & the Cronkites (6:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)
HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Armadillo Action Figures
HEADHUNTERS Brickfight, the Anchor, Party Garbage, the Tim Version, Grabass Charlestons
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Tyler Jordan (9:30)
HILL'S CAFE Stuart Mann
HOLE IN THE WALL Steelextravaganza w/ Combo Mahalo, Friends of Dean Martinez, Gary Newcomb Trio, Lonesome Heroes
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JOVITA'S The Johns, Teddy Long (6:30)
LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen's Gypsy Tribe (6:30), DJ Orion (10:30)
LANIER HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (9:30am)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Language Room (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MOMO'S Travis Damron, Marcus Eldridge CD Release, Dan Dyer, Jeremy Nail
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
THE PARLOR Hao Chiang Chiang
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser

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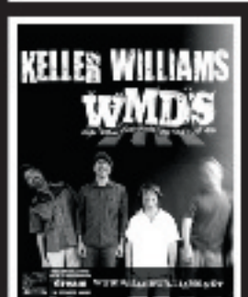
TUE JAN 15



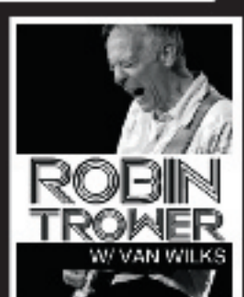
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SAT JAN 26



SUN JAN 27



THU JAN 31



SUN FEB 3



WED FEB 13



SAT FEB 16

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WED, JAN 16 MISS LESLIE & THE JUKE JOINTERS

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club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED 7 WAKWAT, Pack of Wolves, BTWR, Consider the Source, the Last Starfighter
RED EYED FLY Gravelwhip, 86 the Sun, Woodshed Diaries
RED FEZ Atash (9:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN River City Ramblers
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.
ROOM 710 A Secular End, ID
RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
SAXON PUB Hans Frank & the Auslanders, Paula Nelson, Meagan Tubb
SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Leo Rondeau, Spooky Texas, Vinyl Dharma, Falcon Buddies
TROPHY'S Paul Banks, Ramsey Midwood, the Banes, Dirty Union Band
VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter

Thu 17

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)
ANTONE'S Mother's Anthem (9:00)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Stephanie Bradley
BEAUTY BAR Moustache Party w/ DJ Orion, Black & White Years
BEERLAND The Jungle Rockers, Golden Boys, South Filthy
THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Ben Burgess
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CACTUS CAFE Adrian Legg (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE MonkeyWrench Benefit w/ Steve Arceri, Wax Museum Pandemonium, Canopy, the Carnies (8:00)
CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49; In the Club: Mother Truckers, Zapata, Barfield (6:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Robert Banta, 2 Hoots & a Holler
ELEPHANT ROOM Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites, Torch (6:00)
EMO'S Lounge: Frank Smith, Mice & Rifles, Leatherbag; Inside: Chris McFarland, Abby Birds, Frontier Brothers
EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sleep & Zellyrock, Dimitri's Ascent
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Gurf Morlix & Sam Baker (6:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Brian Kremer (9:15)
HILL'S CAFE Ryan James
HOLE IN THE WALL Puff Puff & the Receivers, Darling New Neighbors (10:00)
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Third Coast Songwriters Showcase w/ Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Cleve & Sweet Mary, Kim Deschamps, Melissa Greener (7:00)
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Whiskey Throttle, Trashrocks (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Breezy
LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)
LOVEJOYS The Nortons (10:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)
MEOW Matt Wilson (9:00)
MOHAWK My Education, Headdress, Six Organs of Admittance
MOMO'S Jeff Plankenhorn, Bukka Allen, the 71's
ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL David Olney
RED 7 Expiration Unknown, Given a Chance, Murder Majesty, Buzzkillers, Heymaker 3, Under the Gun
RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Skeletons
THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip
ROOM 710 Doug Morrison, Snakeskin Prison, Sweet Skull, Sabbath Crow
RUTA MAYA Meagan Tubb & Shady People, Spank
SAXON PUB Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Gordy Quist
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.
SPEAKEASY Lucascookus (9:30)
STUBB'S Corey Smith
T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann, Clay Nightingale, Silver Pines
TROPHY'S Las Damas, the Shrieks, Code Named Code
VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS Band of Heathens (5:00)
Z'TEJAS George Carver Trio (9:30)

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

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SUN 1/13 > THE PARTY'S OVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: O PIONEERS, THE CAPITALIST KIDS, ANDREW JACKSON JIHAD, THE TAGALONGS, SAW WHEEL • TUE 1/15 > JOSH HALVERSON, BRUH
WED 1/16 > THE PARTY'S OVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: THE TIM VERSION (NO IDEA RECORDS), GRABASS CHARLESTONS, BRICKFIGHT, PARTY GARBAGE, THE ANCHOR
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FRI 1/18 - DEVOLA, DIRTY PENNY, BUTCHERWHITE, EDEN BURNING
SAT 1/19 - THE FLAMING HELLCATS, SUBCULTURE SMASH PART 11, PICKLED PUNKS, THE DEMENTERS
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sa 12 Ruby & Trixi's 70th Birthday Party singing, dancing, and you're invited!
su 13 Late Night with Comanche Abortion--interviews w/ Graham Williams, Jared 7, cooking demonstration by Hot Dog King, comedy by Trey Galyon & Ethan- Master of the Hawaiian Uke
mo 14 Karaoke @9pm--John Chapman hosting over 1000 songs! no cover
tu 15 Sweet Lee Morrow, Cellar Door, Smile Says Hello, Dikes of Holland
we 16 Black Panda, Estrogen Highs, Fence Monster, Ethan Azaria
th 17 Jungle Rockers, South Filthy, Golden Boys
fr 18 Megonfest! MOTO, Manikin, Young
sa 19 Johnny Hootrock, Homer Henderson, Whiskey Throttle, Hotrod Hillbillies
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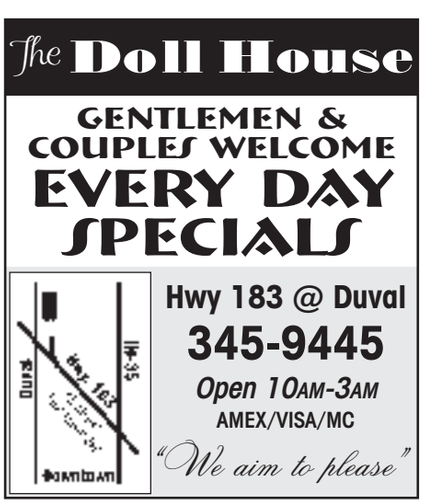
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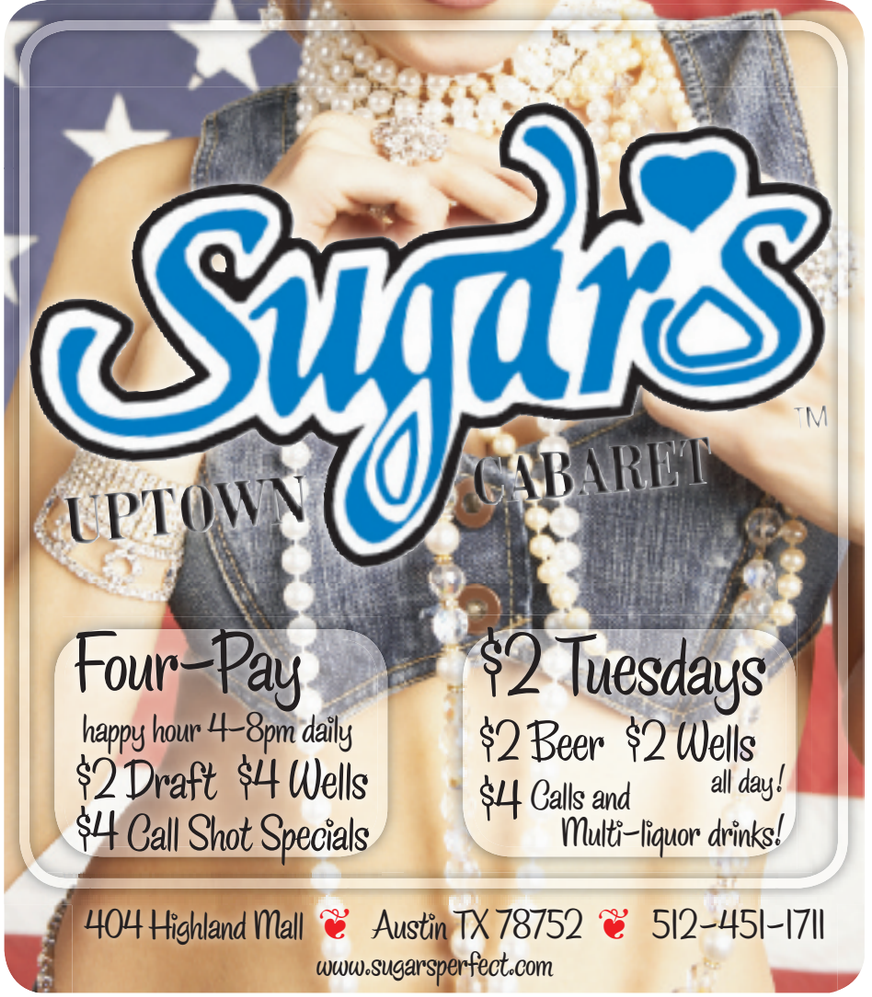
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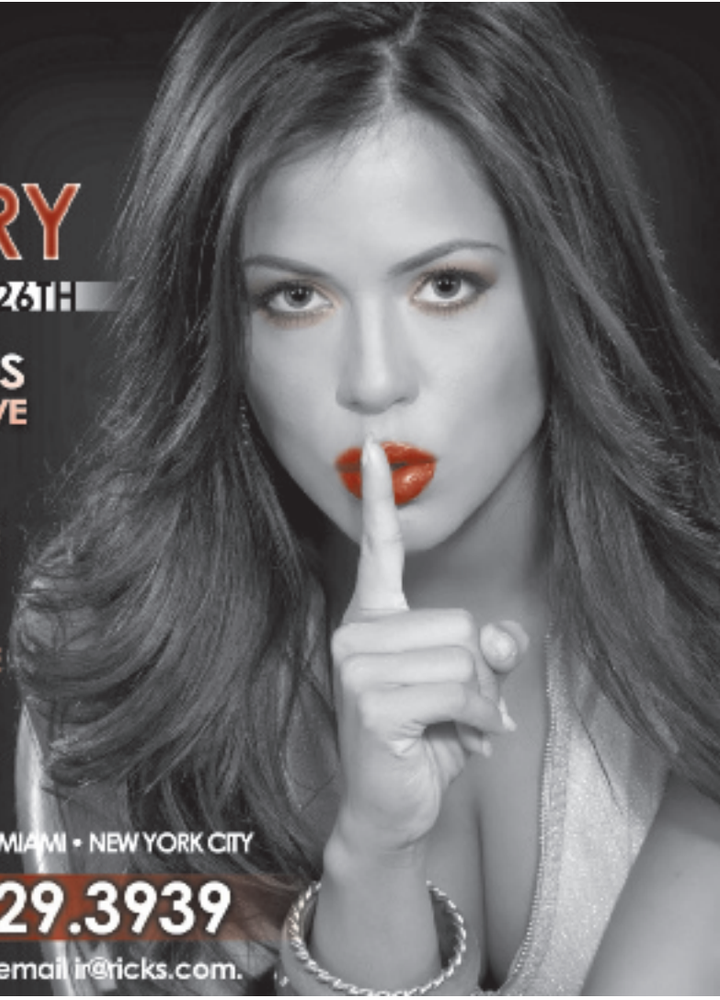
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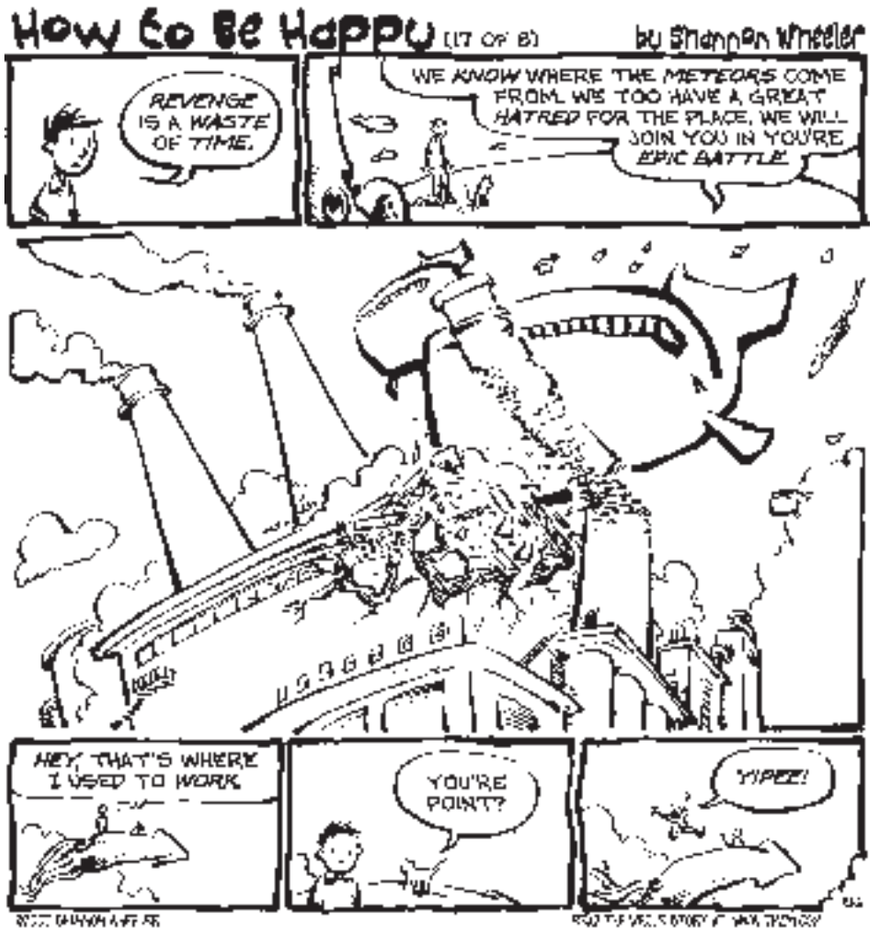
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Namaste means: "I honor the place within you in which the entire universe dwells. I honor the place within you which is of love, of trust, of light, and of peace. When you are in that place in you and I am in that place in me. ... We are one."

Medieval monks' beer ration was up to 5 liters a day.

Iodine was first added to salt to combat goiter. But iodine deficiency disorder is the single greatest cause of preventable mental retardation. And some countries have salt with higher iodine content than the U.S.

The bacteria that gives limburger cheese its smell is the same one responsible for human body odor.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle*, or e-mail* **mrpants@austinchronicle.com.**

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360 Jewelry/ Accessories
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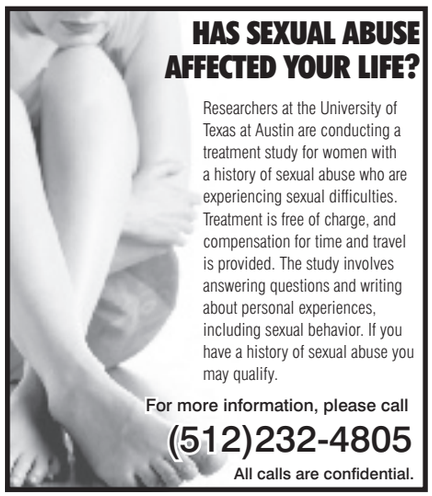
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INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD STARTING TUESDAY, JANUARY 15-17, 10AM-6PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 10AM-4PM IN THE VILLAGE AT WESTLAKE SHOPPING CENTER STE. Q-990.

WE WILL BE INTERVIEWING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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Candidates must have strong customer service andorganizational skills.Basic computer and typing skills required. In return, you will be rewarded with a fast and fun work environment, paid vacation and holidays. The Chronicle offers health insurance and a 401(k) program. First year earning potential between $25K-$30K. Please fax resume to: 512-458-6910 or email cassidy@austinchronicle.com. No phone calls please. EOE

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

naires,and computer tasks. All information is completely confidential. For more info. contact us at: MDL@psy.utexas.edu or call the Mood Disorders Laboratory at 475-6817.

SALES Authorized agent for AT&T. Hiring direct sales reps, excellent opportunity to sell new product that is just launched. Fun, flexible job. Start immediatley. 877-302-9641.

155 PROFESSIONAL

FOODSERVICE DIRECTOR Food Service Director Immediate full time opportunity available with a high-volume dining service operation in Killeen, Texas. Candidates must possess the following qualifications: Minimum three years prior management experience relevant to dining services including catering Experienced in customer service and customer relations Knowledge of Human Resource functions including benefits administration Ability to control company resources and adhere to budgetary guidelines. Excellent communication skills Excellent compensation and benefits package. Please fax resume to David Miller, District Manager, Great Western Dining Service, 870-934-8182 or email dmiller@gwdining.net An equal opportunity employer, M/F/D/V

ADVERTISING SALES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE is looking for a Classified Advertising Account Representative to join our sales team. The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Online Salesexperience a plus.

160 RESEARCH STUDY

SEX ABUSE

HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify. For more info, please call

(512) 232-4805

All calls are confidential.

FEELING GOOD The Mood Disorders Laboratory at the University of Texas is looking for males and females, 22 years and older, WITHOUT a history of anxiety or depression to participate in a study of attention and mood. Participants will be paid $15/hour up to $50. Those who qualify will complete an interview,question

165 RETAIL

STYLIST EMERALDS is hiring! Voted "Best of Austin" by readers of The Austin Chronicle and The Daily Texan year in and year out. Apply in person. $10/hr

SHIFT MANAGER Local CD/DVD Store needs Shift Manager for Evenings and Weekends. Retail store experience a plus. Please apply in person Monday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

Musicmania 38 1/2th St. and IH35 next to Fiesta Mart. No phone calls please.

FURNITURE SALES Our enthusiastic sales team needs one more energetic sales person to work every Friday during the day, some Saturdays and Sundays. Design/architecture experience is a definite plus and we want someone who can relate well to all our customers--friendly, helpful, knowledgeable about design, positive with a great attitude. We're north of UT; we have a unique, relaxed professional atmosphere and we pay $10/hr. Send short work/experience resume with 3 references (include their current contact info) to ebabeblonde@yahoo.com.

170 SALES MARKETING

ATTN: MUSIC LOVERS One World Theatre is unveiling it's fantastic 2008 Season, and we need you to promote it over the phone! Great pay, pt tm eve. Call Nancy at 330-9500 x194, lv msg.

175 SCHOOL TRAINING

CHILDCARE TEACHERS

Needing childcare teacher for 2 year olds, FT. UT-area. Call Rachel at 472-3437

GRADUATE SCHOOL IN NY. MFA IN TV Production. MS in TV/Radio. Visit http://www.bctvr.org . (AAN CAN)

TABC Absolutely the easiest way to get a T.A.B.C. card! WWW.TABCCERT.com

WRITERS Wanted: 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 University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week

program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid $3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit http://aaj.aan.org. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

EMPLOYMENT Hire employees who are as smart as you are! Advertise your positions in the Austin Chronicle's Help Wanted section. Call 512-454-5765 for more info.

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The Austin Chronicle is seeking a part-time receptionist, 30 hours per week. Competitive starting salary with merit raise possible after 90 days.

Position requires familiarity with a multi-line phone system and the ability to function in an insanely busy office.

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Please e-mail your résumé to Jenn Nuzzo at jnuzzo@austinchronicle.com.

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CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com

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EXPRESSJET



SCHIZOPHRENIA

HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA?

Community Clinical Research is conducting a research trial of an investigational medication for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Participants will receive study related:

- Inpatient hospitalization at no cost
- Medical/psychiatric assessments at no cost
- Financial compensation

Call to participate in an investigational medication study

(512) 323-2622 or **(866) 798-2622**

COMMUNITY CLINICAL RESEARCH

www.communityclinical.com

Do you have Osteoarthritis in your hips or knees?



A clinical research study for an investigational medication is being conducted for people 40-80 years of age with Osteoarthritis of the hips and knees.

Qualified Participants:

- Must experience Osteoarthritis pain for 4-7 days a week
- Willing to make up to 8 visits over 168 days
- Currently taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications

Qualified Participants May Receive:

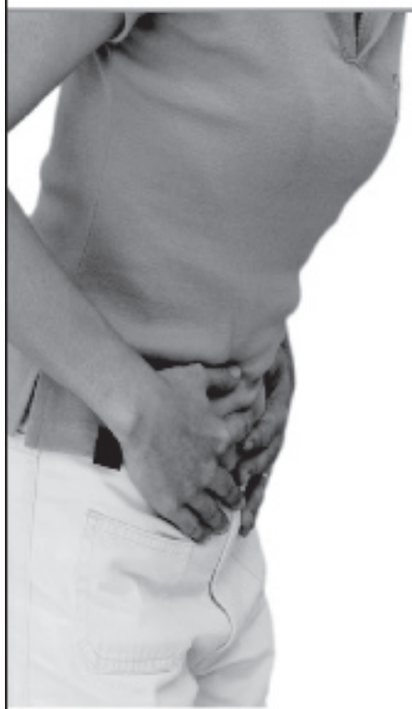
- Study-related care and study-related medication or placebo
- Financial compensation for time and travel up to $500.00

For more information contact us at:

512-732-2444 or studies@metaclin.com

WWW.METACLIN.COM

Painful Menstrual Cramps?



Millions of women experience painful cramps immediately before or during menstruation. If you are one of these women, SCIREX may be able to help. SCIREX is looking for qualified individuals to participate in a clinical study that will evaluate an investigational pain medication to treat menstrual cramps.

Qualified Study Participants Must:

- Be 18-40 years of age
- Have regular cycles

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- Investigational pain medication
- Study-related physical exams and lab tests
- Financial compensation for time and travel

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www.scirex.com • *click "Study Volunteers"*

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Are you a steroid nasal spray user?

Complete a 3-night research study at CEDRA and earn up to $800.

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This study does not require keeping a daily diary and dosing will not be done daily. Study-related lab tests, physicals, meals, wireless Internet, computers, satellite TV, video games and pool tables are provided at no cost.

At our Austin clinic:

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Tue., Jan. 15	Fri., Jan. 18	One outpatient visit: Jan. 23
or		
Sat., Jan. 19	Tue., Jan. 22	One outpatient visit: Jan. 27
or		
Thu., Jan. 24	Sun., Jan. 27	One outpatient visit: Feb. 1

512-338-3474

healthystudies.com

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METACLIN

Do you get Cedar Fever?



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Qualified Participants May Receive:

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- Financial compensation up to $500 for time and travel

For more Information Contact us at:

512-732-2444
or
studies@metaclin.com

WWW.METACLIN.COM

METACLIN

Need to lose weight?



Two clinical research trials are being conducted for a new investigational weight loss therapy using a combination of two FDA approved medications

Qualified Participants:

- Willing to participate for up to 1 year
- Willing to make up to 17 visits

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Study-related care and study-related medication or placebo
- Financial compensation for time and travel up to $750.00
- Advice on weight management and lifestyle modification

For more information contact us at:

512-732-2444 or
studies@metaclin.com

WWW.METACLIN.COM

HOUSING

215 APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

ALL http://AustinCool.com "Your source for cool & unique Austin rentals." 693-7231.

ALL www.austindowntownliving.com Unique apartments, lofts and townhomes throughout central and downtown Austin for lease and for sale! Call Team Real Estate for show! (512)416-8333.

CENTRAL OLD AUSTIN, 1/1 Nice, small community near 45th & MoPac. $750 Single story bldg, faux wood floors, Pool, Paid gas & cable. 451-0414.

CENTRAL TARRYTOWN - Large 2/1 (1000 sf) Faux wood floors, ceramic tile bath, lots of closets. Pool. Pd Cable. $1,245. Wonderful location @ 2606 Enfield. 451-0414.

CENTRAL

CAMPUS

• 1-1 $449

• 2-2 $609, 1BR $449, UT Bus

SOUTH

• Studio $460 Free Cable, • 2 Bedroom Townhome $725. Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!

Call Ray Day at the Apartment People (512) 496-3725

CENTRAL 1 Bed.$1200. Walk to UT. Updated condo. Granite, new appliances,wood floors. washer/dryer. Covered parking. 695-7807. sfields@cbunited.com

CENTRAL 2/2, $699, $200 off 1st mo., $99 app./admin., pool & gym.

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CENTRAL

78704

•EFF - $445 - Subtract 3% for student - 1/2 OFF 1st month

•1Br - $499 - private pond & tanning bed

•1Br - $545 - Townlake access, free cable, buses. NO KIDDING!!

•2br - $639 - W/D Conn, Tennis Cts, 2 pools, UT Bus Rts

•3br - $895 - Free Cable, Skate Park, 1600 sqft.

•4br - $895 - Made for kids, YMCA, Afterschool care

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CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Brand new, dwtwn view, free rent! Granite/marble/wood, WD

CENTRAL near Oltorf cheap deposit, No app fee special, water paid, Fitness, WD Conn, Large 1 BR $605 Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Zilker Park hidden treasure, stone floors, granite counters, gas heat/cooking paid, $795.

CENTRAL 606 A Kawnee 3-2 Hardwoods, CACH, fenced yard. Rent/Deposit $895. 658-9493 www.cbimanagement.com.

CENTRAL lowest prices $525 + and Specials. Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL

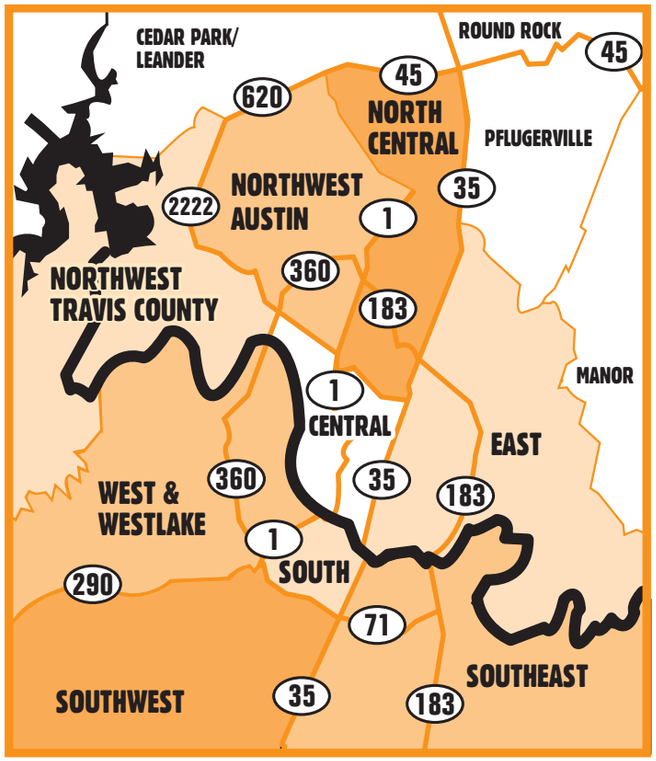
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1-1 $650
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2-1.5 Townhomes
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RonJon the Apt Mon

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- **2br loft** - $799 W/D Conns., Incredible, TREES GALORE
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Call Today. **Look** Today. **Lease** Today.

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NORTH: Studio $415, 2B $670.

NORTHWEST: 1-1 $509 Huge 2-2, $729. 3BD $900. 2-2 Townhome $710 w/d conn, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and $200 off 1st month

SOUTHWEST: 1B $470, 2B $619. 3B w/yard $1049

SOUTH: Studio $460, free cable. 2 Bedroom Townhome $725, "Large Patio" 1-1 $459. Great Location. Greenbelt: 2B $610

For absolutely no charge to you and to find the apartment that is just right for you, go to

Austin Apartment Store

www.AustinApartmentStore.com and search and view pictures, floor plans, and narrated video tours, or call **828-4470** to speak with one of our friendly helpful agents.

Specials 828-4470

NORTH CENTRAL
Location! 2/2 $820
No dep. 1 bed $679

NORTHWEST
1130 sq. ft. 2/2 $782
1124 sq. ft. 2/2 $870

SOUTH
$99 dep. 2/2 Th $805
No dep. large 2/2 $825

NORTH
980 sq. ft. 2/2 $799 • 3 story TH w/ garage $875
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ROUND ROCK
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APARTMENT DOG



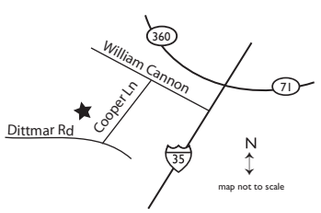
HOUSE DOG

LET FIDO OFF THE LEASH. GIVE HIM ROOM TO RUN.
HE DESERVES A HOUSE WITH A YARD. **SO DO YOU.**

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CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Greenbelt trail at door, W/D incl, walk to shops/cafes-cool 78704 $725.

CENTRAL

78704
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2/2 BEDROOM SPECIAL $705
NO APP FEE!
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ApartmentExperts.com

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http://www.Austinapartmentstore.com
- Anywhere in Austin area.
- Any price range.
- Best specials.
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- We can email pictures & floor plans to the hottest specials in town.

Give us a call at 828-4470.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com Cool apartments, lofts & condos for rent and sale. 693-7231.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 SoCo 3BD, walk downtown, near shops, cafes, music, $1,095.

CENTRAL WOW LIKE NEW NEAR DOWNTOWN/UT: 2-2, 1232 sf, $1300 with Wood Floors, Stainless Steel Appliances(Gas Cooking), Glass Kitchen Cabinets, Retro Track Lighting, Big Windows, WD Connections, Lots of Storage - MUST SEE TO BELIEVE Call Chris Bee 512-293-7737. Avignon Realty

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Walk downtown, pool on lake, European kitchen, 2/2, $895.

CENTRAL

Austin Apartment Store

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CENTRAL Best Deal in Austin - Hyde Park 2-1 $750, Small, quiet community, all appliances, CA/CH. Gas (heating & hot water), water, garbage and basic cable paid!! Laundry on-site. Small pets welcome! 1037 E. 44th (west of I-35, by Hancock Center). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Tom 484-0199 (leave message). thomkatt@hotmail.com

CENTRAL Downtown/Congress restaurant/shopping district, remodeled units. 1 Bedroom...$745. 2 Bedroom....$845. Walk to everything. www.austindowntownliving.com Call Team Real Estate (512) 416-8333.

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CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 2/1, Pool on lake, SoCo shops, kayak storage, walk dwntown, $845

CENTRAL

78741
WD CONNS
UT SHUTTLE
Hidden Gem, Fitness, Gated
1 BR $535
2 BR $680
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CENTRAL 693-7231 http://AustinCool.com Downtown elegance, city-views, hardwoods. Rooftop deck, W/D.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Newly renovated, tile floor, W/D, Zen garden, 2bdrm, $875.

CENTRAL/SOUTH Gas Cooking, Huge square footage, 1/1 $589. Water, waste water, trash & gas PAID. Apt Experts 512-416-8100, Broker.

CENTRAL/SOUTH near Woodward. 2-1.5 $650, Free Cable, UT/Metro Bus Service. Apartment Experts 416-8100, Broker.

EAST http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Cool area w/retail, cityviews, stained concrete, stainless, modern loft.

NORTH AUSTIN:
- Studio. $415. Townhome 2-2 $670 month W/D conns. Fireplace. Vaulted Ceiling.

NORTHWEST
- 1-1 $509
- Huge 2-2, $729

Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!
"PRE-LEASE TODAY"
Call Ray Day at the Apartment People (512) 496-3725

NORTH 7801 Shoal Creek $575 NO PETS! Tiffany condominiums, Upstairs unit, CH/CH, laundry on property, pool, tiny private balcony, widnow seat in bedroom. One covered parking space. No Smoking. Available mid January. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE You can place your Home for Sale ad in The Austin Chronicle's Home Gallery section for only $45/week. Call 512-454-5765 to place your ad today!

NORTHWEST

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LUXURIOUS NORTHWEST COMMUNITY. 3 fitness centers, 3 pet parks, many extras. http://www.Austinapartmentstore.com or call 828-4470 for current availability.

SOUTH Spacious, Pool, FREE CABLE. EFF $495, 1BD $595, 2BD $695. 538-2201 www.southlandapts.com

SOUTH Near SE shuttle, resort style pool + amenities. W/D, free cable + HBO. $415+, Apartment Experts 416-8100 Broker.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Low deposit! Cute & clean, W/D conn, balcony, dry bar, fitness center $530.

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Vintage Travis Heights neighborhood. Easy access to South Congress.
1/1... $625
2/1 w/private deck... $725
Units Rarely Available!
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SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 HUGE TOWN LAKE 2/2 Large bedrooms and closets, easy downtown access, $895.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Travis Heights wooded 2BD, cable paid, minutes to downtown, $695.

SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 Total urban living experience. Stained concrete flrs, art deco, W/D, 2/2 $759.

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CENTRAL Tarrytown - gigantic 1/1's in 4-plex, large common yard area for gardens or just relaxing under the trees, windows everywhere, large kitchen, NO W/D connections, window a/c's. Six month initial lease. Cats welcome - NO dogs! $750. 2302 Enfield. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Gigantic hard tile 2/ 2 1/2 duplex with huge upstairs bonus room (can be 3rd bedroom), fenced patio, CA/CH, all appliances, W/D connections, pets negotiable. No indoor smoking. $800 + water. 8612-A Bowling Green (near Burnet/183). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Rosedale, spacious, wise old tree-shaded 3-1 1/2 duplex on 3 levels, fenced, CA/CH, indoor W/D connections, covered parking (1), quiet neighborhood. No indoor smoking. $1250. 4706-B Shoalwood. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Spacious 2/1 duplex with hard tile! CA/CH, all appl, fenced yard, carport, W/D Conn. Small pets accepted! No indoor smoking. $925. 8020 Exmoor (off Burnet Rd., north of Anderson Ln.). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

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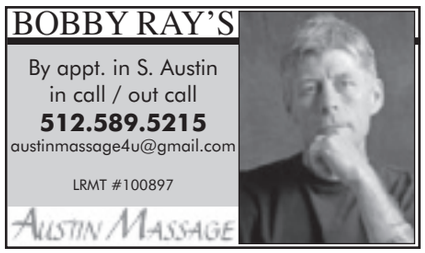
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MINDFULNESS RETREAT Enjoy a residential mindfulness retreat in the tradition of Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh. Sponsored by Austin's Plum Blossom Sangha; led by Zen Dharma teacher Chan Huy of Ottawa, Canada. March 7-9, McKinney Roughs Nature Park near Bastrop. For more info and registration call 469-0647 or see www.plumblossomsangha.org.

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525 EVENTS

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530 GENERAL

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535 LOST & FOUND

LOST DOG $REWARD$ Missing male sheltie named Saxon. Tri-color: Black,orange, white long fur. spiked leather collar. No tags. 20-25lbs. Wandered away from home on January 6th. 512-902-2768.

545 LEGAL NOTICES

455727

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered 455727, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Ray L. Knauss are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,352.15** 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 28, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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:

Being all that certain Lot 8174, Bar-K Ranches Plat 8, Plat No. 58/71, Travis County, Texas and being more paritcularly described in Volume 7667, Page 230 and Cause No. 90L-693 (Austin Co.) of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,352.15** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

459732

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered 459732, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, State of Texas, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6, FM Road, Water Control Improvement District No. 17 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Charles E. Boyd, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Charles E. Boyd, Audrey Boyd, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Audrey Boyd and Roy Charles Boyd are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$10,360.43** 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 December 21, 2000.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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:

.09 of an acre ou tof the B.K. Stewart Sur. 84 as described in Volume 3593, Page 2285 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$10,360.43** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

468234

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered 468234, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Rosemary Lane, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Rosemary Lane and James R. Lane are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,601.51** 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 July 31, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 21143, Highland Lake Estates, Section 21, Plat No. 55/59 as described in Volume 7624, Page 911 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,601.51** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

94-06819

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered 94-06819, 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 Jose S. Crespo and Silvia S. Crespo are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,004.18** 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 29, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 2017, Bar-K Ranches, Plat No. 2, Plat No. 57/14 as described in Volume 7573, Page 418 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

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THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,004.18** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

ALIAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

AUSTIN CHRONICLE

4000 N IH 35

AUSTIN, TX 78751

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: JAMES ZOU Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being MONDAY 02/18/08 a default judgment may be taken against you.

CAUSE NUMBER: C-1-CV-06-006991, filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW 2

CACH VS ZOU

Filed in COUNTY COURT AT LAW 2 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on December 26, 2007.

STYLED: CACH VS ZOU

NATURE OF SUIT: debt

Given under my hand and the seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on January 02, 2008.

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714-9325

By Deputy:

/s/ C. Maddox

Plaintiff Attorney:

CHRISTOPHER R. DELONEY

2214 MAIN STREET

DALLAS, TX 75201

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BEVERAGE CARTAGE, MIXED BEVERAGE, MIXED BEVERAGE LATE HOURS, and CATERER'S PERMITS by University Food Services, Inc., d/b/a Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Avenue, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78705. Officer of said corporation is Charles Leon Blackwell, President, Secretary and Treasurer.

CAUSE NO. 87,475 IN THE GUARDIANSHIP OF INA MILLER, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship for the Person and Estate of INA MILLER, an incapacitated person, were issued on December 5, 2007, in Cause No. 87,475, in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to ROBERT A. MILLER, as Guardian of the Person and Estate With Full Authority of INA MILLER.

The residence of the Guardian is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the post office address is: c/o Deborah Green, The Law Offices of Deborah Green, 7200 North MoPac Blvd., Suite 300

Austin, Texas 78731

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 28th day of December, 2007.

By: /s/ Deborah Green

Attorney for Guardian

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF FRANK ROUTT, Deceased, No. 87917 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

FRANCIS WILLIAMS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 3rd day of January, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said FRANK ROUTT, 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 3rd day of January, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOAQUIN SANCHEZ NERI, Deceased, No. 87598 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

SANTIAGO SANCHEZ NERI alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22nd day of October, 2007, an Application to Determine Heirship and Application for Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOAQUIN SANCHEZ NERI, 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 22nd day of October, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005851 To: HONG YANG and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 13, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005851 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF JUN P. TANG and HONG YANG, ET AL, and In the Interest of SIYANG TANG, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 14, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ MCGARY ASHANTI, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

ERIC MICHAEL WILLIE

3755 S. CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY, STE. 250

AUSTIN, TX 78704

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 478-0834

FAX: (512) 478-1265

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - DIVORCE

CLERK OF THE COURT

LISA DAVID

405 M.L.K. ST., P.O. BOX 24

GEORGETOWN, TX 78626

PETITIONER(S) ATTORNEY

BARBARA LASSO

ADDRESS UNAVAILABLE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: LUIS FERNANDO LASSO and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s), You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment for the relief demanded in the petition may be taken against you.

The ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE of Barbara Lasso, Petitioner(s), was filed in the County Court At Law #2 Court of Williamson County, Texas, on the 26TH day of APRIL, 2007, against Luis Fernando Lasso, Respondent(s), numbered 07-915-FC2 and entitled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF BARBARA LASSO AND LUIS FERNANDO LASSO IN THE INTEREST OF BARBARA S. LASSO AND LUCY LASSO, CHILDREN. The suit requests THAT THE COURT GRANT RELIEF REQUESTED WITHIN THIS PETITION.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property which will be binding on you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Georgetown, Texas, this the 20th day of December A.D. 2007.

Attest:

LISA DAVID Clerk, of the County Court At Law #2,

WILLIAMSON County, Texas.

By: /s/ Brandi Spivey, Deputy

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of **FERTIGATION SYSTEMS (IFB No. B080084-LP),** the installation of one fertigation system at each existing irrigation pump station at the following parks: Northeast Metropolitan Park Soccer Complex, Northeast Metropolitan Park Baseball Complex, and Southeast Metropolitan Park, in Precinct 3 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, **until 2 p.m., January 24, 2008,** then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the official clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid FERTIGATION SYSTEM (B080084-LP)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Travis County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

As required by Chapter 2253 of the Texas Government Code, a payment bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a performance bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $100,000.00 for contracts for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building, or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Chapter 2258 of the Texas Government Code (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Chapter 605 of the Texas Government Code (Hours of Labor).

Plans, specifications, and detailed bid forms are available at the Travis County Purchasing Office, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a $25.00 deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County." This deposit will be refundable to bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty one days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total contract price.

Final payment for the above construction project will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

D-1-GV-06-000105

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-000105, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and J W Howeth aka Jerry W. Howeth (In Rem Only 1988-1998 and Individually for tax years 1999-present), United State of America/Internal Revenue Service (In Rem Only) and Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$245,018.95** 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 September 28, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 3, Block 2, Lakeview Addition (Olt. 77, Div. D), Plat No. 2/199, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 4648, Page 867 of the deed records of Travi scounty, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$245,018.95** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-06-001174

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001174, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Black Investments, Inc. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,255.17** 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 6, 2006.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 2430, Lago Vista Estates, Section 10, Plat No. 50/19, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 12664, Page 1995 of the deed records of Travis county, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,255.17** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-06-001568

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-06-001568, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Haywood Lowe, Sr., and Aaron Bunton, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Haywood Lowe, Jr. and Aaron Bunton, Charlotte Toliver Blakcmore, Harry Lewis Toliver, Jr., John Fitzgerald Toliver, Gloria Louise (Bunton) Coleman, Woody Earl Bunton, Jr., City of Austin (In Rem Only), State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Section (In Rem Only), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (In Rem Only), Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and County Education District (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only) and Donald R. Flournoy (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$16,180.88** 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 September 25, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 2, Resubdivision of a Portion of Outlot 18 1/2 Division B, Sec. 2, Plat No. 11/84, being a portion as desc. in Vol. 1337, Pg. 334, Vol. 1337, Pg. 335, being the same property as shown on the attached plat map and being the same property as referenced in Probate Cause No. 11708, Probate Cause 74878, Doc. No. 2001149840 and Doc. No. 2006008962 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$16,180.88** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000424

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000424, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District No. 1, State of Texas, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Harlan K. Shank are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$15,039.34** 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 October 11, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 6057, Highland Lake Estates, Section 6, Plat No. 51/76, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 6416, Page 363 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$15,039.34** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000540

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419TH District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000540, wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Hospital District, Village of Point Venture and Water Control Improvement District Point Venture are plaintiffs, and Robert E. Norquest are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,298.17** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 419TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 28, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 753, Point Venture, Section 3-2, Plat No. 61/78, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7233, Page 2235 and Volume 10946, Page 198 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,298.17** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000757

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000757, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Farm to Market Road, Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District and Water Control Improvement District No. 15 are plaintiffs, and Gay Nell Campise aka Gay Nell Roberts and Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 7 (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,643.77** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st

District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 25, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 67, Block B, Lago Vista, Section 2, Plat No. 11/45, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 5420, Page 718 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,643.77** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000759

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000759, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Esther Boender, David M. Boender, Linda Sue Boender and Patricia Lynn Schulz aka Patricia a. Boender are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$12,893.62** 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 November 20, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 5150, Highland Lake Estates, Section 5, Plat No. 51/75, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 5175, Page 376 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$12,893.62** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000775

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000775, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, County Education District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis county Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Vera Schram, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Vera Schram are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,764.76** 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 November 5, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 G, Lago Vista, Section 3, Phase 2, Plat No. 30/7 as described in Volume 3830, Page 1372 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,764.76** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000777

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000777, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Miguel Ontiveros, Ninfa Ontiveros, Mark Cohen, Trustee (In Rem Only), Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District (In Rem Only) and State of Texas/Bond Forfeiture Section (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,038.87** 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 October 22, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 33087, Highland Lake Estates, Section 33, Plat No. 78/265 as described in Volume 10434, Page 369 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,038.87** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000779

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000779, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Hospital District aka Travis County Healthcare district are plaintiffs, and Paul W. Gernhauser, Jr. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,132.21** 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 October 22, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 4, Block N, Lago Vista, Section 3, Phase 4, Plat No. 32/7 as described in Volume 7886, Page 283 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,132.21** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000790

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000790, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and John W. Edwards are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 56507 = $6,022.09 and Tract Two: Billing Number 56508 = $7,100.09** 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 September 25, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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.: 056507

Lot 28102, Highland Lake Estates, Section 28, Plat No. 76/237, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 7494, Page 343 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO.: 056508

Lot 28103, Highland Lake Estates, Section 28, Plat No. 76/237, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 7494, Page 339 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 sum: Tract One: **Billing Number 56507 = $6,022.09 and Tract Two: Billing Number 56508 = $7,100.09** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ JOe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000975

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000975, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Wanda R. Block and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 52949 = $8,999.78, Tract Two: Billing Number 58212 = $11,859340 and Tract Three: Billing Number 60425 = $13,792.97** 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 October 22, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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:

Parcel No.01-6486-0908-0000

Billing No.52949

Location3101 MARSHALL AVENUE, LAGO VISTA, TX 78645

Legal Description:LOT 20043, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATES, SECTION 20, PLAT NO. 63/19 AS DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 8898, PAGE 383

TRACT TWO:

Parcel No. 01-6886-0606-0000

Billing No. 058212

Location 4222 HILLSIDE, LAGO VISTA, TX 78645

Legal Description:LOT 1339, COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES, SECTION 7, PLAT NO. 47/42 AS DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 8873, PAGE 111

TRACT THREE:

Parcel No.01-7280-0705-0000

Billing No.060425

Location20823 EL DORADO, LAGO VISTA, TX 78645

Legal Description:LOT 628, LAGO VISTA COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES, SECTION 3, PLAT NO. 41/28 AS DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 8873, PAGE 145

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 52949 = $8,999.78, Tract Two: Billing Number 58212 = $11,859340 and Tract Three: Billing Number 60425 = $13,792.97** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-001039

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-001039, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Nasrullah Yoosufani and Tando Allahyar are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,614.72** 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 November 15, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 29075, Highland Lake Estates, Section 29, Plat No. 78/33 as described in Volume 9985, Page 913 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,614.72** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-001068

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-001068, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Paul D. Harrison, Sandra P.R. Harrison and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$11,451.09** 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 22, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 1027, Bar-K Ranches Plat 1, Plat No. 55/57 as described in Volume 5679, Page 1097 of the deed record sof Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$11,451.09** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-001270

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 419th District Court of Travis County, on the 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-001270, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Edu-

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.

IT'S THE NEW YEAR – CHECK YOUR CREDIT HISTORY

Friends keep telling me to check my credit history – why do I care? How can I get an accurate report of my credit history?

The new year often means renewed commitment to financial independence. Confirming your credit history is one positive step toward that goal.

Regularly checking your credit history is an important step in combating identity theft. Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information to commit fraud (such as opening credit cards in your name), and it can lead to inaccuracies in your credit rating. This inaccurate information can affect your ability to get credit, including credit cards and loans for major purchases like a home or car. You should periodically check your credit report to ensure the information contained in it is accurate and up-to-date.

There are many providers on the Internet from whom you can purchase your credit report for a nominal fee. In addition, the Fair Credit Reporting Act requires nationwide consumer-reporting companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report every 12 months upon request. You can get your free credit report at **www.annualcreditreport.com** or by calling (877) 322-8228.

Under the FCRA, both the consumer-reporting company and the information provider (the person or organization that provides information about you to a consumer-reporting company) are responsible for correcting inaccurate or incomplete information contained in your credit report. Should you find inaccuracies in your credit report, you need to contact the consumer-reporting company and the information provider, in writing, and dispute the information you think is inaccurate. Consumer-reporting companies generally then must investigate the items in question and forward all the relevant data you provide about the inaccuracy to the person or organization that provided the information. After the information provider receives notice of the dispute from the consumer-reporting company, it generally must investigate and report the results back to the consumer-reporting company. If the information provider finds the disputed information is inaccurate, it must notify the nationwide consumer-reporting companies so they can correct the information in your credit file. When the investigation is complete, the consumer-reporting company should give you the written results of the investigation and a free copy of your credit report if the dispute results in any changes to your credit history.

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.

cation District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Gerald G. Ohlsen are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,219.16** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 419th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 22, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 11, Block B, Emerald Bend, Section 1, Plat No. 36/2 as described in Volume 8491, Page 603 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,219.16** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

D-1-GV-07-000539

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000539, wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Independent School District County Education District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Travis County Hospital District nka Travis County Healthcare District, Village of Point Venture and Water Control Improvement District Point Venture are plaintiffs, and Michael B. Lindemann and Rita D. Lindemann are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$10,311.28** 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 September 28, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 549, Point Venture, Section 3-1, Plat No. 58/48, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 8303, Page 744 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$10,311.28** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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-402128

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-402128, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and International Ministries, Inc. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,889.25** 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 December 3, 2004.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 118, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 38/22, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2002201025 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,889.25** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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-403538

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-403538, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Francisco Jaramillo, Esperanza Jaramillo and Wachovia Bank, N.A. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$11,363.71** 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 November 15, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 51, Block D, North Point, Phase 1, Section 2, Plat No. 86/21D as described in document number 2000114061 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$11,363.71** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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-504014

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-504014, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County, Travis County Farm to Market Road and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and John E. McKenzie, A. Jo Baylor (In Rem OnlY) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$46,401.09** 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 December 12, 2006.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 17, Block 4, Chernosky Subdivison No. 9 (Olt. 21, Div. B), Plat No. 4/190 as described in Volume 8210, Page 762, Volume 8210, page 764 and Volume 8223, Page 211 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$46,401.09** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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-504908

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered GV-504908, wherein City of Lakeway, Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6, Travis County Healthcare District and Water Control Improvement District No. 17 are plaintiffs, and Southwestern Investment Company, Trustee nka Southwest Beneficial Finance, Inc. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,268.50** 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 July 12, 2007.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 121, Cardinal Hills Unit 5, Plat No. 50/95 as described in Volume 4039, Page 1853 and Volume 8169, Page 321 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,268.50** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

JAV Investment Group LLC, Vivek V. Anand, President, Aplesh D. Patel, Vice President DBA Red Brick Pizza is Making Application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate On the Address of 4301 W. William Cannon Dr., Bldg. B #185, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT TO TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE(S) WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF BY AUS-TEX TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

1. MAZDA PROTEGE, JLC268 NM, VIN# JM1BJ2227X0160628

2. FORD ESCORT, 840PTA, AZ, VIN# 3FAFP13P61R155437

3. 2007 Suzuki motorcycle, 260peg, VIN# 2S3DA417176117347

AUS-TEX TOWING & RECOVERY, LLC
306 FARLEY
AUSTIN, TX 78753

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR ACT, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED.

GARAGEKEEPER:

TIGER TRUX TOWING

407 FM 685

PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660

512-989-9595

1. VEHICLE: 1999 WHITE DODGE NEON

PICKED UP AT: 355@ GRAND AVE

VIN: 1P3ES47COXD108502

PLATE: NO PLATE

2. VEHICLE: 1959 FORD TRUCK

PICKED UP AT: 7950 ANDERSON SQUARE

AUSTIN TX 78757

VIN: F25C9K29831

PLATE: YW1569

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS , AUSTIN, TX.

2003 GEELY MOPED LB2TAB21033K21171

2006 BIG CHIEF MOTORSPORTS MOPED LB2TCB13561030388

1991 PONTIAC 1G2NE52M7VC805802

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

Uncle Bob's #285
9717 US HWY 290 E
Austin, TX 78724
512-278-1220
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 9:00 AM

8829 Vanessa Spivey: household goods, furniture, appliances

2240 Ashley Canada: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2232 Lynnikka Hunter: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

916 Jacqueline Upshaw: household goods, furniture, boxes

816 Forest C McClendon: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

805 Elsie Mata: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

706 Charla Brown: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

511 Justin Muennink: household goods, furniture, tools, office equip.

227 Jamecia Bailey: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #231
8227 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78753
512-833-0855
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 10:00 AM

902 Donell Creech: household goods, furn., boxes, TV, office equip.

907 Keith Evans: household goods, boxes, furn., tools

925 Mabwai Milcah: household goods, furn., boxes, office supp.

948 Mary Walker: household goods, boxes, furniture

1019 Delia Padilla: household goods, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, furniture

1106 Tawiana Simmons: household goods, boxes, account rec., furniture

9950 Nguyen Hien: household goods, boxes, office equip.

704 Danny Taylor: household goods, boxes, tools, account rec.

510 Emanuel Gordon: household goods, furn., boxes

606 Ivan Colbeck: household goods, boxes

718 Jesus J. Zaragoza: household goods, furn., boxes, tools, appl., tv's

740 Sandra Steichert: household goods, furn., boxes, tv's or stereo equip.

755 Michael Trent Turner: household goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods

Uncle Bob's #276
2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-310-0279
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 11:00 A.M.

205 Elizabeth Halbert: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, office equipment

2132 Billy J. Berry: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

2208 Gretchen A. Jackson: boxes, clothes, furniture

2411 Edith Arce: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

3126 Scott Bankson Greater Austin Moving: household goods

4219 Shannan Bell: household goods, furniture, boxes

4309 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

4406 Joe Flynn: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., motorcycle

4422 Lewie Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, office equip., landscaping equip.

6303 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

7122 Jayme McDaniel: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

7309 Linda Lee: household goods, boxes

7402 Jennifer Cortinas: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods

7408 Marsha Gaston: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, construction equip., landscaping equip., account records

9580 Jamaal Jones: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #197
5547 McNeil Dr.
Austin, TX 78729
(512)336-8390
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 12 noon

310 Shea Morgan: household goods, furniture, boxes

405 LanDee Mills: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

1106 Melonie Lewis: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

1208 Jason Burt: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #287
6509 South 1st Street
Austin, TX 78745
(512) 326-9696
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 @ 1:30 P.M.

312 Willoughby Rachel: boxes

346 Kallvernea Stewart: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

347 Juan Diharce: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

357 Sam Salazar: household goods

2333 Tracy Robinson: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, sporting goods

2408 Medina Esmeralda: household goods, furniture

3325 Savage Sr Paul: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

3335 Caleb Lopez: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip.

3349 Cynthia Perez: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3407 Arturo P. Ramirez: household goods, furniture, boxes

3502 Rick Chavana: household goods, boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is 10:00 a.m., January 29, 2008 at 12132 Waters Park Rd, Austin, TX, with an auction at Round Rock Mini Storage to follow. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenants: Tyler Fry, sleigh bed, mattress, ceiling fan, washer, dryer, tool boxes, misc box; Lauri Ragland, washer, dryer, refrigerator, microwave, end tables, bed, mattress, box spring, bar stools, chest, misc boxes. Contact on site manager at 255-5363 at Round Rock Mini Storage.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **Stor-A-Way,** located at **550 South IH-35, Round Rock, TX 78681,** will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin at **10:00 a.m. on February 5, 2008.** Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean up may be temporarily required. Seller reserves right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

A006 Holy Mole - boxes, hot salsa, table/chairs, pallet jack

B019 Stacy McIntosh - boxes, lawn equip., refrigerator, bedding, plastic tubs, table/chairs, game table

B202 Ford Cornett - boxes, bike, clothes, bedding, table, chairs, misc. household items

D008 Kristina Harris - bags, dresser, chairs

D113 Terra Pfeifer - boxes, plastic tub

D140 Richard Ancelet - pool table, chairs, boxes, misc. items

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AV0124

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 24, 2008 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

073461197	2001	MERC	4DR	M52KJR	TX	1MEFM50U31G640774
073601240	1994	HOND	4DR	R39KTD	TX	1HGCD5532RA162755
073630305	1989	CADI	2DR	550HYB	TX	1G6EL1152KU611241
073631204	2001	CHEV	4DR	144449	AR	1G1ND52J616233577
075068922	1995	FORD	4DR	762JYL	WI	1FALP52U1SG101327
075068923	1995	PLYM	4DR	286MCP	TX	1P3ES47C8SD469441
075068924	1983	CADI	4DR	K15ZTN	TX	1G6AD6980D9169136
075068927	1990	FORD	4DR	188MLX	TX	2FACP74F3LX163561
075069089	1992	GMC	VN	H66FDX	TX	1GKEC16K5NJ724378
075069090	1986	HOND	2DR	610MLV	TX	JHMAF5336GS029313
075069091	1998	CHEV	4DR	BLJ129	TX	2G1WL52MXW9243997
075069092	1992	PONT	2DR	229MRD	TX	1G2FS23T5NL204230
075069093	1994	ULTR	UT	39YYVR	TX	*********
075069094	1982	KAWK	MC		**	JKAKZDM10CA007290
085000144	1984	PONT	2DR	T81TRH	TX	1G2AS8717EL251183
085000335	1976	FORD	2DR	L83KYB	TX	6G21H163962
085000336	1984	DODG	VN	FA4878	TX	2B4HB21TXEK204289
085000337	1995	MITS	4DR	W01GBD	TX	4A3AJ46GXSE218057
085000338	1993	GEO	2DR	M16XSZ	TX	2C1MR2461P6729236

car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TODAY'S ENGINES EASILY GO PAST 100,000 MILES

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was looking for a second car. I wanted a classic. For some reason, I said something about a 1992 car with 180,000 miles on it. My stepbrother said, "You know that engine has been rebuilt, don't you?" That started the debate. He claims most engines are ready for the junkyard after 100,000 miles. I tell him that since 1990, I'm guessing, engines are made so much better than in the Fifties and Sixties, and it's not so surprising to see a car get 200,000 miles or more. He claims that would be rare. He also claims that he will never *lose this argument, because if new cars were good for 200,000 miles, a dealership would give you a warranty for that long. I know I'm right. How can I prove him wrong, though?* – Josh

TOM: Well, you're more right than he is, Josh. The only flaw in your argument is your use of the term "classic" and "1992" in the same sentence.

RAY: Here's the story. Back in the 1950s, if someone got 100,000 miles out of a car, it was cause for celebration.

TOM: And today, everybody gets 100,000 miles out of a car. If they don't, they're writing to us claiming that they'll never buy another (fill in the blank) as long as they live.

RAY: And while your stepbrother is right that 200,000 miles is rare, it's a lot less rare than it used to be. And 100,000 to 150,000 miles is not rare at all. It's pretty much expected.

TOM: And warranties *are* longer. Back in the Fifties, you typically got a 12-month warranty on a new car. Now, Hyundai, Kia, and Mitsubishi offer 10-year power-train warranties, and Chrysler recently announced a limited *lifetime* power-train warranty. So, as long as those companies don't go belly up first from fixing everybody else's engines, you're pretty much guaranteed a good, long engine life.

RAY: So there *is* more confidence in the longevity of engines and transmissions. And I would attribute it to several factors. Better manufacturing is certainly one. But I think the biggest factor is better lubricants. Detergent oils came on the scene back in the Sixties, and they've been improved continuously ever since. That means metal parts run longer without grinding one another to death. And that's really the key to long engine life.

TOM: So tell your stepbrother that he was wrong on two counts: his argument and that he would never lose this argument.

* * *

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you'll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, 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* website at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, **Stor-A-Way** located at **309 South Bell, Cedar Park, Texas 78613,** will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

The sale will begin at **Noon on February 5, 2008.** Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from the sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in the spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

A015 Thomas Vanblaricum - televisions, chair, microwaves, fishing poles, boxes, dresser

B030 Barbara Fritz - boxes, bicycle, chairs, cabinets, misc. household items

C141 Chriss Mills - mattress, dresser, lamp

D017 Kennith Jonga - sofa, futon, boxes, refrigerator

D032 Cameron Bowen - television, game table, bedding, chair, desk

D055 Walter Neely - boxes, toys, misc. household items

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: D1GN07001613 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the District Court 345 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 26, 2007, in cause numbered D1GN07001613, styled RUDOLPH WILLIAMS versus KENNETH BROOKS AND VALIANT HOMES INC, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY on a judgment rendered against KENNETH BROOKS AND VALIANT HOMES INC, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY; I did on December 04, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of VALIANT HOMES INC the following described real property.:

Lot 2, Block 5, Kincheon Subdivision Section 1, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas according to the map or plat recorded in Volume 5, Page 115 of the real property records of Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On February 05, 2008, being the first Tuesday of the month, betweey 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 VALIANT HOMES INC in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 17, 2007

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

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 on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: 206546 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the Justice Court 5 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 01, 2007, in cause numbered 206546, styled HHCC, INC versus ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, JONATHAN T. MCMICHAEL, AND MJM INVESTMENTS D/B/A PARK PLACE APARTMENTS on a judgment rendered against ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, JONATHAN T. MCMICHAEL, AND MJM INVESTMENTS D/B/A PARK PLACE APARTMENTS; I did on November 16, 2007, at 3:00 P.M., levy upon as the property of ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, the following described real property:

0.327 ACRES OF LAND, BEING ALL OF LOT 17 AND A PORTION OF LOTS 16 AND 18, BLK 1, GROOMS ADDN, A SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, RECORDED IN VOL. 1, PAGE 59, PLAT RECORDS, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS, BEING THAT SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ANGEL MACHELLE MCMICHAEL BY SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN VOL. 12440, PAGE 1648... of the real property records of Travis County, Texas.

On February 05, 2008, 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 ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 31, 2007.

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

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 on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JAMES OSCAR POLOZECK Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Oscar Polozeck, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2008, in Cause No. 87,875, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Jimmie Dale Polozeck. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representatives' attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 8th day of January, 2008.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BILLY CLIFF DAVIS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Billy Cliff Davis, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2008, in Cause No. 87,858, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Goldie Claudine Kitchens Davis. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representatives' attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 8th day of January, 2008.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: 206546 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the Justice Court 5 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 01, 2007, in cause numbered 206546, styled HHCC, INC versus ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, JONATHAN T. MCMICHAEL, AND MJM INVESTMENTS D/B/A PARK PLACE APARTMENTS; I did on November 16, 2007, at 3:00 P.M., levy upon as the property of ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, the following described real property:

0.327 ACRES OF LAND, BEING ALL OF LOT 17 AND A PORTION OF LOTS 16 AND 18, BLK 1, GROOMS ADDN, A SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, RECORDED IN VOL. 1, PAGE 59, PLAT RECORDS, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS, BEING THAT SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ANGEL MACHELLE MCMICHAEL BY SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN VOL. 12440, PAGE 1648... of the real property records of Travis County, Texas.

On February 05, 2008, 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 ANGEL MACHELLE RALLS, in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 31, 2007.

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

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 on or purchase property in the name of any other individual

bids.

A copy of the Project Manual may be obtained by visiting our web site: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp and downloading it, or by visiting the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE.** A refundable deposit of **$25.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is obtained directly from the Purchasing Office. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

X98-08658

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X98-08658, wherein Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, Austin Community College and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Walter Langdon, Jr., Walter Langdon, III, Paula Campbell, City of Austin (In Rem Only) and Travis County, Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and County Education District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 81111 = $15,439.72 and Tract Two: Billing Number 81130 = $29,324.92** 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 23, 2006.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 Number 81111

Lot 1 and the East 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 12, Belcher Re-subdivision of a portion of Glenwood Addition, Plat No. 232/618 as described in Volume 2147, Page 520 and Probate Cause No. 55,671 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: Billing Number 81130

Lot 6, Block 4, Glenwood Addition (Olt. 32 & 33, Div. B), Plat No. 2/154 as described in Volume 614, Page 395, Volume 621, Page 414 and Probate Cause No. 44,335 and 55,671 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 One: Billing Number 81111 = $15,439.72 and Tract Two: Billing Number 81130 = $29,324.92** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

X99-09504

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 21st day of December, 2007 in a certain cause numbered X99-09504, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Jay Cooper, Jay Cooper, Trustee and Michael B. Suffness, PC (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$75,659.92** 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 November 17, 2006.

I, on the 28th day of December, 2007, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of February, 2008 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 28, Block B, Violet Crown Heights, Section1, Plat No. 4/256, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 3756, Page 486; Volume 10628, Page 583, Volume 13185, Page 265 and Volume 13207, page 166 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$75,659.92** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2007.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser 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.

MOTOR

610 CARS

1991 Corolla Four door, auto, looks, drives, super. Warranty, AC. $2950.

Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1992 ACCORD Tudor, auto. Looks, drives super. Higher highway miles, but full warranty. $2750. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1993 CIVIC /b Two door Si. 5 speed. 75,000 miles. Warranty. $3950. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1995 CIVIC Four door, new motor, full warranty, 5 speed. $2950. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

2002 CIVIC Tudor, auto, LX, 72k, clean as a pin, warranty. $7950 Never wrecked, never smoked in. Like new! High-dollar after market wheels! Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

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If you find it, let me know...I'll buy it from you.

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topdollarspaid.com

HONDA ACCORD LX 1989 1989 Honda Accord lx with 143,000 original miles. Purchased in 1998 at 61,000 miles. Montana title. Texas registration. Have all receipts since purchase. Recently have done a lot of work on the engine, new belts, hoses etc. New rebuilt A/C. Engine runs very strong. Brakes good. New tires. Negatives: engine does not idle properly when air conditioner is on or under heavy electrical load - could be vacuum advance or maybe computer chip; Automatic transmission shifts slightly hard - but no change in last 50,000 miles; Needs new muffler to pass TX inspection; Driver's side window works intermittantly; Some minor body damage; slow leak in drivers side rear tire. Otherwise, a very strong and reliable vehicle. Price lowered from $2,000 to $1,500 firm.

JEEP WRANGLER 1998 Will sell to best offer! Need to sell ASAP!Green Jeep w/ Tan soft top & tinted windows, 4 cylender, 4 wheel drive(hardly ever been off road), all stock, 4 speed w/ 120K miles(mainly highway miles), New front tires, Cd player with removable face plate, runs great & has been well maintained.Call at 512-658-5825

615 TRUCKS

4X4 SILVERADO 1997 $9,800 cash 5.3V8 Ext cab very clean, green, A/C $2500 under book, 96k miles (512) 917-3289

AUTOS Wanted 1995 or newer cars, trucks, vans, or SUVs. Wrecked, running or not. Mike 796-4081

NISSAN PICKUP 1990 Located in SW Austin, Oak Hill

620 SUV'S

'99 TOYOTA RAV4L $7,500. Black, 88,250 miles, good condition and appraised at Carmax for $8,650. Auto, power, cruise control, & more! email Celine05@gmail.com

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! **austinchronicle.com/classifieds**





Had an accident? Bring it to us, and we'll write you a check! Up to $500.

Voted ***THE BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP IN AUSTIN***
the last four years in a row by the Austin Chronicle

the auto depot

909 Prairie Trail
836-9767, Mon- Fri 8am-6pm
294-2885, evenings/weekends
www.autodepotaustin.com

CARS FOR SALE

1991 Mercedes 300SE Recent complete overhaul with new timing chain, valve job. A classy classic that looks and drives excellently! $3950 (trade possible)

1991 Corolla Four-door, auto, A/C, looks & drives super. $2950

1992 Celica Convertible In process of complete restoration, 127k, go with the top down and the tunes up. $4250

1992 Accord Two-door, auto, looks & drives super. Higher highway miles. $2750

1993 Civic Si Two-door, 5-speed. 75,000 miles. $3950

1995 Civic Four-door, 5-speed, new motor. $2950

1996 Camry Auto, 134k, looks and drives like new. $4500

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo Leather, auto. Just installed a new motor & timing chain. Cosmetically & mechanically a "10." Recent 65 point check. $3950

1997 Ford Ranger V6, 107k, Really clean. $3950

2000 Toyota Solara Two-door, V6, loaded. An extremely clean car that had cosmetic damage (fully repaired). Dark green with biscuit leather. Gorgeous! $5950 (can trade)

2002 Civic Two-door, auto, LX, 72k, clean as a pin, never wrecked, never smoked in, like new! High-dollar after-market wheels! $7950

2002 BMW 325i Possibly the nicest one you'll find anywhere. Never wrecked, never smoked in, just gorgeous. $12950

NEED YOUR VEHICLE REPAIRED?

CV axles... Clutches... A/C... Brakes... Whatever...



WANTED!!!!!!!!

Your business ...

We do all automotive repairs, from a $100,000 restoration to replacing your CV axle, or repairing body work. And dozens more repairs.

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DRUMS/PERCUSSION www.myspace.com/underdriven

GUITAR Singer/songwriter looking for a guitar player. Foundation is fuzzy southern swamp rock with blues undertones, along temple of the dog/black crowes vein. Previous project www.myspace.com/elbelb Jason 659-5847

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Live the fantasies you never thought possible with a brutally attractive Dominatrix. I have years of playtime experience and an incredible arsenal of toys. Are you my next willing pet? **DominaShannon**, 29, 📷, **#124643**

MALE BODY LOVER
Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an out-door lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. **rockett2222**, 34, 📷, **#124473**

MISS E
I just wanted a $150 gift card from FORBIDDEN FRUIT... Hopefully I get one... Other wise this profile is for fun. I am from Austin but stay in Chicago now... **mmcchr05**, 22, 📷, **#124037**

GODDESS OF LOVE
I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27, 📷, **#123960**

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE
I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **austingrl07**, 23, 📷, **#123569**

REWARDING DOM
Looking for a consistant submissive, not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are intrested, please feel free to contact me. **Tomorrows-Worse**, 23, 📷, **#123509**

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN
i see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20, 📷, **#119431**

LIBRARIAN LOVER
In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS
I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 22, 📷, **#119045**

SHARE OUR BIRTHDAYS
We're a couple of old hippies who don't feel or act old.Butterfly very sensual and beautiful soul.Dog is into music. Looking for bi female for all night 3-some birthday celebration. **Butterflyanddog**, 50, ☎, 📷, **#124509**

HAVING GOOD TIME
couple open-minded first time him 40 her 41. looking for couple 30s or 40s. **memo**, 39, 📷, **#124496**

HORNY HISPANIC CPL
Married Hisp. cpl seek adult encountrs. Mostly MFM, at times ply alone. She wants clean cut, endwd, Hisp. men 32yo>. Both 40, DDF, avg lks, 5'6", 190#, clean cut, endwd. **115536**, 46, 📷, **#115536**

LETS GET HIM
Hello, we seek another man in the bedroom, clean cut, professional, no tattos to get me good while my man is forced to watch. **hotvixen**, 31, 📷, **#124454**

BI COUPLE LOOKING
attractive, expierenced couple seeking bi couples or single bi individuals for erotic play. lots of fun, like to play dress up, love heels,and naughty. big on bedroom eyes, great smiles. **playfullpair**, 33, 📷, **#124429**

THREE IS COMPANY
We're an attractive African-American couple looking for another to female to join us in spreading a little ìholiday cheerî. Be ready to please, I guarantee you will be. **Threeiscompany2**, 23, 📷, **#124414**

CRAZY ASS COUPLE
Married couple 36 female, 41 male, looking for single(s) or couple(s) that are not new to group sex. No Strings, no games, just great sex! **ginger**, 36, 📷, **#124266**

FRIEND WITH BENEFITS
Happily married couple seeking one male to join us for intimate fun in and out of the bedroom. LTR. Must be comfortable with both husband and wife. **spiceycouple46**, 61, 📷, **#124262**

ATTRACTIVE, BI-CURIOUS FEM
Bi-curious, inexperienced, attractive, slender fem looking for a single bi-fem for friendship – & discreet, sexy encounters, dancing. Looking for height/weight proportionate, outdoorsy, fem girl adventures. **Ruby**, 31, 📷, **#124362**

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON
bi-curious, sexy, stylish, feminine, exotic woman. looking for adventures with sexy guys and feminine girls. Chemistry is a must. I long for sophistication more than anything else. **mnemosyne**, 32, 📷, **#124135**

DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS
Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **lzzy11**, 31, 📷, **#117594**

LESBIAN LOVE
I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19, 📷, **#123524**

PINUP SEXXXY FEMME
bi-sexual femme with a flair for all things retro. i love burlesque, pinup, and fifties fashions. come play with me? **atxbibabe**, 29, 📷, **#123507**

KINKY BOOK LOVER
I'm just a kinky nerdy girl looking for some kinky nerdy sex. Can you flog me while you make me conjugate Latin verbs? If so, we should meet! **Plagosa**, 25, 📷, **#123241**

ANY SUGGESTIONS?
5'3, 145, athletic, Brn/Brn, MWF. Laid-back, flexible and love to laugh. Seeks discreet, fun and safe sexual encounter(s) with a woman. **Pierce**, 27, 📷, **#123112**

WHAT YOU SEE
is what you get, no lies, you wat to know something ask the answer will be truthfull. Am also looking for a friend as well. **Puddly**, 36, 📷, **#122311**

ATTRACTIVE, INEXPERIENCED, BI-CURIOUS
Attractive,mid 40's/5'3/110lbs,hispanic female,married d/d/free,looking to explore with another woman also bi-curious and inexperienced.Prefer attractive, d/d/free,open minded, height/weight proportionate hispanic/caucasian female. Must be willing to occasionally include my shy handsome husband. **davn**, 47, ☎, 📷, **#120088**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER
You-looking for fun first and formost with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Just average people looking for an above average time ;) Prefer sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 31, ☎, 📷, **#121712**

FOOT/WS SLAVE
Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **MaleFootSearch**, 46, ☎, 📷, **#123872**

TICKLE THERAPY
Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40, ☎, 📷, **#122033**

SEXUAL ARTIST
Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 48, ☎, 📷, **#121616**

HOT NAKED TICKLING
BiWM seeks a nice guy or girl who likes mutual erotic tickling. 33, 6' 0", 165#, DDF, Br/Hzl, safe, sane, playful, intelligent. Seeking slender, white, 18-35, DDF, friendly. LTR possible. **austintickling**, 33, 📷, **#124633**

HARD BLACK
I'm 24, 5'9", 200, ddf, clean respectful man. Looking to explore what the world has to offer me. Need some new kink in my life. **choklat_thundr**, 24, 📷, **#123854**

MAN'S LADY'S MAN
Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42, 📷, **#123387**

WANTING IT ALL
I'm 39, 5ï3ï, 165 lb male w/starving sex drive. Recently free to fulfill all pleasures. Looking 4 right person/couple to explore what I've been missing. Bi-curious looking 4 discrete encounters. **forfunexcitement**, 39, 📷, **#122318**

MAKE YOU SCREAM!
Looking for someone to have fun with, see where things go. A roommate with benefits or a kinky girlfriend or TS girlfriend (or friend w/ benefits) would be great. **Metalopn**, 26, 📷, **#122364**

SUB BI MALE
Hi! Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, descrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 43, ☎, 📷, **#122208**

HOT, CLOSET CD
looking for a good looking, 30 to 40's y.o. woman who would like to do some rather kinky things in bed, be friends. i'm reasonably intelligent,sensitive, artistic person. **shelley**, 54, 📷, **#124543**

SEXY CROSSDRESSER
Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41, 📷, **#122825**

SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS
Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 54, 📷, **#116914**

BLONDE SHEMALE TOP
Hot Blonde TS girl, likes to have late night (no strings) fun. Seeking HOT FIT WHITE Guys that like whats going on between my legs. **BlondeHottie**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#101055**

CALLING ALL LADIES!
Hello all! Just wanted to drop a line to all who are interested in hot times in Austin! Looking for ladies and select couples(straight) who are up for fun! **txcowboy421960**, 47, 📷, **#118413**

CASUAL DREAM
Tall, dark, and handsome looking for someone to please. I'm easy going and I'm easy to have fun with. Not looking for anything serious just a little fun. **layladylay**, 20, 📷, **#124656**

ENERGIZER
I am here to help... Couples or single women that want to spice up their sex life should say hello.I workout 5-6 days a week and have stamina for days. **Single_In_Austin**, 24, 📷, **#124652**

HORNY PLEASURE SEEKER
New to austin, to find some fun . Would enjoy meeting someone open minded fun and up to enjoy some times together! NSA or friends with benefits Come on ladies! **sparks**, 41, 📷, **#124641**

SECURE, SENSITIVE, OUTDOORSMAN.
Have a burning desire. Love to give and get. Discretion necessary. Looking for someone who's feeling the same. Miss the excitement of something lustful? Let's light the fire! **Dude59**, 48, 📷, **#124618**

TAT2'D CLEAN WHITETRASH!
down to earth single white male look'n for cool and relax'd people to have sexual fun with...i'm pretty open..u should b to!! south austin rules baby!!! **herbn_cowboy**, 32, 📷, **#124598**

BRAINY BODY BELIEVES!
I'd love to spend time away from my computer with a creative, whip-smart, sensual woman. I'm adventurous & wild, but also respectful & kind; it could be a wonderful life. **flybynight**, 35, 📷, **#124593**

OPENMINDED, NUDIST SWINGER
I am extreamly open minded laid back, nudist, swinger and love sex in any place and time. I live on private and secluded land I host alternative parties. **gogetnaked**, 57, 📷, **#115993**

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GIRL PLAYMATES

Looking for sexy femme playmates. I have had a few experiences with girls in the past and really enjoyed it. I have a boyfriend and he totally supports my exploration of my own sexuality. It's up to you whether you would like to have him join in. I'm into fashion and style and I prefer girls who share that interest with me.

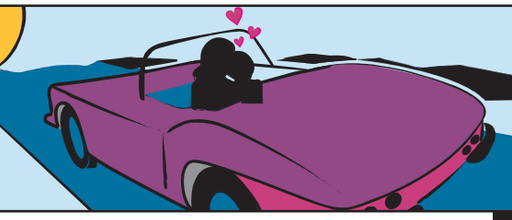
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If you did them up right, the holidays should have packed a couple of extra pounds of suet on your frame. Don't freak out and buy an expensive gym membership just yet. Anything could happen. You might swallow a tapeworm. You might go on a hunger strike. Your soccer team's plane might crash in the Andes. Besides, more and more people are getting right with chubbiness anyway. Take a quick stroll along the drag and you'll realize that your anachronistic prejudices about body image don't trouble the youth of today. You won't see any hint of the roomy, asexual styles of yesteryear. Mostly what you get is clothes that truss the body like sausage casings, split with intermittent herniations of white, doughy flesh. In ill-fitting clothing, nearly anyone can look voluptuous. Take "skinny jeans" for instance. They might make your legs look skinny - especially if you could throw a poncho over your upper torso – say like Clint Eastwood in *High Plains Drifter*, but the average pair of skinny jeans these days has belly fat oozing out of the top like dough from a broken can of biscuits. Perhaps it's Eurocentric designers taking revenge on Bush-voting red states, but clothing seems to be tailored for people who spend their days in the tailgate mosh pit of Oxfam trucks, not for pudgy middle Americans whose most physically demanding tasks are fingering their remotes and cracking the pull-tops on cans of Red Bull and Rock Star. If people aren't leaving their houses as much (and they aren't) there really isn't much need for them to look presentable, but they could at least look and feel comfortable. It's really sad to think of a whole nation of teenagers passing out, popping buttons and splitting seams in the comfort and privacy of their own homes just because they don't have enough self-esteem to buy their clothes in the "husky" section of J.C. Penney. If wishes were horses, they probably wouldn't try to fit into Greyhound harnesses, would they? Ah, but how to change the demented mindset of a whole generation? Fuck that, you're probably better off buying an Ab Lounger and training for ultra marathons. Or, you could have your mouth wired shut. Before you do, you might want to check in with Jennifer Marchand, who is the beneficiary of a rock & roll concert this Friday at Ruta Maya. Marchand who runs Bleu French Laundry productions, a promoter of musical events like the Zeppelin hoot night and the Stones *Sticky Fingers* album hoot, was hit by a car in November and suffered, among other things, a broken jaw, which required her mouth to be wired shut for four weeks. This Friday's show will help cover some of her medical expenses and get her back in business, so to speak. Acts scheduled to play include: Amplified Heat, Chili Cold Blood, the Alice Rose, the Summer Wardrobe, Ralph White, the Murdocks, Carolyn Wonderland, Tony Scalzo, Jade Day, Paul Minor, and surprise guests. The Ruta Maya should be packed tighter than a pair of skinny jeans, but that doesn't mean they won't be able to squeeze you in.

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women SEEKING men

READY FOR ADVENTURE
Seeking adventure and companionship with a compatible mate. **Gwendolink**, 50, #124651

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The large print giveth, the small print taketh away. **Albondigas**, 37, #124635

SOMETHING REAL. &FUN.
Down to earth, love outdoors, travel, music, friends. I am cute, great smile, easly to talk to. Looking for a guy that can be understanding, fun, have his own life. **julesps**, 34, #124628

SPRINKLE OF "SUGAH"
Attractive,strong willed,semi retired model, seeking romance, fun times and tour guide to help get settled in new town.Easygoing,drama free.If you don't sweat the small stuff,we're off to a great start! **MizSugah**, 45, #124629

DAYTRIPS, NITECLUBS, & INBETWEEN
Quirky and a little sarcastic, but good hearted and fun to be with. Not looking for anything but fun shared, squared, whatever. **cheerfully_optimistic**, 50, #124627

NY TO ATX
Looking for something a bit more serious than in my past. My life is super easy going....get to know me more and i'll tell you how lucky i really am. **substance_etc**, 25, #124617

AFFECTIONATE GUY WANTED
18 yr old female from Round Rock seeking heavyset catholic 18-25 yr old male; must be affectionate and open-minded. **Amyjustspelleddifferent**, 18, #124606

SCISSORTAIL FLYCATCHER
I am just a girl looking for someone to share my heart with who doesn't mind my dog sharing the bed. Sing to me and I'll melt at your feet. **Lucypie**, 22, #124605

LOOKIN' 4 ....
I recently moved to Austin a few weeks ago and still getting familiar with the City. Looking for some people to hang out with. **BK**, 27, #124545

SEEKING FELLOW TRAVELER
I'm funny and smart, know foreign languages, but sadly, I am lousy at reading maps. If youíre looking for a navigator, count me out. **isis_isis_ra_ra_a**, 54, #124531

ADVENTUROUS, AMBITIOUS, FRISKY
Me: Adventurous, Ambitious, Dynamic, Frisky, Vivacious, Romantic You: Real. **LocaVida**, 48, #124524

OLD FASHIONED GAL
Hi my name is beth. I am new to austin and would like to have some people escort me around town. Hope to talk to you soon. **beth311**, 47, #124511

LOST IN AUSTIN
New here and looking for new friends. I love to laugh and have a pretty wild sense of humor...thick skinned only need apply! **itsonlydarla**, 41, #124489

WORKIN' IT
I love new and exciting experiences. I have lived in many places and each one shapes me into a better person. I love to laugh and yoga it up. **sirena834**, 28, #124278

WHERE ARE YOU?
Looking for my match. I'm fun, outgoing, somewhat witty, love animals and music. Looking for someone for me to get to know and hopefully date and see where it goes. **deenadub**, 34, #124272

DIVERSE OUTGOING GAL
Life should be a constant learning experience. My match wants a mutually beneficial relationship- emotionally, intellectually, and physically! Someone openminded, with "old world" sensibilities. Cute geeks are a turn-on! **snax**, 43, #124197

SMART GENUINE FUNNY
Some of my favorite activities are listening to live music, swimming in Barton Springs, walking Mt. Bonnell, and toasting the sunset at the Oasis. **Bluenote**, 34, #124594

CURIOUS THOUGHTFULL INTREASTING
Im 22 years old but feel 30. Life has been rough but has showed me what doesnt kill you helps you overcome crappy situations. Hopping to meet somebody intreasting. **Nemo6987**, 22, #124589

CITY COUNTRY BOY
Well now, ladies hold on to your petticoats 'cause this old cowhand is on the loose. Hope you don't take me too seriously, cause I'm just out to have fun. **Januaryman**, 58, #124578

TRYRING STUFF OUT
I moved from missouri two years ago and haven't branched out as much as should. I'd like to find some one doesn't mind good natured debate about movies and music. **StlScorpio**, 22, #115723

JERSEY BOY
I'm a SWM 54 5'7". blue eyes. I'm looking for a S/DWF35-55-5'4"-6' for dating and friendship possibly leading to love. Also interested in friends with benifits. Please read online ad. **texray**, 54, ☎, #117430

YOUR BEST FRIEND
Newly divorced, new to online matching, but willing to learn. I can be your best friend and adore you if you will let me. I love to please a woman. **bf5502**, 50, #124558

INTO THE BEARPIT
Going to school to be an audio engineer to work on records film and television. Just looking for someone to make some music with. **deadlyreg**, 21, #124556

ROMANCE, NATURE, TRAVEL
I am hard working and love to travel. I enjoy cocking, camping, and being in the outdoors. I enjoy gentle, compassionate, women. **Billy**, 47, #124421

HUGS N NUGS
I dig on: Zen Gardening, Wheatsville, organics, Grapevine market, funk and soul, Dylan, dancing like no one is watching, loving like i have never been hurt, Jamband festivals, surfing, drum-circles. **jaycat**, 31, #124537

DOES THIS WORK?
Just trying to meet some one for fun or for more... **Splatty**, 34, ☎, #124536

SEEKING MULTI-DIMENSIONAL GODDESS
Multiverse is a state of mind and yours is open. Seeking online to broaden my search for a woman who is liberal, socially ethical, generous, bright and beautiful. **r_in_austin**, 44, #122257

CORAZON
Lovable romantic in search of same. I enjoy all kinds of music and movies. I also enjoy the outdoors, hanging out and occasionally traveling. **INSEARCHOF**, 34, #124516

JUST ME
Hi Austin people.I moved here a couple of years ago and love Austin.I am from Tupelo Mississippi,I work for Independence Brewery here in town. And im searching for a great person. **tallboyray**, 28, #124483

OLDER GUY LOOKING
i am a 51 yr old white guy looking for a friend and companion. **rich2007**, 51, ☎, #124482

WILD EYED VIRGIN
the past days were all a fast haze and now the sun has sunk on my teen years and tears drip drop outta my clock. i need my sexual rite. **substrate**, 20, ☎, #124439

UNCOMMON DOWN2EARTH GEEK
Although computers encompass my time, I'd rather be in a horsebarn picking hooves or floating the San Marcos River. Life is not cookiecutter, so shoot for the good times. **javabirdy**, 46, ☎, #124435

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24, #124084

AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50, ☎, #124075

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarrettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselfs. **smile4me**, 18, #123970

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25, #123723

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

men SEEKING women

NATURAL, EARTHY, MUSICLOVER
I am a very simple, honest, and joyful woman. I am interested in making friends with those who guide their life with their heart. **Cypress**, 50, ☎, #124380

BEAUTIFUL WILD CHILD
I'm new to Austin and I'm just interested in meeting people to hang out with. I'm a struggling Artist that likes to ride on motorcycles and in fast cars. **Queen_Corvina**, 31, #124343

SEXY SMART EXSISTENTIALIST.
Ok here is the part that I hate more when doing this single looking for that prince charming thing. **angeleve**, 38, #124314

FUNNY, KIND, WITTY.
Vivacious,kind,fit,petite, prof, fun to be with,smart,very family oriented loves the outdoors,organic wines,the gym, movies,the arts, healthy lifestyle, would love to find, a friend to enjoy what Austin has to offer. **Spanishrose**, 41, #124282

REASONABLY CRAZY DANGER
I want to find a partner with common tastes. I love to keep my life spontaneous. I'm very sensitive at times and I lavish attention on people I love. **communistdaughter**, 21, #124254

men SEEKING women

SEEKING GOOD WOMAN
Are there any left? Good guy with shit together seeks honest, decent, sexy woman with some moxie. No teases or flakes. **Texan483**, 27, ☎, #124654

ATTRACTIVE, INTELLECTUAL, INTELLIGENT!
I'm looking to start something real. You must be Healthy, Outdoorsy, Positive oulook on life, Attractive, Intellectual, not taller than 5'7". Prefer Blue/Green/exotic eyes. OPEN MINDED! Willing to Vacation! **CharlesIII**, 25, ☎, #124650

ARE YOU FLY?
Write to me, if you are totally fly in every way. **purplefred**, 36, #119809

DOESTHISCOUNTASONEWORD
I'm reborn in the outdoors, I sleep best in a tent or under the stars. I enjoy long conversations, beautiful music, and powerful movies. I'm green, organic, and open minded. **mathiashenry**, 30, #124622

FUN ADVENTUROUS HUMOROUS
I am new to Austin. Will surely like to meet people here. You will definitely hav a lot of fun... **hady**, 23, #124611

FUN, ATHLETIC GUY
I am new to the Austin area. I teach and coach, and I am looking to get back into the dating scene. **runner25**, 25, ☎, #124610

CONSCIOUS SEEKS CUTIE
I am looking for something meaningful. It is time for me to have a girlfriend and find love again. I like sweet girls, who are affectionate and participate. **substance**, 30, #124583

women SEEKING women

YOUNG OPEN ADVENTURER
I hope my ambition doesn't drive me crazy. I appreciate people, feel that everyone has something. I'm hot, cold, black, gray, white, good, bad, city, country. I like petite. **iamclrblnd**, 23, #124648

FEMME 4 RELATIONSHIP
My name is Sarah... honestly looking for a relationship 20 y/o.Long,Blk hr, Drk Brwn Iz, 5'4, 110,Brwn Skn Lotz of pics I hope you do to :D. **SekCBinX**, 20, #124419

JUST LOOKING
Looking for a long time too. Can't find the right Bi woman. Could it be you? Guess I'll just cross my fingers and see. I'm pretty picky, but not Dicky. **LoversInParadise**, 50, #124333

LOVE JIM MORRISON
I love the outdoors,music, and conversing with everyone I encounter. I believe at jumping at every opportunity, and if you are in a position to help others you should. **maryjane**, 20, #124326

KINK_FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalicious**, 22, #124160

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show when paired with good company. **rieslingowl**, 20, #124126

men SEEKING women

BES1971
GBM 6'0 175lbs black/brown. Told I have a nice smile. Like to cook/bake,sing,dance,travel, read,theater/movies,hiking/camping,swimming, bowling. Looking for W/H/M to start out as friends That may lead to LTR. Serious reply. **NIIU**, 36, #124639

PAPIMORENO
Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268**, 55, #124268

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 54, #121119

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39, #123381

BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotallers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc. **Sarkany**, 31, #123189

Momo

ANY COOL GIRLS OUT THERE?

looking for girlfriends who can carry on an intelligent conversation, can share my passion for art, literature, food and travel. Please be fit and active. I'm looking for similar minds who embrace life fully. I'm independent, active, artistic, emotionally stable, spontaneous, outgoing, outspoken, funny and femme. I have girlfriends I go out with, but often I find myself desiring more intellectual brainpower in my girlfriends. I'm bi so if the friendship sparks something more I'm willing to explore it. I'm looking for un-married girlfriends without kids. Not looking for internet chat friends/myspace friends. Life is too short to waste time on building cyberspace virtual friends. A flakey personality is a deal breaker for me.

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Tabu

JUST friends

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42, **#121697**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 49, **#119526**

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24, **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. Iím looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26, **#115939**

LIFE'S A JOURNEY
A strong minded Gemini with the passion for life and the willingness to try new things. Lookinf for like mided people to connect with. **Mr_Skellington**, 39, **#124642**

PUNK MAMA
busy. **zombiegirl1986**, 21, **#124358**

JUST BEING ME
Its late, I'm tired, and my allergies are off the richter...the lengths we who luv Austin will go to just to stay in the city we adore. **RiotGirly**, 34, **#124585**

SARCASTIC , QUICK-WITTED,
live music & the spray paint on my car rocks but the radio's busted, addicted to sewing pillows, try not to have expectations or plans, don't always trust my guts. **jilliegirl**, 38, **#124525**

NEW TO AUSTIN
Im a outgoing gal who is looking for friends to hang with and show me around this awesome place..im big on 80's, love music, and love to laugh! **Catwoman**, 23, **#124467**

LOVABLY ALOOF
I are me. **redalexistheseventh**, 24, **#124423**

BLUE EYED BOY
I'm a kind and generous software engineer that would much rather be composing music, living off the grid somewhere in the mountains of NM, and am looking for new friends. **MazeRat**, 50, **#124338**

COUPLE SEEKING FLIPSIDE-FRIENDS
Two cool kids out of college 23/24 y/old. Looking for like-minded couples or individuals to hang, listen to music, and smoke, while enjoying the hill country atmosphere - Flipside '08. **chiefdog**, 23, **#124334**

PUPPYLOVE A MUST
Well I pretty much like everything . **puppy_love_a_must**, 25, **#124587**

messages

PINK SHOELACES GOOD

IT'S NEVER TOO late to look into my eyes and tell me how you really feel about me.

D - YOU took advantage of me and my situation. I don't wish you bad but I don't wish you well. This is my closure. Karma. - M

LOOKING FOR MRS. Smallwood.. It's Cochina bitch and I lost all my numbers. Email me @ work so I can give you my new #. I'm still in CA.

a Shot in the Dark

WALKUP PIZZA WINDOW
1/5 late Saturday night. You, Angelic Aura, w/Arizona friend; Me, Soul, Memorable, VulcanVideo, conked from swimming. You set off a spark. Loved our talk, lots more to explore. Ping me **When: Saturday, January 5. Where: Walk up pizza window on South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902541**

CRAZY DOG LADY
I'm joining Lovers Lane soon, so if this doesn't work... However I saw your pic, read through your profile and can not wait! CharlesIII I'd love to meet you! **When: Monday, January 7. Where: Austin Chronicle Lovers Lane. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902540**

ELECTRO-HARMONIX WHOLE FOODS
You: Yellow Electro-Harmonix t-shirt. Blonde spiked hair, gorgeous eyes. Me: Buxom Blonde. I couldn't keep my eyes off you. That hair rocks! Rock my world. Let's make beautiful babies together! **When: Sunday, January 6. Where: Whole Foods Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902539**

HERE'S YOUR AD
Fri. beauty bar. You brown hair, blue eyes. Tight black hoodie and white belt. Navajo necklace. I blonde hair, blue eyes. Beige long sleeve over green collar. Dancing? **When: Friday, January 4. Where: the beauty bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902538**

VESPA, BUSTED TURNSINGLE
Your HOT riding around town! I love you all the way past the blue blue sky! **When: Tuesday, January 1. Where: S. 1st & Riverside. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902537**

REMEMBER VANCOUVER, TREVOR?
I'm back in town, would love to see you again **When: Thursday, November 6, 2003. Where: Austin & vancouver. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902536**

DESPERATE 4CAMERA, NEEDU
Lost NYE at Cool River Cafe. I was onstage in b&w. Picture taker in black got sick, camera was in the wind. Broke my heart. Let's talk! Reward offered. **When: Tuesday, January 1. Where: center booth by stage. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902535**

CONTINENTAL X-MAS FLIGHT
Continental night flight from Houston to Austin, Dec 28th. You tall, dark hair, and little white bag that looked like a stereo. Me: brown hair, bangs and blue shirt. Coffee? **When: Friday, December 28. Where: boarding night airplane in Houston to Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902534**

IT IS PARAMOUNT!
you: BnP customer(Brandy?) me: guy that always "checks you out". I'm ready for my first movie at the ParamounT, join me for my first? **When: Saturday, January 5. Where: the BnP. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902533**

LITTLE CITY CONGRESS
Sassy older gentlemen with glasses and black arm tat. Drinking coffee with girl(daughter?) in yellow peacoat. Let's get together sometime and talk about the good old days. **When: Wednesday, December 19. Where: Little City. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902532**

GREENBELT CAVE
overlook cave above the Campbell's hole rapids. You dark hair, gorgeous, red heeler. kids in tow scared you and the other two people away They're not mine! coffee? **When: Friday, December 28. Where: Campbell Hole Cave. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902531**

MORNING OF NYE-STARBUCKS
We exchanged "Hellos" in the parking lot. I wish I had the nerve that morning to tell you(shaved head, black jacket, gray pants)how strikingly handsome you are. Happy New Year! **When: Monday, December 31. Where: South Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902530**

MARINA AT GRAHAMS
We rung in the New Year doing some intense dancing at Grahams. You are beautiful Marina (turquoise blouse/black pants). I lost you in the crowd. Cant stop thinking about you! **When: Monday, December 31. Where: Grahams in Round Rock. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902529**

CREAM COME TRUE
1/2/08 @ Cream - I was looking for a replacement wallet and you had nothing but your crazy pretty eyes. When I get my ID back, wanna get a drink? **When: Wednesday, January 2. Where: Cream Vintage. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902528**

SPILL'S ON 6TH
You: long blonde hair and brown sweater, held my hand and kissed me on the cheek. Me: black blouse and jeans, too dumbfounded to flirt back! Hope we meet again. **When: Saturday, December 29. Where: outside of The Spill. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902527**

GREAT HUGGER NYE
appeared from nowhere, gave me the best hug and wished me happy new year..then disappeared. Me - petite brunette, big purple sweater with snowflakes, black backpack. Hope you see this. **When: Monday, December 31. Where: in front of City Hall 8PM. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902526**

ALEX.
I'm not Canadian, eh. Sorry. Dance and a drink? Mark **When: Saturday, December 22. Where: OCH. You: Man. Me: Man. #902525**

ALAMO CUTIE
new years day we talked in the ticket line at alamo south about recent movies. you were the cute blonde and i was all in denim. need a movie buddy?! **When: Tuesday, January 1. Where: alamo south. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902524**

FIRST NIGHT HUG
Thank you to the angel with the plush sweater and red ribbon in her hair for the Free Hug your the blue bird on my shoulder **When: Wednesday, December 31. Where: North side of 1st street bridge. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902523**

SHOPPING SWEETHEART HEB
You pink Adidas cap with brilliant smile.My brother and I held you up at checkout grabbing cap.I apologized for the hold up.You smiled and said "no worries." Hello cutie-pie! **When: Monday, December 31. Where: HEB 620 Checkout. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #902522**

IRISH PUB RUN-IN
Hope you remember,I sure do.You: blonde hair&cute brown blazer,carried three drinks away.Me:squeezed my way tothe bar throwing a few elbows along the way.Maybe I can run into you again, on purpose. **When: Saturday, December 29. Where: Fado. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902521**

SOL Y LUNA
Thursday, Dec 28 2 pm. I enjoyed meeting your gaze, admiring your skin. You: Latino with smile who left too soon. Me: Wandering around, waiting, blue eyes. Quisiera conocerte. **When: Friday, December 28. Where: El Sol y La Luna. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902520**

BEN WHITE STARBUCKS?
I had a laptop, headphones and now a faint memory of a man with a tie. I don't know how this thing works, but I thought I'd try back... **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: starbucks. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902519**

WELLS FARGO LINE
Behind you in line at the Wells Fargo. You have blond hair. I made a joke about a confused look on my face-you laughed. Waited outside-you left through other exit? **When: Friday, December 21. Where: Wells Fargo-Randalls parking lot location up north. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902512**

FEDEX GROUND GUYS
All my ground guys(you know who u are), whenever I see the ground truck roll up I am the happiest little blonde girlie alive stop and steal my greencards anytime **When: Friday, December 28. Where: FEDEXKINKO'S. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902518**

EXXON 35/ST JOHNS
Your son was sportin' Spiderman boots Sat morning Was speachless at the moment, now I have alot to say if fate should have its way you'll somehow see this... **When: Saturday, December 29. Where: Exxon 35 & St Johns. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902517**

A SLOW JAM
Creekside the day after christmas. Couldnt stop looking at your beautiful green eyes! can i make enchiladas sometime? let me know. **When: Wednesday, December 26. Where: creekside. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902515**

JJ'S OFF CONGRESS
You: biking on Congress when your cap flew off. You said , "Thanks, babe" and kept pedaling away. Recently, you said it flies off all the time. Your smile haunts. **When: Thursday, December 27. Where: JJ's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902514**

NICE SHOES--GREAT HAIR!
You rocked my world when you "crashed" my date. I played my cards wrong and lost you along the way. I'd love another chance to play... I've been miserable since. **When: Sunday, September 23. Where: Opal's @ Pennfield. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #902511**

CLEAN IT UP.
You were eating a burrito in Odessa but I know you're from Austin. Although you looked as if you hadn't showered, you're more beautiful than can be put into words. **When: Monday, December 24. Where: Taco Villa. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902510**

COSTCO CHECKOUT 12/22/07
I was a goofy white-haired guy extolling the virtues of the cranberry juice in your cart. You offerd to buy my flowers for me. Let me buy some for you. **When: Saturday, December 22. Where: Costco checkout. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902509**

ALSO ONLINE:
MORE **Shot in the Dark!**
Now with photos so you can see who saw you. Search by When, Where, and Keywords. **FREE!**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for January 11 - January 17

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): The wind horse is a mythical creature in Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Symbolizing vigorous life force, it embodies the quick, cleansing power of the wind and the primal vitality of the horse. In accordance with your astrological omens, Capricorn, I nominate this archetype to be your ruling metaphor in the coming weeks. Visualize yourself being accompanied by a wind horse everywhere you go. See yourself riding it, feeding it, playing with it. Call on its inspiring presence as you align yourself with the natural beneficence of the universe. Ask it to help you sweep obstacles out of the way as you attract a flow of opportunities to open your mind and heart.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): This will be an excellent week for you to buy $50 worth of silence. And to hang around people who won't try to coax you or manipulate you into doing anything. And to wander out into a barren wilderness – the Mars-like landscape of the crater near the summit of Maui's Mt. Haleakala would be ideal – and howl wordless, senseless, empty-headed melodies to a god who may or may not exist. Do you catch my drift, Aquarius? You are likely to attract cosmic luck and generate useful serendipity if you can achieve a state that combines Zen Buddhism's "beginner's mind" with the attitude Henry Miller enjoyed when he said: "I have no money, no resources, no hopes. I am the happiest man alive."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): "The stars would love to influence your future," reported a horoscope for Pisces in *The Onion* newspaper, "but they are powerless against your well-established patterns of behavior." While this might sometimes be an accurate statement, it's not true now. The next three weeks will be a very favorable time for you to escape well-established patterns of behavior, especially the ones that are no damn good for you. Here's a bonus perk: You will also have marked success if you not only rebel against your habits but also against the stars' influence. The upshot of all this good news is that you'll be in prime time to unleash your freest free will.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): "My calling hasn't called yet," wrote Rennie, an Aries reader from Austin. "Please, Rob, say a prayer to all the applicable gods and angels, asking them to do whatever it takes to make sure that I am at home when it finally does." I've got good news for Rennie. Many Aries who have never before had a hint about their calling will be able to gather many clues in 2008. Meanwhile, those of your tribe who have already found their higher purpose will be evolving it to a much deeper level. To help ensure that all the magic unfolds, I have unleashed a fist-pumping prayer to the goddess of mission plans, urging her to invite you Rams to claim the empowering joy that comes from being united with your source code.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): The longest waves on the planet unfurl in the place where the Atlantic Ocean flows into the mouth of the Amazon River. The phenomenon is called the "pororoca" (from a word meaning "tumultuous noise") and has become a favorite challenge for surfers. In 2003, a Brazilian daredevil named Picuruta Salazar rode a single wave for 37 minutes, gliding and plowing for almost eight miles. Judging from your current astrological omens, Taurus, I'd say that's an apt metaphor for the kind of wave you now have the chance to jump on. If you choose to give it a whirl, don't plan for a short, sweet burst of adrenaline. Be ready for a long, rollicking balancing act.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): This is a very favorable time to discover what has been hidden from you, to strip away disguises, and to penetrate to the real story that has been buried by the official propaganda. You're also likely to generate luck if you go in search of buried treasure, lost keys, and missing links. To help you achieve success in these noble if sometimes stealthy goals, keep in mind the advice of inventor George Washington Carver: "Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough."

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Mirrors can be powerful tools and useful symbols for you in the coming days. When is the last time you gazed serenely into your own eyes for at least 10 minutes? Try it! If you're brave, go on from there: Actually talk to the interesting creature you see reflected back at you. Ask questions. Give advice. Sing songs. And if you're even braver, move on to the next project: Bring a friend or loved one to the mirror, and converse with each other's images. Tell each other the kinds of raw, shimmering truths that can only be revealed in a mirror.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): At the Plow & Hearth stores, you can buy realistic boulders "to disguise your yard problems." These gigantic plastic monstrosities, which sell for $90, are hollow inside and fit right over the pipes, holes, and other eyesores you want to hide. In the coming days, Leo, you might want to consider acquiring a metaphorical version of this item. There's a big, old messy place in your kingdom that seems to be getting bigger and messier. It's high time to either conceal it or clean it up.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): The U.K. newspaper *The Independent* reports that avid reader Mark Bastable consumed the collected works of D.H. Lawrence and found "not a single laugh, not a wry chuckle, not even a quiet grin in the entire po-faced oeuvre." If that's true, I say we put an asterisk on the covers of his books, similar to the mark that will go on the home run record of the allegedly steroid-enhanced baseball star Barry Bonds. In D.H.'s case, the asterisk will denote that he won a place in the literature hall of fame despite having never expressed the second-most essential human emotion. In any case, Virgo, don't you dare read Lawrence in the next four weeks. You need to be surrounded by influences that will encourage you to look for humor and amusement in every single thing you do.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): In 15 million years, Los Angeles will be a suburb of San Francisco. It will take that long for the constant slipping of the San Andreas Fault to push the southern city 400 miles north. That will be lucky for the people alive then, since they won't have to travel far to enjoy the distinctive pleasures of two of the West Coast's finest cultural centers. In your case, Libra, you don't have to wait so long. I predict that two of your personal centers of gravity will combine by the end of 2008. Your divided sense of home will disappear, allowing you to feel more united than you've been in years.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Why does human anatomy include the organ known as the appendix? For centuries, doctors have been unable to determine its purpose. Most have decided it's unnecessary, a vestigial structure left over from an earlier stage of evolution. But recent research suggests the conventional wisdom has to be revised. In fact, the appendix seems to protect and regenerate the good bacteria that live in the intestines. I predict that you're on the verge of a metaphorically comparable discovery, Scorpio. Something you have always considered to be useless or irrelevant will reveal its value.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Astronomers say that the Sagittarius galaxy is being devoured by our own galaxy. It's getting stretched, rearranged, and assimilated by our massive gravity. I'd like to offer up this scenario as a metaphor for you to put into play in the coming week, Sagittarius. Imagine all the fun and interesting ways that you yourself could be "eaten." Maybe you could get absorbed into an exciting social scene or be integrated into an institution you love or become part of a movement you've admired from afar. And maybe you could simply do what's necessary to get yourself kissed, licked, and sucked all over.

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