

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 22 JANUARY 30, 2009

HEARTLESS BASTARDS' ERIKA WENNERSTROM ROARS DOWN 'THE MOUNTAIN'
BY AUDRA SCHROEDER P. 50

NEWS Making Sense of Boards and Commissions **THE ARTS** Going Long (With Fringe) **SCREENS** Spiderwood Studios

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Balancing Act

Several tiny steps in search of a dance to winter – and a dance toward launching into reverie

BY LOUIS BLACK

This column is the first part of an interlude between the content of last week's column and the one previewed at its end. In order to get where this appears to be going, it seemed that certain thoughts and structural constructs should be at least offered up first.

1) Robert Frost said that "poet" is a gift word. You can't really call yourself a "poet"; instead, in order to earn that label, you had to be called that by others. There is a small dictionary of gift words currently in wide usage that have questionable validity when one bestows them on oneself. Claiming their connotative and denotative meanings for oneself is sheer arrogance. In every sense, they are words that have to be earned by one's conduct, character, and practices over very long periods of time. Self-anointing with one of them does not automatically annul or deny the necessary traits associated with the word's meaning, but neither does it in any way validate the meaning, guarantee that it is being appropriately applied, or lend class to one's actions. Most often, for the wary, such assertions are seen as a step back by the claimant into uncertain, questionable shadows rather than toward the light.

Many people, for example, all too easily declare themselves "patriots," while their actions and beliefs in no way justify that title. Those claiming one or more of these kinds of gift words as a way of describing themselves ignore the high performance standards of behavior that need to accompany them. The act of self-proclamation inherently argues against the worthiness of the application. Almost casually, many of the self-anointing assume that the very act of claiming the word for oneself grants one the attributes associated with the word (no matter how unearned). Often, rather than trying to make sure their behavior is such that it matches the descriptive title they've claimed, they are too busy judging and condemning others for not approaching the same standards. Simply assuming that semantic proximity grants them the appropriate authority, those who claim to be "patriots" criticize others as being active traitors or mindless, compliant sheep far more interested in getting along than in taking on the challenges of true patriotism.

2) Some of these gift words, such as "patriot," are quite specific; others are much more general – such as when one asserts his or her opinions are the "truth" or that he or she is on the side of "good," while those with whom they disagree are "liars" or serve "evil." Others of these words are self-forgiving,

Essentially, they represent a single person reaching a jury's verdict of innocence in his or her own favor – or at least the claim to an objective, appropriate dismissal of any questioning of the moral/ideological/social basis by which beliefs and positions have been arrived at or on which they are based.

When one makes the quick assertion that one is not prejudiced, racist, biased against people of color, anti-white, ideologically dogmatic, anti-Semitic, anti-papal, anti-religious, religiously intolerant, anti-labor, or anti-management, that assertion is often rendered highly questionable. The same is true when it is denied that one is classist (either one of upper class claiming no bias toward other classes or one of the lower class claiming his or her views are untainted), elitist, anti-elitist, or distrustful of foreigners, among many such categories of predetermined, judgmental dispositions. In other words, these people vet their own statements. They are willing to assert clinically that they've arrived at their opinions unaccompanied by any kind of taint.

Instead, they are willing to assert factually that their statements and opinions represent pure thought untethered by any bias, including unconscious, subconscious, learned, and/or overt. The complex, emotional, and intellectual make-up of individuals makes it impossible to understand, know, or trace such factors as thought processes, external and internal influences, or what is learned and what is biological. Actually, those words in this context are grotesquely inappropriate. This situation argues against the very assertions being made. Openly acknowledging that one might not fully understand all that is involved in the development of opinions would be more reassuring than these self-issued clean bills of ideological and belief-system health.

More often than not, when an opinion is introduced with a statement insisting that pure reason and perfect knowledge were the only factors involved in reaching it, there is no way to take it at all seriously. This is not to argue that every statement is inherently crippled by prejudice. However, when concerns over unrealized factors that may have affected the development of thoughts are dismissed out of hand, rather than being reassuring, it is instead profoundly disturbing.

3) Many of those who claim to be among the few true patriots find the assertion is its own justification, never

really feeling the need to question or prove either their love of country or constitutional fidelity. All too many claim a fundamentalist, orthodox devotion to the U.S. Constitution without having read it or, if they have, referring only to their self-edited, "Reader's Digest condensed versions," which almost always have more to do with personal imagination than the document.

When one argues with a true believer that his or her lack of understanding of the Constitution disallows the loyalty to it that he or she claims, the response is almost always outrage. Even when one points out how such people's beliefs overtly contradict, or at least demonstrate no allegiance to, constitutionally specific mandates, there is no defense mounted; rather, the response is usually an attack on whoever is offering those thoughts.

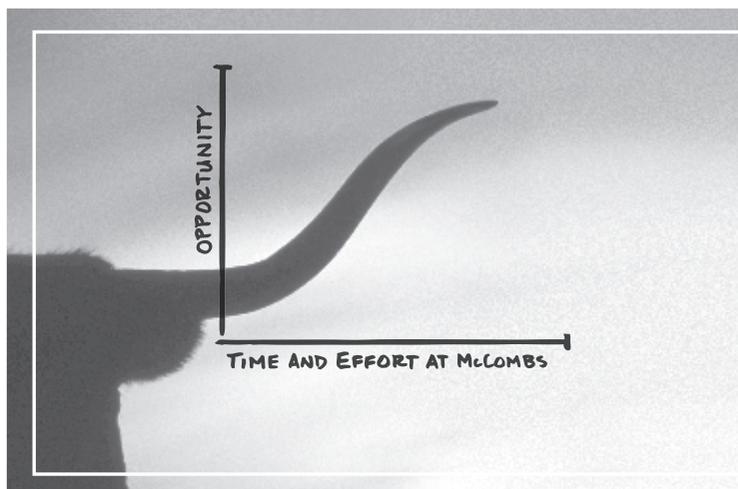
The Constitution assumes that citizens hold often violently conflicting opinions. Yet it is constructed to facilitate the most vigorous debates, while at the same time not privileging any school of thought over the others. In this context, debate and disagreement among a relatively evenly divided body of elected representatives achieve the best legislative answers. The more one ideology and/or party dominates the legislative process, the more the government's functioning is handicapped and possibly damaging.

Those who denounce liberals as traitors, conservatives as fascists, or the whole government as being run by secret cabals, even if they are right, have abandoned constitutional principles. The resulting claims that they would govern to restore the true Constitution to prominence are beyond meaningless. If one really believes that the people in power in our government are truly evil, deliberately malevolent, and determined to do harm to the country and its people, then championing the Constitution is foolish, because it would be useless and inappropriate in such a world. Its most pervasive, unquestionable, and integral assumption is that even the most extreme ideological conflicts are between principled citizens who love this country, no matter how violently they may disagree about how it should be run. Certainly the Constitution understands and allows that the government may suffer traitors and that any legislative deliberative body may be plagued by those who are corrupt in that they privilege their own interests above their concerns about and commitments to the health of the country. The more evenly divided the government is between the two parties, the better it is for all of us and for the country.

4) One of the most critical distinctions is between a principled position and a partisan one. A principled position involves commitment to a law, a rule, and/or a code that is applied essentially in the same way in every situation. A partisan position is one for which ideological and/or party loyalties are the guiding principles. The latter is more a makeshift definition, though one that can be driven as intensely by different moral and/or policy beliefs as by party loyalties.

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There are legitimate and genuine disagreements over how to read, interpret, and apply the Constitution. Central to my view is that it is a very consciously living, ever-evolving document. Overwhelmingly, it prioritizes the ongoing electoral empowerment of all citizens. Consequently, the key focus of its design is on the ongoing functioning of government and maintaining the overall population's role in that functioning. This view directly contradicts those who believe in discerning original intention or faithfully adhering to certain mandates. This is an especially controversial position, because it argues that the Constitution is about the ongoing role and function of government, its relationship to elected officials, and its relationship with the public.

In this view, the Constitution is rooted in the future, designed to be adaptive rather than primarily set in stone, with the spelling out of very specific takes on concepts – big government over little government, states' rights over federal control – of temporal and relatively minor importance. The priorities are much grander and include full representation of citizens, the independence of elected bodies, and the integrity of the judiciary. Central to the Constitution's goals is the inability of one group of citizens, one party, or one ideology to completely control the government in regard to policy and execution. In this take, the government functions best when both parties have forced it to near gridlock.

The first six years of the Bush administration saw all branches of the government in Republican hands, accompanied by as much of a purging of staff as possible, a vetting for every job possible along party lines – even when it wasn't appropriate – and endless talk of one-party rule. Whereas I differ with the Republicans on all different kinds of policy points and perceived mandates in general, the center of my opposition is as much about one-party dominance as it is anything else.

Recently, Democratic leaders have been talking of the need to make gains in the 2010 off-term elections in order to maintain and expand Democratic rule, especially in regard to striving for a veto-proof control. The exact opposite – substantial Republican renewal in those elections – is what I'm hoping for. In my fantasy life, their wins would not be enough to restore them to complete control, but rather just the number needed to weaken Democratic dominance by achieving a closer partisan balance in the House and Senate.

More to come, including: back to Obama, Republicans, the future, and Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five. ■

Postmarks

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CHARLIE SEXTON ROCKS!

Dear Editor,
 Charlie Sexton rocks. Nuff said.
 Betsy Moore

'WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING AN INFORMANT?'

Dear Editor,
 Thank you for last week's cover story about Brandon Darby ["The Informant," News, Jan. 23]. It was well-written and compelling, and I read it with great interest from start to finish. However, after finishing the article, I was nagged by the feeling of an unsettling bias.

What Darby did was unforgivably wrong. It accomplished nothing but hurting the people he knew. The article asks an important question: If Darby did not like the direction of his organization and the anarchist movement, why didn't he leave? Why did he choose to stay and inform on his friends for the FBI? The attempt to answer that question is thoughtful, interesting, and well-informed. But the question left unasked is: What's wrong with being an informant?

The article assumes from the very beginning that local activists equal good and FBI/government equals bad. A large part of the *Chronicle's* audience is likely sympathetic to that viewpoint, but I regret that morals are being painted so broadly over a huge part of the issue. Beyond betrayal (a clear moral wrong), the story has to decide whether government is good or bad. And that is not so black and white. If the situation had been different (and Darby had greater judgment), his information could have saved lives. Say instead of an activist involved in largely non-violent action, Darby had been a drug dealer involved in violent turf wars. The feelings of betrayal would be the same, but the story would have to address whether turning to the government was justified.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



I'm playing devil's advocate here, but I want to illuminate this difficult bias in what is otherwise an excellent article. I've noticed this same anti-government bias in other *Chronicle* articles (for example, "Campfire Horror Story") [News, Nov. 21, 2008]. Perhaps the editors of the *Chronicle* do not feel that it is the *Chronicle's* duty to avoid this bias. But my opinion is that the *Chronicle's* investigative articles could be more penetrating, more incisive, and more useful to a larger audience if it discarded this bias and began with a more balanced perspective.

Lindsay Patterson

OVERSIMPLIFYING OPPOSING VIEWS

Dear Editor,
 Regarding your Jan. 16 editorial ["Page Two"], which described the people who may be opposed to Obama and what their reasons may be, you suggested that some of these folks either believe there is no difference between the parties, dislike all elected officials, or oversimplify opposing views in order to make them appear dumb or outright

evil. Wow. Talk about oversimplifying opposing views. As someone who voted for Obama yet has in the past supported third-party choices, let me offer some explanation of why some folks might have such opinions. After all, you did state in your piece something about listening to people explain their beliefs, right?

The Democrats, in taking a majority in the Senate and the House, were supposed to at least begin reversing the course Bush (and Cheney) has dragged our country down. Along comes the financial crisis of '08, and Bush's crony Henry Paulson delivers a three-page letter basically demanding more than \$750 billion from we the people to do with as he pleases, and this Democratic majority signed off on it with barely a blink. And we all know how well that is going. (Kudos to Democrat

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Lloyd Doggett, who voted against this whole-scale theft in both House votes.)

Now we have Obama, the guy who campaigned on *change*, nominating as the person who will run the IRS a guy who didn't pay more than \$35,000 in taxes and as attorney general a guy who OK'd the pardon of one of Bill Clinton's financial supporters charged with tax evasion. Isn't this just more cronyism?

Of course, next to the moronic W. and the power-mad Cheney, anyone will be an improvement. But when the Dems have been just as complicit as the Republicans in this latest *transfer of wealth*, can you blame anyone who is a bit cynical?

Guy LeBlanc

DARBY IS A PHONY

Dear *Chronicle*,

I read with great interest the cover article on Brandon Darby ["The Informant," News, Jan. 23]. One thing that became clear to me about Darby is that he is a phony and an egomaniac. His actions and reasoning are not internally consistent.

If Darby cared about his nonviolent style of activism, then he would have mentored those accused anti-Republican National Convention activists in that way instead of reporting on them. If Darby cared about bringing violent people to government justice, he wouldn't undermine his own credibility as a witness by writing open letters and participating in alt-weekly cover articles before the accused anti-RNC activist has even gone to trial.

Darby's evolution only makes sense if viewed from an ego-tist's perspective.

Only someone so self-involved could rationalize his behavior in the way that he has. So congratulations Brandon Darby on your 15 minutes of fame. I for one will be glad when your time is up.

Brazos Price

HOPES THAT SHE IS IGNORED TOO

Dear Editor,

As a non-native to the punk rock scene (when everyone was rocking, I was dancing at raves), I have received quite an education the last three years through the enthusiasm and love of punk that my partner holds. I have been blessed to meet and hear live bands such as Gerry's Kids, Dr. Know, Gang Green, etc., as well as meet members of the Offenders and other great Texas punk bands. These guys, many of whom work the daily grind, are still playing their hearts out in current bands and kicking some major ass. That said, I have witnessed a beautiful community uprising and made many new friends. The coverage in the *Chronicle* has been piss-poor at best. I wonder where these writers are that make subtle references to the Broken Neck but have no idea, based on the lack of coverage, that there are a great many more amazing new and/or reconfigured punk bands *right now* playing for our pleasure. The point of this rambling letter being, I hope with my whole fervent being that the *Chronicle* ignores me, too, when I start making music. Obviously, if you are doing something fantastic and talented and great, there will be no recognition in this town. So please, ignore me, too; it will be a compliment!

Jessica Shine



LOVE, LOVE, LOVE; ALL YOU NEED IS

Dear Editor,

Love the *Chronicle*. Love the comics, especially *This Modern World*. Just wanted you to know! Thanks for a terrific local newspaper.

Jeff Kerr

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE

Dear Editor,

I was initially skeptical that last year's Republican National Convention bombers' story warranted front-page coverage. Diana Welch's report in your Jan. 23 issue ["The Informant," News] proved thoroughly engrossing; however, infighting to the point of betrayal is destructive of a movement when that movement is advancing but potentially creative when it has stagnated. Hopes aroused by the Seattle protests in 1999 have failed to materialize in the decade since – a gap that leaves political dialogue in the world today and not just in Austin considerably poorer. Seattle's impressive coalition of labor and environmental groups seems to have largely dissipated, while only the window-busting spirit of street mischief that marred the perimeter of those demonstrations has lingered like a nasty hangover. A radical critique of the corporate casino capitalism that continues to ravage the global economy has never been more urgent. Unfortunately, the left in America is pathetically incapable of seizing this moment, because for decades it has languished in tactical and ideological inanities, limiting its appeal primarily to souls afflicted with terminal arrested development. Insofar as it fills in an eloquent case study in the tragic dead ends to which misguided-but-still-popular notions on the left can lead, the article quickened my hopes that the progressive dialogue in Austin need no longer be so monopolized by morons with monkey wrenches in hand. Brandon Darby should be honored as a hero for what he did. And the thinly veiled attempts elsewhere in the piece to slander this young man as some kind of half-crazed, gun-toting philanderer will surely backfire and add to his mystique. More importantly, the revival of the left in America, so egregiously overdue, will only occur in the context of reverence for American freedoms and respect for the rule of law. Perhaps the thorough airing of this sad episode to which you contribute will encourage at least a few young activists to wake up and smell the coffee.

Sincerely yours,
Hart Murphy

GARZA'S PASSION AND INDIVIDUALISM

Dear Editor,

In "This Euphoria" [Music, Jan. 23] Doug Freeman captured what the many admirers of David (Dahveed) Garza know and appreciate in him: a passionate, rugged individualism, whose notion of how a musician reaches his audience is through expressions, both literal and figurative, interwoven with the jungle-drum beat flowing from the heart, through the mind, and down to "the asses" and feet of his listeners. Freeman's chronicle of Garza's life brought us up to the moment on where he finds himself in his 20-plus years' journey. It was insightful, reflective, and awe-inspiring.

Garza is extremely generous with his time and talent. He is always responsive to his fans and, as Freeman notes, opens his show up to the groove and flow of the crowd. He brings new artists to the attention of music enthusiasts by participating in myriad events such as South by Southwest "day" venues such as La Peña gallery, where he exposes faithful listeners to other great entertainers such as Maneja Beto (Austin), La Underground (L.A.), and Ceci Bastida (Mexico). He quietly and unassumingly brings us to experience more than his singular – but prolific – talent. His pleasure in such moments is subtle yet palpable, unveiled only by his Cheshire-cat grin.

I'd like to bring to Freeman's attention Garza's untitled, 10-song release by Thousand Roses LTD in 2005. I *highly* recommend it to you and will be happy to send you a copy for your consideration. Garza wrote all the music and performs with only a piano and acoustic guitar, weaving his torchy tunes. The melody of "Rattle" has been picked up by Scott & White Hospital on its television commercials. (Nothing could be more calming than hearing this melody in recovery from what ills you.) My favorite song is "For Keeps." I challenge you to find a more tender love song. Anywhere!

Thank you, Doug Freeman and *The Austin Chronicle*, for bringing this contemporary commentary to those who love his music and admire his heart and soul. I hope it will entice other fortunate souls to catch him at the Continental Club or another local venue.

By the way, in Hebrew, "David" means "beloved." In David's case, to me it means "beloved of Austin." Speaking on behalf of countless others, I hope we have David "for keeps."

David (Dah-veed) Weaver





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VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND



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-The Washington Post

Hamlet

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Headlines

- › After eight months of public consultation, the Austin Independent School District board of trustees Monday set the attendance zone for the new **Southwest middle school**. The plan has infuriated families at Mills Elementary, whose boundaries get cut down the middle.
- › Colorado ranch owner **Jeff Hawn**, the Austin-based CEO of Attachmate, was sentenced to 10 days in jail for giving hunters permission to kill 32 of his neighbor's bison, which had wandered unwittingly onto his land.
- › Last month, for the first time since July, the Austin-Round Rock metropolitan statistical area lost jobs – 1,800 of them, in fact. That brings the **unemployment rate** to 5.2%, well above where we stood a year ago (3.6%) but still below the state and national rates, which stand at 6% and 7.2% respectively.



JOHN ANDERSON

- › Big week for fans of local politics and free food: **Bill Spelman** launched his run for City Council Place 5 at Scholz Garten on Jan. 22, while Place 1 candidate **Chris Riley** (above) met the faithful at Threadgill's on Jan. 23.

- › Gov. Rick Perry delivered his **State of the State** address to the House and Senate. Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, called it less State of the State, more "state of the Republican primary for governor."

- › At a Jan. 25 meeting with 300 close friends, Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** (r) confirmed that she'll be challenging Gov. **Rick Perry** in 2010. She then released a list of 600 supporters, including some former big Perry donors.



- › What's wrong with Robert's? New rules of order for the **Texas House** reduce the number of committees, add members to the existing ones, and curb the power of the speaker to ignore the reps.



- › What now for the Bushies? **Karl Rove** has asked the Obama administration to help shelter him from a congressional subpoena, while former Bush Communications Director **Dan Bartlett** (l) becomes an adjunct professor at UT's LBJ School of Public Affairs.



Sharpening her campaign message on the economy, mayoral candidate Carole Keeton Strayhorn painted a bleak financial picture at a press conference Monday, pointing to the growth in the city's budget as families' incomes steadily declined. Strayhorn indirectly cited her two key rivals – Brewster McCracken and Lee Leffingwell – as among those who failed to rein in spending. See "City Hall Hustle," p.12.

Left Unstated

A few omissions in the governor's State of the State

BY MICHAEL KING

It wasn't really a surprise that Gov. Perry's Monday legislative laundry list was more 2010 campaign kickoff than official State of the State address. He and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison have been jockeying for position for months. But it would have been helpful to more Texans if he'd hewed a little better to the task directly at hand: informing the Legislature on the actual current economic and social conditions in Texas. He did manage a passing opening reference, "We are blessed that the state of our state is strong," and then closed with predictable sanctimony: "The state of our state is good [and] her character is strong and her people are great ... [and] our best days our yet to come."

That was pretty much it. I like being stroked as well as the next guy, but other than these bromides, Perry's executive diagnosis was essentially that Texas is better off than most other states and that most of the problems we do have can be traced to folly in other places, especially to that reflexive carpetbagging villain, "Washington, D.C." In light of the international economic meltdown, the governor's recommended response seems to be a whole lot of whistling in the dark.

Perry shares that posture with congressional Republicans, who've been dolefully telling the president and the press that there's nothing wrong with the U.S. economy that the failed formula of the last eight years – more tax cuts and less regulation – can't cure. He inveighed against higher taxes, promised "less burdensome" regulation, and insisted that thereby "playing offense" would convince employers to flee other states to set up shop here.

Buy More, Pay Less

The larger problem with Perry's speech was its internal inconsistency. On the one hand, he argued that in hard times, less spending by state government will protect the Texas economy. Even setting aside the prevailing economic understanding that in really hard times, public spending is the most effective direct market stimulus, Perry went on to list a whole series of pet projects with one central common element: *They cost money*. A partial list includes: the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Emerging Technology Fund, incentives for the film industry, raising the franchise-tax small-business exemption, upgrading state infrastructure (with wishes?), improving math and science educa-

CONTINUED ON P.13

QUOTE of the WEEK



"Too many things are broken, and today, the governor failed to propose solutions to fix many of the things that have been broken during his tenure as governor."

– Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, responding Tuesday to Gov. Rick Perry's State of the State address

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Police and Fire back Leffingwell – at what cost?

BY WELLS DUNBAR

For **Mike Levy**, the train is leaving the station. Or as he might put it in his public-safety parlance, “The ambulance is leaving the ER!”

The former *Texas Monthly* publisher and Emergency Medical Services call-time watchdog has publicly vacillated over whether to run for mayor for several months now. It seemed as if some resolution might be coming late last week, when he named himself his own campaign treasurer. However, next to “Office Sought,” Levy wrote “Mayor, City of Austin (not a candidate),” cementing him still in exploratory purgatory. For a man so keen on response times, the whole thing’s stuck in first gear. Levy says he wasn’t even sure he needed to file, “but as long as I’m considering the possibility and spending over \$500 in a deliberative and methodical process, I figured I’d continue to try to remain a Boy Scout and just file. ... I’m definitely not a ‘candidate’ for anything, just an ordinary citizen exploring a possibility.”

Meanwhile, the declared candidates are accelerating rapidly even in these early weeks of the race. On Tuesday, eager to make up for lost time, **Lee Leffingwell**, barely a week into his official campaign, announced the endorsement of the **Austin Police Association** and the **Austin Firefighters Association**. Lauding Leffingwell as “the son of a firefighter who later became a sheriff’s deputy,” AFA President **Stephen Truesdell** said the candidate is “always willing to listen to our issues”; APA President **Wayne Vincent** similarly described Leffingwell as listening closely to his constituents, particularly with regard to “maintaining adequate resources.” The candidate himself described public safety as “consistently the top concern of Austin citizens” and promised the “best equipment, best training, and most importantly, the best people” in the departments’ ranks – all of which, of course, cost money.

Public-safety spending, which in the last budget claimed 65% of the city’s expenditures, has long been a political hot potato, even if the go-along-to-get-along council members of recent years haven’t drawn any real distinctions among themselves over funding. Before the press conference even got under way, mayor pro tem and rival candidate **Brewster McCracken** stated: “Ensuring the public’s safety is one of the Austin City Council’s most basic responsibilities, and making sure the public-safety union contracts are fiscally responsible is equally important. While the public-safety unions and I have disagreed on budget issues, I deeply value

their members’ commitment to our community. As Austin’s mayor, I pledge that I will remain independent in tackling our city’s budget challenges, and I will be fair to Austinites and all city employees.” In response, the Leffingwell camp notes that both council members have voted identically on every common budget.

Pursuing the subject, Leffingwell said he hoped to identify “some efficiencies here, some efficiencies there” in the budget – citing, for instance, an overall allowance for fleet fueling, estimated when gas prices were higher, which he thought might save as much as \$8 million – but said he’s “not going to make any cuts that reduce the levels of service [Police and Fire] provide.” As for the promptness of the endorsement – made while Levy continues to mull – Truesdell said, “We need someone we already know, someone we know can be mayor,” admitting that the union had held a formal conversation only with Leffingwell. “These are not unknown folks,” echoed Vincent. Well, Levy can still hope for an **emergency endorsement** from the union at EMS.

Meanwhile, She Who Must Be Remembered (**Carole Keeton Strayhorn**) held a Dickensian budget presser Monday, claiming the poor folks in the Northwest just can’t get by after the city bleeds them dry. And just because some of Austin’s heavier-hitting political organizations have already weighed in doesn’t mean there won’t be plenty of time for petty quibbling between the Leffingwell and McCracken camps. The latest round started in earnest with a press release trumpeting McCracken’s website relaunch, among other things: “You may have heard that both of Brewster’s opponents have chosen to run on the **John McCain** campaign message: ‘a steady hand in troubled times.’ Brewster believes we need to expect more of Austin’s next mayor than simply trying to hunker down and weather the storm for a few years.” Leffingwell adviser **Mark Nathan** responded that it wasn’t “well-intentioned or accurate for the McCracken campaign to compare Lee Leffingwell to John McCain,” especially the week of the president’s inauguration. Nathan also touts the presence of J.D. Gins, the Obama field director, with the campaign, along with several other Obama-boosting Central Texas Dems. Just as the House Republicans are already testing Obama, trying to gut the Democratic stimulus bill in the name of “bipartisanship,” we’re in for a long slog ourselves until May.

Yes we can? ■

Hit up the Hustle: wells@austinchronicle.com.



► **STAY OF EXECUTION FOR SWEARINGEN** On Jan. 26, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the execution of death row inmate **Larry Swearingen**, who a handful of forensic pathologists now say could not have committed the 1998 murder of Melissa Trotter in East Texas. The pathologists, including former Harris Co. Chief Medical Examiner Joye Carter, who testified at Swearingen’s trial, now say that Trotter was likely killed on a different date than Carter originally thought, meaning Swearingen, who was then in jail, could not have committed the crime. Trotter disappeared from Montgomery County Community College on Dec. 8, 1998, and was seen with Swearingen that day. Her body was discovered on Jan. 2, 1999. At Swearingen’s trial, Carter testified that Trotter was strangled and raped the same day she disappeared. But Carter now says she made a mistake and that the condition of Trotter’s body suggests she was killed later, closer to the date she was found. If that’s the case, Swearingen could not have committed the crime because he was in jail, having been arrested Dec. 11 on outstanding traffic warrants. The 5th Circuit ruling clears the way for Swearingen to pursue another appeal. – *Jordan Smith*

► **ARCHITECTURE TO THE PEOPLE** Newly formed “community action group” **Design Voice**, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects-Austin, HousingWorks Austin, and Real Community Austin, is finally lighting a fire of activism at the local AIA chapter. Architect Eva Schone said she’s excited about organizing participation in a national program (run by Public Architecture) in which design professionals donate their services to projects, such as affordable housing, that benefit the community. She also hopes to offer additional creative input to the city of Austin on public design issues. In Austin’s peer cities, the AIA has been an important advocate for better public policy and urban planning and design; that voice has been sorely missed here. Find out how loud Design Voice will shout at a kickoff meeting Thursday, Jan. 29, 6-8pm at the Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th. – *Katherine Gregor*

► **THE HAPS WITH THE DAP** Austinites had a chance to shape the developing **Downtown Austin Plan** this past week. ROMA Austin and economic development consultant HR&A Advisors held three stakeholder meetings Jan. 26 to gather input on the proposed Northwest, Uptown, and Core districts, with a particular focus on the issues of **affordable housing** and **density bonuses** (additional height allowances and other entitlements awarded to developers in exchange for providing public benefits). Then on Jan. 27, HR&A’s John Alschuler talked to affordable-housing advocates and others about how density bonuses could help create affordable housing Downtown. Stakeholders asked for further data and recommendations on how a new rail transit system could help solve housing issues, by allowing the Downtown work force to live and commute more affordably in surrounding neighborhoods. Alschuler told the crowd his team would dig in to that issue. In March, look for a town hall meeting for all Austinites. Final recommendations should go to boards and commissions in March and April; council could receive a presentation by the end of April. Unfortunately, the city is not updating the DAP website at www.downtownaustinplan.org (all info there is now a year old), making it hard for the community to readily follow the latest DAP news and stakeholder meetings. – *K.G.*

res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.56.

THURSDAY 29

DESIGN VOICE KICKOFF brings architects and Austinites together to discuss housing advocacy and community building (see “Architecture to the People,” above, for more). 6-7:30pm. Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th. www.realcommunity.ning.com.

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE PLANNING WORKSHOP 6:30-9pm. LCRA Red Bud Facility, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30. McCombs School of Business. \$75. www.utsummit.com.

TULIA DOC SCREENING Join **Nate Blakeslee**, author of *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town*, for a discussion and screening of the new documentary *Tulia, Texas*. 7pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222.

FRIDAY 30

FROM SILENT SPRING TO SILENT NIGHT Award-winning biologist **Tyrone Hayes** (pictured) on the effects of agricultural chemicals on frogs and the implications for humans. Activities/exhibit at 5:45pm, lecture at 7pm. UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224, 779-2102. Free. www.esi.utexas.edu.

LAND, AIR, & WATER CONCERT/SILENT AUCTION benefits the Green Corn Project, the Colorado River Foundation, and Environment Texas. 4-8pm. Patagonia, 316 N. Congress, 320-8383. www.patagonia.com/austin.



SUNDAY 01

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Environment Texas Director **Luke Metzger** discusses environmental issues facing the Texas Legislature. 10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

TEXANS AGAINST REAL IDS MEETING 3pm. Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503. Free. www.beatthechip.org.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM The deputy director of the **Texas Freedom Network** discusses the debate over the science curriculum in Texas public schools. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.

MONDAY 02

ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE SERIES Learn about local and national environmental issues and their effects on local water policy. Noon. Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm.

IMMIGRATION SPEAKER SERIES UT clinical law professor Denise Gilman and Che Lopez of the **Southwest Workers Union** discuss the increase in migrant deaths and the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border. 6pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801 S. First, 416-8885. www.resistenciabooks.com.

MOVIE & DISCUSSION Director **Michelle Garcia** screens her film *Tell 'Em Who You Are: In Defense of Land and Family*, followed by a discussion about the U.S.-Mexico border wall. 7-10pm. Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 471-2933. Free.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS ROAST Reps. Valinda Bolton, Dawna Dukes, Donna Howard, and Diana Maldonado better check their egos at the door. 6-8pm. Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 S. I-35, 590-1527. \$65 (\$45, members). www.nwpc-tx.org.

TUESDAY 03

AUSTIN ENERGY TOWN HALL MEETING Discuss AE’s plan for meeting electricity demands

tion, teacher incentive pay, community college investment, nuclear power, hybrid vehicle incentives, border security, and so on.

Whatever you may think of any one of these projects, they each and all require considerable investment of public funds that the comptroller just finished telling us we don't have. Yet central to Perry's list is tweaking the business franchise tax (to lower it), although it has already failed to adequately replace the property-tax revenue he and his GOP colleagues gave away last session. Yet it will now be called on to pay for all these things, as well as such luxuries as the unemployment fund surplus that Perry also gave back in good times – so that the fund would inevitably lapse into deficit now, when thousands more laid-off Texans suddenly need it. In passing, Perry sneered at other states "begging Washington D.C. for a bailout," but if that's more than campaign rhetoric and he officially turns his back on children's health insurance or Medicaid or infrastructure money from the feds, the Legislature should consider having him committed.

Where We Stand

There was a time, not too long ago, that the comptroller's office issued official reports ("Texas: Where We Stand") providing statistical comparisons with other states on such matters as health, education, environment, public safety, and so on. Unsurprisingly, the reports have quietly disappeared in recent years, making it easier for Perry to make grand, unsubstantiated claims about how much better we're doing than other states. When he complained Tuesday, for example, about "an increasingly activist" Environmental Protection Agency giving a hard time to the petrochemical industry, editorial writers were less likely to note that the EPA's attentions to Texas might be understandable, since of the 50 states, Texas is: No. 1 in air pollution emissions, No. 1 in volatile organic compounds emissions, No. 1 in toxic chemicals dumped into water, No. 1 in cancer-causing air emissions, No. 1 in carbon dioxide emissions ... and alas, only No. 2 in the generation of hazardous waste.

Similarly, Perry endorsed legislation to "require those wanting to terminate a pregnancy to review their ultrasound before proceeding." Could he have been so cavalier about these apparently genderless "those" if everybody in the House were aware that Texas is: No. 1 in the teenage birth rate, 50th in the percentage of nonelderly women with health insurance, 46th in the rate of adult women who receive Pap smears, and No. 6 in the rate of cervical cancers. With the governor's support, we could soon be No. 1 in faith-based ultrasound procedures.

Those are just a few selected stats, compiled in "Texas on the Brink," a state ranking report now compiled by the office of El Paso Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, who noted of Perry's speech, "One in five Texas children are uninsured; tuition at UTEP has risen 73 percent; tax cuts for the wealthy have hurt public schools, forcing them to cut key programs. Around Texas, from Houston to Dallas to El Paso, we share the nation's dirtiest air. Texas is number one in dropouts and number 46 in SATs. When Rick Perry values tax cuts for the wealthy over investments in our future, Texas loses."

You might think a State of the State oration by the state's chief executive officer, reporting to the legislative body, would have spent a bit more time on ... the state of the state. Perry might have noted at least in passing, for several more examples, that Texas is:

- first in percentage of uninsured children,
- first in percentage of uninsured population,
- first in the number of executions,
- second in the rate of incarceration, yet
- eighth in the crime rate.

Of course, acknowledging such problems would inevitably require the political will to do something about them, and volunteers with chain saws just won't cut it. Addressing problems on this scale requires responsible government, serious money, and real leadership. For that, Texans will need to look elsewhere. ■

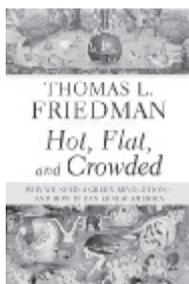


Read Sen. Eliot Shapleigh's report, "Texas on the Brink," with this column at austinchronicle.com.

through 2020. 6:30pm. Assembly Room, 721 Barton Springs Rd. www.austinsmartenergy.com.

ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES Local experts discuss the emergence of Austin's entertainment districts. 7:30-9am. Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones. \$25 (\$20, members). www.leadershpaustin.org.

JUNTO IN AUSTIN meets to discuss Thomas Friedman's latest book, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*. 6:30-8:30pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition.



RAGBLOGPALOOZA The Melancholy Ramblers play this benefit concert to support local progressive bloggers at the Rag Blog. 6-9pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958. Donations appreciated. www.theragblog.blogspot.com.

WEDNESDAY 04

HERITAGE/WINDSOR HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD BRAINSTORMING SESSION 6:30-8:45pm. Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg.

POVERTY ROUNDTABLE focuses on employment and working toward self-sufficiency. Call or e-mail to RSVP 8:30am-1pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 646-1277. www.caritasofaustin.org.

THURSDAY 05

CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA Thu.-Sat., Feb. 5-7. Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 471-2933. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/llilas/conferences/llassa_09/index/.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING Help determine Austin's funding priorities for the 2009 fiscal year. For more info, see www.cityofaustin.org/housing/conplan_09-14.htm. 6:30pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.

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Lake Austin Shoreline Shortcuts Raise Alarm

As mayoral and City Council candidates jockey for the votes of Austin's neighborhood coalitions and environmental groups, a new grassroots group has emerged that's trying to draw attention to the health of Lake Austin, the section of the Colorado River that runs through Austin's tonier residential areas west of MoPac. The new group, the **Lake Austin Collective**, hopes to promote an agenda centered on addressing lakeshore erosion, unpermitted tram construction, and water quality. **Alan Roddy**, founder of the collective, has been busy gathering names and building membership through existing organizations such as **Friends of Lake Austin** and **222CONA** (Coalition of Neighborhood Associations).

Homes perched on the cliffs of Lake Austin often lack direct access to the lake, so some homeowners have crafted other methods of reaching the water. From the vantage point of the **Lake Hills Community Park**, it's easy to see three homes across the lake with do-it-yourself routes to the water. One homeowner has built an approximately 100-foot-tall wooden staircase bending and twisting its way down the steep rocky cliffs to a small boat dock. Another has constructed an elaborate, **300-foot electric tram** not unlike the sort of funicular one may find in steep mountain towns or heading up to Montmartre in Paris. Farther west along the cliffs is another tram, this one appearing a bit older and slightly more rickety – from across the lake, it looks to be assembled from spare Ferris wheel parts and to bend with carnival pride under its own weight. Trams can make an arduous climb down rotting wooden stairs a thing of the past, and according to many who live along the lake, they're a growing trend among those wealthy enough to build them. A quick review of listings in a recent real estate mailer from Moreland Properties shows a "tram to the water" and an "option to participate in small [homeowners association] forming with neighbors for use of tram to Lake Austin and future boat dock." However many trams already exist (and that number is subject to debate), more seem certain to appear.

Roddy, a Cuernavaca neighborhood resident of 45 years, says his new collective will try to get the city to pass a moratorium on such trams, which he fears will be cropping up every 500 to 1,000 feet. Pointing to the trams across the lake and the hoses and pipes snaking up along the cliffs, Roddy says, "No one wants to buy a home when it's like liv-

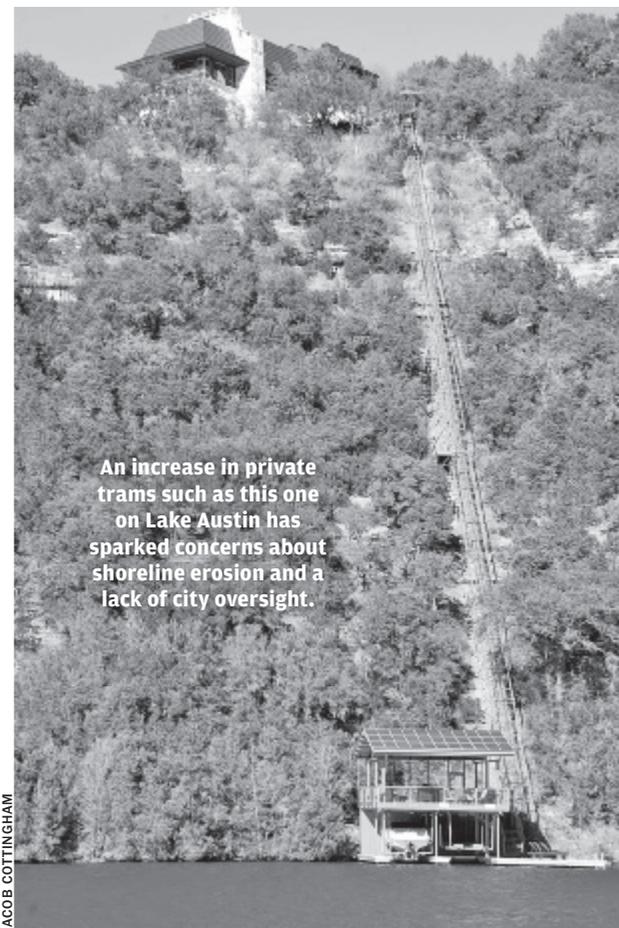
ing across the Houston Ship Channel." Using Google Earth and a detective's vigilance, Roddy has spotted what he says are several violations of "cut and fill" development standards and illegal dumping that has also been occurring along the lakeshore. Given that Lake Austin is a major source of the city's water supply, he said he's also exploring the notion of trying to gain legal protections for the cliffs, similar to those protections given recharge features and endangered species habitats.

In addition to the trams' unsightliness, the increased boat traffic is having an impact on the lake's shoreline. Most residents have taken to building concrete walls to defend against what Roddy describes as a foot of shoreline depletion each year.

In 1980, the city enacted the **Lake Austin Watershed Ordinance**, which was folded into the 1986 **Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance**. But over the years, it seems that codes regulating the lake have been diluted and farmed out to various boards or agencies. The city has been deferring to the **Parks & Recreation Department's** Navigation Committee on variances for boat docks, while the Lower Colorado River Authority manages the actual water in the lake. Roddy blames a "scattered bureaucracy" for impeding any cohesive plan for the lake. While the Lake Austin Watershed Ordinance of 1980 specifically mentions that the "abrupt topography, thin and easily disturbed soil, natural springs, unique biotic communities and spare but significant vegetation, is different from other watersheds within Austin's jurisdiction," Lake Austin is not mentioned in the current **Watershed Master Plan**.

Linda Guerrero, who chairs the **Parks and Recreation Board**, points to "an area of confusion" surrounding the trams. **Attorney Bruce Aupperle** has been representing the **Tarrytown Boat Club's** years-long effort to expand its dock and is well-versed in legal minutiae surrounding lake permits, trams, and docks. Aupperle said it is his belief, based on city memos from staff at Austin's Watershed Protection Department, that trams are legal.

Still, Guerrero said the Parks Board is in the process of crafting a resolution requesting a review of the trams. "We're concerned because you don't even need to have a permit to build trams. There seems to be a lot of confusion around



An increase in private trams such as this one on Lake Austin has sparked concerns about shoreline erosion and a lack of city oversight.

JACOB COTTINGHAM

this." She said inspections and safety issues are also of particular concern.

For his part, Roddy is ready for a showdown. "No one person, no group of people are more important than Lake Austin. Period," he said, referring to the homeowners who are building trams. "And I don't care how much money they have, what political connections [they have], [or] how big their egos are, Lake Austin has to come first." – *Jacob Cottingham*

PUD ORDINANCE IN ACTION

A proposed **South Shore District planned unit development** – a 20-acre mixed-use project proposed at East Riverside and Lakeshore Boulevard – is offering an early look at the effects of the city's new **planned unit development ordinance**, intended to produce "superior" projects. The application – filed by law firm **Drenner & Golden Stuart Wolff LLP** for Houston-based developer **Grayco** – goes before the Environmental Board Feb. 4, then to the Planning Commission Feb. 10, and on to City Council.

New zoning for a South Shore District PUD would allow six tracts to be treated as a single project – which could result in a more well-designed project overall. While not technically required to meet the new PUD rules (because the project was on file before they took effect), the proposed project is wisely complying with 11 of the 12 "Tier 1" PUD provisions and with "Additional Tier 1" public benefits.

The project application states that "the PUD encourages high-quality development and innovative design" and provides a few details, such as, "The proposed development will create

open space and pedestrian linkages through the project improving access to the Town Lake Trail System." But a detailed urban design plan was not submitted; the city does not require one with PUD applications. So there's no way to know for sure the final details of the site plan – a flaw in the new PUD ordinance.

Not surprisingly, some South Austin and East Austin neighbors are alarmed by the prospect of a denser, more urban project within the Waterfront Overlay, across the street from Lady Bird Lake. But developer representatives said the mixed-use proposal complies with the **East Riverside/Oltorf Combined Neighborhood Plan**, as well as with current Waterfront Overlay rules. (In fact, it could bring the tract further into compliance, if surface parking is converted to open space along Lakeshore Drive.) The developer has requested a height increase to 120 feet on one tract, within the Waterfront Overlay. Currently most of the site has multifamily zoning (MF3) limited to 40-foot heights. Neighborhood representatives have expressed concerns about urbanization, gentrification, and the siting of a water

Mixed Use Over the Aquifer

Another test-case PUD coming to council today (Jan. 29): **Wildflower Commons**. The proposed southwest Travis Co. mixed-use development has stirred much controversy – outcry from the environmental community, a positive recommendation from city staff, a much-debated endorsement from the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods, and concern from council members. (Some of them got an early look at the proposal, from the developer's representative.) The site is located in the environmentally sensitive **Edwards Aquifer recharge zone**, at MoPac and State Highway 45 South. The 37-acre project on a 265-acre site would include a 100,000-square-foot supermarket, a shopping center, restaurant and office space, and 550 condos and townhomes. The developer is offering to transfer more than 100 acres of the site to the **Hill Country Conservancy**, in part for the Walk-for-a-Day trail project. **Attorney Steve Drenner**, who represents Wildflower Commons LP (I and II), was the 2008 president of the Hill Country Conservancy. The proposal raises serious land-use and city-policy questions: Should we encourage "town center" development at such a far-flung site? Or should the city allow it only to fill a need in nearby Oak Hill – if at all? Would the project increase or decrease vehicle miles traveled? This tough call by council will be closely watched. – *K.G.*

quality pond in a streambed. Some are asking council members to limit heights to 60 feet – to ensure a better integrated mix of uses – and to require affordable units. Developer representatives said that an affordability component is under active consideration.

Relevant is a preliminary **East Riverside Corridor Master Plan** intended to positively shape redevelopment. "Through a community involvement process, the Master Plan will establish a vision, plan and implementation strategy for the corridor, including specific land use, urban design, and transportation recommendations," states www.eastriversidecorridor.com. That planning work, as well as planning for a

proposed streetcar line down Riverside, has already shaped this PUD proposal. In September, adjacent tracts also owned by Grayco that front on Riverside Drive were removed from the application, "to allow for future discussions of rail and transit oriented development options." A revised and more final version of the East Riverside Corridor Master Plan won't be completed and posted to the city's website until about March 1. A new ordinance for the corridor likely wouldn't be complete and in effect until at least summer of 2010.

City staff has recommended approving the PUD application, with conditions. City Council makes the ultimate call. – *Katherine Gregor*

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Unevolved: Same Old Silliness, Slim Victory for Science

All you students aspiring to become biologists, recognized at the heights of academia, and possibly winners of the Nobel Prize ... start looking into the nation's best dental schools.

If that doesn't make sense to you, then you'd certainly have been baffled by the **State Board of Education** meeting last week, at which a dentist from College Station and other similarly qualified board members spent two days lecturing distinguished biology researchers from the University of Texas and elsewhere on how they really didn't know very much about evolution or the scientific method. Ultimately, the pro-science and pro-evolution side prevailed, but barely and with very mixed results. And if religious fundamentalists can secure one more seat on the board in 2010, Texas education will be in even deeper trouble.

The board convened in Austin Jan. 21-23 to hear public and expert (depending on wildly uneven definitions of "expert") testimony on evolution and then cast a first-reading vote on revising the **Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills** requirements for K-12 public education. Amazingly, although the TEKS comprises several pages of text, almost all the controversy revolved around one word: "weaknesses."

The TEKS in each academic area comes up for review every 10 years, and for the past 20, teachers have been required to discuss the "strengths and weaknesses" of scientific theories. In recent years, evolution opponents – especially supporters of creationism or its gussied-up pseudoscience equivalent, "intelligent design" – have seized upon that language to push their ideas into public schools. A committee of scientists and educators appointed by the SBOE recommended instead a requirement to "evaluate and analyze" theories – partly for the political implications but also to emphasize that evolution, as an explanation of biological development over time, has no significant weaknesses and is as sound as the theory of gravity. Despite a federal court ruling last year (**Kitzmilller v. Dover Area School District**) barring the teaching of creationism, anti-evolutionists led by the Seattle-based **Discovery Institute** pressed hard here to retain the "strengths and weaknesses" language, supported by a bloc of seven anti-evolutionists on the 15-member board.

Scientists defended the committee's language – and evolution itself – some eloquently, some angrily, and some from right across the street (only a parking lot separates the SBOE boardroom from the UT-Austin campus). Recalling "the words spoken by our new president just yesterday," said **Arturo De Lozanne**, an associate professor in molecular cell and developmental biology at UT, "We need to restore science to its

rightful place." Anti-evolutionists portrayed their crusade as essential to protecting "free speech" and academic inquiry in classrooms, but "the proposed standards do not limit in any way the ability of students to ask questions," De Lozanne said. Instead, they "describe in much better detail the real, critical thinking involved in modern science. The new standards make clear the distinction between hypotheses and theories and explain that theories may be subject to change as new areas of science are developed. ... Believe me when I tell you that scientists are not afraid to discuss information that may support or refute a scientific theory, as long as that information is not pseudoscience."

No less eloquent but notably more hostile was UT's **David Hillis**, an integrative biology professor and member of the **National Academy of Sciences** who seemed

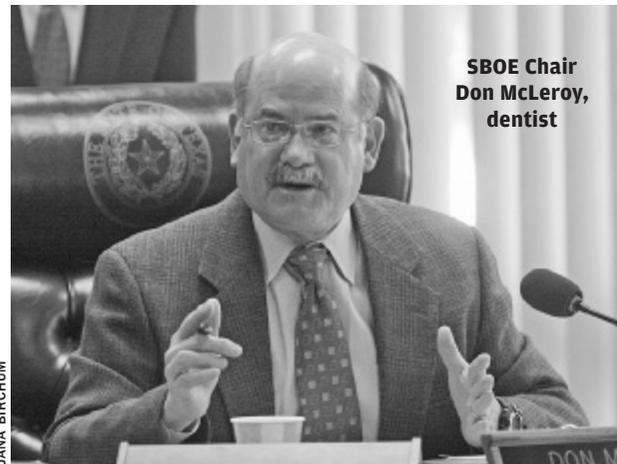


understandably insulted at being scolded by board members. He charged that most of the Discovery Institute's criticisms of evolution are "19th century ideas" criticizing Charles Darwin that have been "long since discarded" and that modern science has moved far beyond its founding father. Perhaps recalling that board member **Terri Leo** of Spring described evolution defenders as "militant Darwinists" at the SBOE's November meeting, Hillis said: "I'm not really a Darwinist. A Darwinist is someone who is an expert on Darwin. I haven't read most of Darwin's books. Most are irrelevant to biology today. ... Why are we banging out these arguments Darwin wrote about 150 years ago that aren't relevant to today's classroom?"

When Fort Worth board member **Pat Hardy** – one of the pro-evolution Republicans – tried to smooth ruffled feathers by saying, "Obviously all of you are very accomplished and recognized in your field," Hillis took a shot at the Discovery Institute's invited "experts," saying, "I think that's an unfair characterization to call ... us equivalent in our accomplishments," which drew protests of "Decorum!" from Leo and others.

After the Discovery Institute's **Stephen Meyer** produced four binders full of scientific papers supposedly questioning evolution, Hillis said he'd leafed through the binders and that Meyer mischaracterized the essays therein. "Most of [the authors] are good friends of mine," Hillis said. "They're all ardent evolutionary biologists."

When the vote came, evolutionists grew tense – board member **Rene Nuñez**, a crucial evolution supporter, mysteriously vanished for a while and missed the "strengths and weaknesses" vote. The drama was palpable when the board split 7-7 and the motion failed. Nuñez later said that he



SBOE Chair
Don McLeroy,
dentist

missed the vote because he was feeling ill, but said the timing wasn't entirely physical: He was also testing where "a certain Democrat" would stand on a close vote. He wouldn't specify, but presumably that was San Antonio's **Rick Agosto**, widely viewed as a swing vote.

The anti-science side did score points later, however, when The Woodlands' **Barbara Cargill** and board Chair **Don McLeroy** of College Station – the aforementioned dentist – managed to pass some narrower amendments. Cargill – appallingly enough, probably the most expert opinion on the board as a former science teacher – proposed 13 amendments to weaken teaching on the origin and history of the universe, including removing the phrase "Big Bang." Five narrowly passed, but Big Bang stayed in.

McLeroy read selected passages from late evolutionists **Stephen Jay Gould** and **Ernst Mayr** supposedly supporting his anti-evolution doubts and asked that teachers "analyze and evaluate the sufficiency or insufficiency of common ancestry to explain the sudden appearance, stasis, and sequential nature of groups in the fossil record." Surprisingly, this narrower version of "strengths and weaknesses" passed 9-6.

Ultimately, however, "I still think that the majority of the board clearly voted today to support the classroom teachers and the experts and refused to reinsert the culture war code words 'strengths and weaknesses' into the science curriculum standards," said **Kathy Miller**, president and executive director of the **Texas Freedom Network**, a nonprofit that fights the influence of the religious right. "It's true McLeroy made an end-run around 'strengths and weaknesses' and succeeded in passing an amendment that does undermine a central component of evolution, and we'll spend the next two months working as hard as we can fixing that error."

Final reading and passage of the TEKS will come at the SBOE's next meeting, March 26-27. – Lee Nichols



Deirdre Delisi

RICHARD WHITTAKER

DELISI JINGLES THE KEYS TO TXDOT'S HIGHWAYS

It seemed like a sign: When **Texas Transportation Commission** Chair **Deirdre Delisi** addressed the **Real Estate Council of Austin's** monthly membership lunch Jan. 21 at the Four Seasons Hotel Downtown, there were roadworks in the hotel drive. With local legislators including state Rep. **Patrick Rose**, D-Dripping Springs, in attendance, Delisi avoided predicting the future of the over-stretched **Texas Department of Transportation**. "I don't know," she said, "and no one can give you a definitive answer."

Formerly Gov. Rick Perry's chief of staff, Delisi was appointed to the commission by her old boss last April amid questions about her transportation credentials (Sen. **Glenn Hegar**, R-Katy, called her "a political 'yes-man'"). She now leads an agency under severe legislative scrutiny. The **Sunset Advisory Commission** has recommended that the appointed commission she leads be replaced by a single elected commissioner; moreover, her interim nomination still has to go through Senate confirmation, an occasion likely to produce tough questions and senatorial grand-

standing in equal measure. Delisi says she'd rather concentrate on pressing transportation issues. She explained, "I'm trying to be responsive to the desires of Texans, as well as the Legislature, to get the infrastructure in place, to be open-minded about how we move Texans around, and to restore a sense of confidence in the agency."

That will cost money. The **2030 Committee** she formed estimated that the state needs to sink \$313 billion into transportation over the next 21 years – triple current estimates. Delisi doubts legislators can approve such sums, but with

this estimate, she told RECA's members, "Texas now has a quantifiable number in play." She warned against getting too excited by the \$3.2 billion in federal transportation stimulus money heading to Texas: \$2.4 billion is for highways, but 10% is reserved for roadside enhancement projects and 45% for **metropolitan planning organizations**. TxDOT will only keep 45% (roughly \$1.08 billion), and up to \$900 million could be clawed back from the Highway Trust Fund. "Two hundred million dollars," Delisi noted, "can't buy an interchange in Texas." – Richard Whittaker

TPPF: Sneering at Workers and 'Blowing Up' Public Policy

Most Americans are waiting to see whether the new federal stimulus plan can save the economy. Yet for guests and speakers at the **Texas Public Policy Foundation's** seventh annual Policy Orientation for the Texas Legislature, the prescription for economic success remains perennial and simple: conservative values, less regulation, and more tax cuts.

The event, held Jan. 22-23 at Austin's Four Seasons Hotel, brought state legislators and their staffers together with power players of the fiscal conservative movement such as TPPF founder and GOP sugar daddy Dr. **James Leininger**. The bulk of the program consisted of panel discussions on conservative touchstones like charter schools and eminent domain.

There was also plenty of time for Democrat bashing, such as when supply-side economics guru **Arthur Laffer** joked about "Obama's way of creating a destitute economy." ("I'm kidding," he added. "It's not just Obama.")

Last year's gathering was overshadowed by electoral politics, with keynote speakers Govs. **Rick Perry** and **Mark Sanford** of South Carolina both being talked about as potential Republican vice presidential nominees (see "TPPF Conference," Jan. 18, 2008). The closest this year's event came to celebrity status was the opening lunch, where Laffer and **Mark Krikorian**, executive director of the **Center for Immigration Studies**, argued over whether America should shut its borders to foreign workers.

Krikorian argued that immigration only imports more "working poor" ("Just look at the fellas serving the tables here," he told the diners) and that low-skill jobs could be filled by "ex-cons, recovering addicts, [and] the disabled." Laffer called closed borders anti-competitive and lauded cheap migrant labor as a powerful union-busting tool. However, both men were chastised for failing to distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants by state Rep. **Angie Chen Button**, R-Dallas, who informed them that, having been raised in Taiwan, she was actually an immigrant herself.

With legislators out of the red-meat environment of the election, the divide between nonelected theorists and pragmatic lawmakers was sometimes obvious. While Ohio University economist **Richard**

Vedder, a TPPF favorite, condemned school accreditation as "a competition-restricting device" and TPPF research fellow **Rick O'Donnell** savaged research at universities as a poor investment, Rep.

Dan Branch, R-Dallas (last session's chair of the House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance), took a more moderate tone and continued making his pitch for funding more Tier 1 public schools in the state.

Yet even in this nonelection year, Perry and Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** both delivered speeches under the lens of their intentions for 2010. Each burnished his "conservative" credentials by disavowing the federal economic stimulus plan and heaping praise on TPPF. At Thursday evening's dinner, an allergy-

stricken Dewhurst played down his own role in the Texas economy (saying that he and the Lege had only provided "a conservative fiscal framework" for the business interests in the room). He took credit for being "a lone Paul Revere" in predicting spiraling Medicaid costs, which rose from 26% of the state budget in 2007 to 34% now. His solution? Become more like Western Europe. Ignoring the fact that those nations have single-payer universal health-care systems, Dewhurst instead argued that the difference between them and the U.S. is priorities, insisting, "America is the only country in the world where we pay doctors and hospitals based on the number of procedures that they do rather than on wellness, prevention, best practices, and outcome." And with this year's \$9 billion state

revenue drop in mind, he announced that not only does he plan to scale back the 2010-11 biennial budget and preserve the \$7 billion in proposed tax cuts, but he's prepared to revisit the 2009 budget for more savings.

By comparison, Perry's closing address on Friday was light on solid policy but heavy on commitment to the TPPF brand of conservatism. He praised the group as "the epicenter of conservative thought" and said that, as think tanks go, it's "a big ol' Abrams [tank], out there in the desert, blowing up bad ideas." Condemning the Obama administration's proposed economic stimulus plan and pledging to lower taxes, Perry took one note of solace from Inauguration Day: "Our nation is still second to none when it comes to the exchange of power."

— Richard Whittaker

Bill to Ban Underage Phoning

Texting teens beware: State Rep. **Solomon Ortiz Jr.**, D-Corpus Christi, has introduced House Bill 662, barring drivers under 18 from using the phone without a hands-free device. He explained, "The research is clear that using a cell phone or texting greatly increases your risk of being involved in a crash." The bill is one of several dealing with phones in cars, including Laredo Democrat Sen. **Judith Zaffirini's** Senate Bill 51, which would ban texting while driving, and HB 220 by Rep. **Jose Menendez**, D-San Antonio, which would completely ban driving and phoning without either a speakerphone or hands-free set. Sen. **John Whitmire**, D-Houston, introduced a similar outright ban last session with support from the Department of Public Safety Officers Association, but it faltered after opposition from Sprint Nextel and amateur radio enthusiasts. Menendez has also filed the more modest HB 219, which bans wireless communication in school zones.

— R.W.

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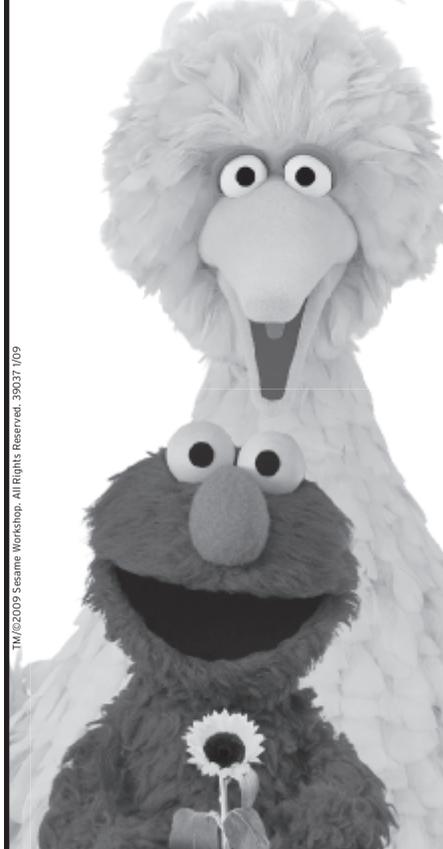
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Over Their Dead Bodies

Rangers desecrate Waco cemetery

In Texas, property and development rights trump even the dead. Sure, state Health and Safety Code says you can't build on a dedicated cemetery. But what if that cemetery is old and long forgotten? The state **Antiquities Law**, which regulates development with in historical sites, doesn't even specifically mention cemeteries, leaving officials at the **Texas Historical Commission** uncertain of their powers to protect them. According to commission estimates, nearly 50,000 cemeteries languish unidentified in Texas.

Thanks to the **city of Waco**, the issue has recently become a topic of discussion at the Capitol. The **Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum** in Waco, which sits on city-owned Fort Fisher Park, is currently building an addition for a Ranger headquarters and education center. Prior to construction, Waco hired Lampasas-based **American Archaeology Group** to survey the 8,000-square-foot building footprint. The group's survey concluded that the site did not contain any burials. But when the project broke ground in May 2007, construction workers nevertheless uncovered human remains. Lots of them. To date, 192 deceased individuals – many of them African-American – have been found on the site. Yet construction continues.

"You're talking about the desecration of hundreds of burials in a wanton fashion," says **Fred McGhee**, an Austin resident, archaeologist, and historical anthropologist who says his company, Fred L. McGhee and Associates, is the only African-American-owned archaeology firm in the U.S.

The Waco City Council never considered permanently halting construction. City officials contend that they have practiced due diligence by commissioning the initial archeological study and by halting construction when bones were found and applying to the Historical Commission for a permit to excavate the remains. They also vow to disallow further construction on the site after the current project is completed. "The commitment is made that there will be no further building expansion into the lower First Street Cemetery area," Waco City Attorney Leah Hayes told legislators at an Oct. 24, 2008, hearing.

The construction site used to be part of what's known as the **First Street Cemetery**

in Waco, the city's first municipal graveyard, established in 1852. Over the years, parts of it were neglected and had fallen into disrepair. The lower part of the First Street Cemetery, which lines the Brazos River, was ostensibly cleared and de-dedicated by court order in 1968 to make way for the park and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. The bodies were supposed to be moved to a different part of the cemetery – but as it turns out, that never happened. Only the remaining grave markers were moved – by 1968, many of them had been carried away by the flooding river while others were made of wood and disintegrated long ago. Many of the graves were never marked.

One analysis, by a forensic anthropologist at Baylor University, indicates that 39 of the people buried in the construction zone were African-American, 23 were Asian, and four were European. (The rest of the bones were too deteriorated to test.) Some were historically significant figures: **Shepart Mullins**, a freed slave who was among the first black state legislators during Reconstruction, and **H.C. Lazenby**, whose son, Robert Lazenby, introduced Dr Pepper.

"A large percentage of African-Americans were buried in the lower part of the cemetery, near the river, while the whites tended to be buried in the upper part [which remains intact], away from the river," says archaeologist **John Griggs**, who worked on the site in the summer of 2007. Griggs believes the city of Waco is violating state and federal law by continuing construction and has launched a website (www.firststreet-cemetery.org) dedicated to the issue.

In June 2007 the city briefly halted construction and the Texas Historical Commission granted a permit to excavate and remove the bodies; construction resumed two months later. Because the site is not legally a dedicated cemetery – even though the bodies were never properly removed – the commission had little power to stop construction and was only able to provide protocol as to how remains should be excavated and reburied. (According to Griggs, the bones are currently stored in "cardboard boxes" awaiting internment elsewhere.)

"The statutes are not nearly as strong as they should be," says **Jim Bruseth**, director



Fred McGhee

"You're talking about the desecration of hundreds of burials in a wanton fashion."

– Fred McGhee

of the Historical Commission's Archeology Division. As a consequence, "There are a number of really historical cemeteries that have been built on top of. It's a lot more widespread than people realize."

State Rep. **Donna Howard**, D-Austin, a member of the Legislature's Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Committee, took interest in the issue last summer after reading coverage in the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and fielding calls from constituents, including McGhee. Howard chairs the Texas Cemeteries Subcommittee, which held the Oct. 24 hearing. The subcommittee's charge, she says, is not to investigate what went wrong in Waco but to see what could be done to prevent future cemeteries from desecration by development. "There are a lot of changes that need to be made [in state law] if we're going to protect these cemeteries," she says.

Howard would like to strengthen state law to protect cemeteries, but two things stand in the way. First of all, with new House Speaker Joe Straus currently planning committee assignments, she may not remain on the Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Committee. Secondly, Gov. Rick Perry's recent push to bolster property rights could inhibit plans to protect cemeteries from development. "There's going to have to be a lot of discussion," Howard says, "because this issue dovetails with private-property rights."

The problem, McGhee says, won't be easily solved. "The state has had an atmosphere of deregulation since Bush was governor, and that came into fuller expression when he became president," he says. And even with the laws we have, "there is considerable pressure on the part of environmental planners to perform the absolute minimum due diligence. Texas is one of the worst states for this kind of stuff."

– Laurel Chesky

FLDS EVIDENCE IN DISPUTE

Attorneys for imprisoned polygamist leader **Warren Jeffs** are asking a Mohave County, Ariz., Superior Court judge to suppress evidence taken from the West Texas compound of Jeffs' **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** flock last year, arguing that the raid was illegal and thus any evidence taken during the raid is tainted, reports the *Mohave Daily News*.

Texas Child Protective Services last April took custody of more than 400 children living at the **Yearning for Zion Ranch** just outside Eldorado after receiving a phone call from a person claiming to be a young and abused girl living there. As it turns out, the call was a hoax (likely placed by a woman in Colorado with a troubling history of making such fake calls), and the Texas Supreme Court ultimately ruled that the state did not have sufficient reason to raid the ranch and take the children.

But whether Jeffs will get a hearing remains to be seen. Prosecutors have said they will not use any evidence taken during the raid, but Jeffs' attorney **Mike Piccarreta** says Mohave Co. Attorney **Matt Smith** is pulling a "Texas two-step" by blocking Jeffs' ability to challenge any of the state's evidence.

Meanwhile, back near the ranch, Texas District Judge **Barbara Walther** has set a trial date for the first of 12 FLDS men living at Yearning for Zion who are facing a variety of criminal charges, including bigamy and sexual assault. **Raymond Merrill Jessop** will be tried first, on Oct. 26, on one count of sexual assault of a child and one count of bigamy. His attorneys have also argued that any evidence seized during the April raid should be banned; a suppression hearing is scheduled for May.

As of December, Texas' **Department of Family and Protective Services** had ended cases involving 424 of the 439 children initially taken from the ranch; still pending were lawsuits in the cases of five mothers who among them have 15 children, according to a DFPS report on the Eldorado investigation released Dec. 22. Although the Texas courts ruled that the agency's actions at the ranch were essentially illegal, in its report the agency defends its actions – noting, in part, that 262 children were found to be "subjected to neglect," because their parents failed to remove them from "a situation in which there was a substantial risk of immediate harm." Moreover, the state found that 12 teen girls were the victims of sexual abuse because they'd already been married off, and at least seven of them had already given birth.

Not surprisingly, the report sparked the ire of many FLDS members – such as spokesman **Willie Jessop**, who disputed the findings, including the conclusion that because a teen has given birth she must have been abused. "What hypocrisy in a state that leads the nation in teen pregnancies," Jessop said in a press statement. (To be fair, Texas has lost the top spot for teen pregnancies to Mississippi. We still rank third, with roughly 63 births per 1,000 teen girls.)

Still, the state stands by its investigation: "The Eldorado investigation was very thorough, and the report on that investigation is clear," wrote spokesman **Patrick Crimmins** in an e-mail to the *Deseret News*.

– Jordan Smith

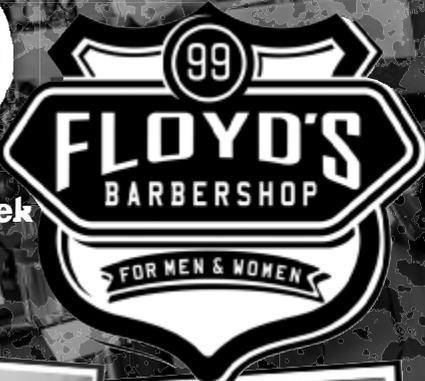
St. Ed's Cross Country in Peril

Following the news that University Interscholastic League events such as the Track & Field Championships might be hosted by different cities every year instead of being held exclusively in Austin (see "Bill Would Rotate UIL Events Out of Austin," Jan. 16), there's now more trouble on the local track-and-field scene. Members of the **St. Edward's University cross country team** were notified Jan. 15 that their program was being discontinued. According to St. Ed's Director of Communications **Mischelle R. Diaz**, four factors would have to have been met for the program to continue: "committed athletes, an experienced coach, a complementary track and field program, and a track and field facility (likely to cost \$5 million or more)." St. Edward's has "committed to honor [the athletes] financial aid – until 2012 in some cases," Diaz wrote in a press release. "And we are creating a club sport for running so these athletes, as well as others, can continue to enjoy their sport." Apparently "committed athletes" aren't the problem – student/athlete **Daniel O'Dwyer** and his teammates have started a petition to save the doomed program. The petition has almost 300 signatures so far. See it online at www.petitionspot.com/petitions/saveeuicc.

– Mark Fagan

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Don't Talk About It

El Paso council slapped for questioning drug war

BY JORDAN SMITH

In El Paso, there are some public-policy questions that are not up for discussion.

At least that's the message the **El Paso City Council** has received from a handful of elected officials – including U.S. Rep. **Silvestre Reyes** and the five members of the city's Texas House delegation – who sent a pair of letters informing the council that it is unwise even to broach the topic of drug policy and, more specifically, that it could be bad for the city financially if the council were to call for an open debate regarding the **legalization of drugs**.

On Jan. 6, the council had passed a resolution proposed by the city's **Committee on Border Relations**, expressing the city's support for its beleaguered sister city, **Ciudad Juárez, Mexico**. Juárez is at the center of a brutal turf battle between rival drug cartels; in 2008, nearly 1,600 people were murdered there. The city of nearly 1.5 million people has become a front line in the **War on Drugs** for both Mexico and the U.S. – a war that both governments are, by all objective measures, losing.

Kidnappings have become commonplace: Six police officers were kidnapped and killed earlier this month. Two state police officers were found slain in their marked police car along a busy city thoroughfare, the car surrounded by nearly 70 bullet casings. The bodies of the murdered often show signs of having been tortured, says El Paso City Council Member **Beto O'Rourke**. The discovery of headless bodies and other murder victims bearing messages from the cartels scrawled on to their skin has become part of daily life. Armed robbers have become increasingly bold – in December, masked men armed with assault rifles invaded the plant of the Fortune 500 company Lear (which makes automotive interiors), stealing ATMs and robbing dozens of workers of their end-of-year bonuses. "More

people were killed last year in Juárez than in Baghdad," said O'Rourke. "And not just murdered – mutilated, tortured, heads cut off. It's literally terrorism. It's ... brutal terrorism that we're witnessing on our border."

In this context, the council approved the resolution, which, among other things, called for the governments of Mexico and the U.S. to ensure the city has law enforcement resources and support to help stem the violence. And considering the dire situation and the root causes of violence, O'Rourke suggested that the resolution be amended with another suggestion: asking the federal government to engage in an "honest, open national debate on ending the prohibition on narcotics." The amendment passed unanimously, but it didn't persuade Mayor **John Cook**. Cook didn't voice his concerns while the council was on the dais but later issued a veto. "It is not realistic to believe that the U.S. Congress will seriously consider any broad-based debate on the legalization of narcotics,"

Cook told the *El Paso Times*.

Cook's veto was just the beginning. As the council members prepared later to vote to override, they received two letters from officials higher on the political food chain, delivering harsh words and thinly veiled threats. Democrat Reyes, a former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agent, wrote that he had "concerns regarding the resolution that urges the federal government to support 'an honest, open national debate' on ending drug prohibition. Reyes said he has been "deeply disturbed by the escalating violence in Juárez," and while he believes the resolution was "well-intentioned," he urged the council against a veto override. And he added a warning regarding future federal funds: "As our nation faces one of the worst economic crises since the Great Depression, Congress is currently craft-

ing an economic stimulus package in which El Paso stands to benefit," Reyes wrote. "This is where our focus must be at this critical time, and it is important that our message reflect priorities that will provide real gains for the community."

El Paso's Texas House delegation – led by Democratic Rep. **Joe Pickett** – was even less subtle: "There will be state agencies, state legislators and others in state government who will see this resolution as the City of El Paso supporting the legalization of drugs," reads the letter, signed by Reps. Pickett, **Norma Chavez, Chente Quintanilla**, and their freshmen colleagues, **Marisa Marquez** and **Joseph Moody**. "Funding for local law enforcement efforts and other important programs to our community are likely being put in jeopardy, especially during a time when state resources are scarce."

O'Rourke told the *Chronicle* that he spoke briefly with Reyes, who told him federal funding might be lost should the council override Cook's veto. When the resolution came up for a second vote Jan. 13, the council hedged, and the override died on a 4-4 vote. Three council members who flipped cited the threat of losing funds. "I think we did the right thing," by adding the amendment, O'Rourke said, "but we're one of the poorest cities in America" and can't risk losing any funding. "We don't care about drug policy except that it is just killing us down here," said O'Rourke. "Our city is really getting screwed in this, as a direct result of our current drug policy."

According to Pickett, asking for a discussion about legalizing drugs is as good as saying you want to legalize them. "What's the difference? The bottom line is you're either for [legalizing drugs] or against it, and I'm against it." In fact, Pickett said the council doesn't



JOHN ANDERSON



State Sen. Eliot Shapleigh (top) and U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes

want to discuss the matter, but "they want to legalize drugs, with the weird idea that that's going to stop" the border problems. "The *CliffsNotes* [to the resolution] are simple: that the City Council wants to legalize drugs." (Pickett also alleged, citing no evidence, that the impetus for the amendment likely came from medical-marijuana supporters who aren't "thinking straight.") Even bringing up the idea of ending prohibition made El Paso a national "laughingstock," Pickett said. If the council wants to discuss other drug-policy issues – such as increasing funding for treatment options – they should have avoided this "ridiculous 'let's legalize drugs' and get to the serious issue of what drugs are causing," he added.

Notably absent from the El Paso delegation's letter was the signature of Democratic Sen. **Eliot**

Shapleigh. "Democracy is founded on reasoned debate," Shapleigh said last week. "What is happening in Juárez is very serious." Transnational gangs are running amok in the border cities – and there is certainly something wrong when masked gangs can hold up, in broad daylight, a major company like Lear Corp., Shapleigh said of the U.S. company with operations in Juárez. "So, on the U.S. side, there are three issues that are a part of the larger discussion: the demand for drugs on the U.S. side, weapons moving south [into Mexico], and the interdiction of cash [moving back and forth]. All these issues, on the U.S. side, deserve serious debate." And he added, any "threat to state or federal funding just for debating an issue is wrong."

reefer madness



See the City Council resolution and the letters from El Paso representatives with this story at austinchronicle.com.

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the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

OBAMA MUST BE EVEN BOLDER THAN FDR

When Franklin Roosevelt was accused of being a traitor to his own privileged class, he jauntily replied, "I welcome their hatred."

He would feel right at home today, then, for FDR-haters are on the prowl once again, now led by right-wing think tanks and talk-show yakkers who are busy rewriting history to belittle the achievements of Roosevelt's New Deal. Their real target is Barack Obama's economic recovery plan, which is largely modeled on the New Deal approach of government spending for roads, schools, parks, conservation, and other public works, putting millions of people to work on jobs that need doing.

The official line of these naysaying popinjays was laid down last fall by the far-right-wing Heritage Foundation, which asserted that the New Deal was a failure. Yes, parroted Fox News pundit Monica Crowley, who blathered that the failure is proven by "all kinds of studies." Her Fox colleague Gregg Jarrett dutifully echoed her insight by saying, "I think historians pretty much agree on that."

Uh ... no, they don't. Indeed, they pretty much agree that millions of families were saved back then by the New Deal's public works programs and that many millions more continue to benefit today from the work that those people produced.

The chief shortcoming of FDR's public-spending approach is that he didn't do enough of it. After winning a smashing reelection bid in 1936, largely based on the popularity of his New Deal, Roosevelt gave in to Wall Street interests who were demanding a cutback in federal spending. The result was a relapse into recession in 1937, a return to double-digit unemployment, and a rejection of Democrats in the 1938 congressional elections.

Likewise, 2009 is no time for timid steps. The challenge for Obama – and for our country – is to stand firm against the ideological naysayers and to be even bolder than FDR.

BRINGING FAIRNESS TO THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE

It's a scream to hear corporate chieftains insist that there simply is no more need for unions in America. "In the sophisticated workplace of the 21st century," said the head of the National Association of Manufacturers, "the need for unions is obviated."

Oh really, chief? Let's see, for years now, workers have dramatically increased their skills and productivity, only to be rewarded with declining wages, elimination of health-care benefits, canceled pensions, constant downsizing, and the steady offshoring of middle-class jobs. Meanwhile, as CEOs enthusiastically axe workers, they extravagantly jack up their own pay and perks.

Not only are unions needed, but there is a widespread yearning for them. A 2006 poll found that 68% of Americans believe that labor unions are necessary to protect working families – a percentage that's undoubtedly climbed as our economy tanked in the past couple of years. Indeed, another survey finds that 60 million Americans would join a union tomorrow if they could.

So why don't they?

Because the rules have been deliberately rigged during the past 30 years to make union organizing next to impossible. For example, of those who even try, 20% get fired outright. Also, in an organizing campaign, union representatives are not allowed inside a business to talk to employees, yet every employee can be forced to attend one-to-one meetings with company bosses, who make clear that supporting the union would be a bad career move. And even if employees vote to form a union, top executives can simply ignore them.

But their rigged game could be up. The Employee Free Choice Act would make organizing campaigns more fair. Barack Obama supports it, but he and Congress are under intense pressure from corporate chieftains to back off. To learn more about it, contact www.freechoiceact.org.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

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with background information, survey and blog
for comments and questions.



A Cacophony of Passions

Why the City Council changed the boards and commissions system – and what still needs to be done

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

“Any time the citizens of Austin feel left out, it only causes problems.”

That recent comment by City Council Member Mike Martinez – discussing the need for transparency as council modifies the city’s boards and commissions system – explains in a nutshell why Austin maintains such an extensive network of volunteer advisory groups. It encompasses the 43 city boards (the term includes commissions) governed by the City Code, plus 13 additional special-circumstance boards and 28 other formal advisory groups. In all, these bodies total nearly 850 members – an army of engaged Austinites who consider often controversial civic issues and work to influence City Council and city policy.

Thanks to Austin’s long activist tradition, our community is rich with mission-driven folks who prize a strong voice in every decision of city government – and boards offer an official forum for input. Feel passionately about euthanized dogs, chopped trees, immigrant poverty, dripping faucets, nude theatre, outdated technology, live music, threatened historic landmarks, cracked sewage pipes, neighborhood parks and libraries, minority contracting, or hippie jewelry on the Drag? Rest assured, a city board meets monthly to hear citizen concerns on those issues. But high expectations for citizen input have mixed consequences. The flip side of Martinez’s comment – as the recent history of B&C makes clear – is that any time the citizens of Austin are included, it only causes another set of problems.

Last year, City Council quietly but historically enacted a major set of changes to the structure, processes, and policies governing the entire citizen B&C system. (For more detail, see “The New B&C: What Changed?” p.23.) While the revisions received almost no media or general public attention when adopted, the restructuring was not a bureaucratic inside job. Rather, the changes made were drawn from 45 recommendations issued by the citizen-led Boards and Commissions Process Review Task Force, which had spent more than a year and a half addressing entrenched problems. “There were instances of boards or commissions that had not met in

over a year, some that had insufficient membership for more than a year, and instances where members with excessive absences and those ineligible [still] served – and the boards or commissions continued to exist,” recalls Betty Baker, a task force member and chair of the Zoning and Platting Commission. Boards and their members were openly violating their own charters, bylaws, city policies, and rules of order. Some had no apparent reason to go on living. A thorough housecleaning was long overdue, as was instituting a “sunset review” process to determine which boards were still on task and necessary.

Today the Phase I work – the laborious basic cleanup – has been completed, making it possible to finally see the forest for the trees. The question for 2009: Will elected officials and city management forge ahead to tackle the Phase II changes still needed? Or, like other councils before them, will they eschew tough self-scrutiny and sticky politics and let the whole matter slide off the radar?

Revived Recommendations

If the B&C Review Task Force doesn’t ring a bell, it could be because it issued its final report in October 2003. Why did it take five years to even partially enact its recommendations? In a word, politics: A tense power struggle has long swirled among elected officials, activist citizens, city management, and staff as to the role and rightful powers of B&C. (For a history of this struggle, see “Hanging Fire: The Tortuous B&C Task Force,” posted with this story at austinchronicle.com.) A staff-drafted 2003 ordinance proved so controversial that it never came to council for a vote. So the blue report binder sat on a shelf in the city clerk’s office, all but forgotten. Only thanks to the recent intervention and dogged efforts of council aides – Andy Mormon in Lee Leffingwell’s office beginning in early 2007, joined by Rich Bailey in Will Wynn’s office and Andy Moore in Mike Martinez’s office – were the task force recommendations resurrected and (with the help of city staff) finally codified into new council-approved City Code provisions, which fully took effect last August.



Board Members: Voices

BETTY BAKER

Chair, Zoning and Platting Commission
First appointed (to ZAP): Aug. 2, 2001
Nominated by: Randi Shade

“I serve simply because I genuinely care. [It’s satisfying to know] I have constructively assisted in the future of Austin and contributed objectively in the process.”



“People get frustrated. They say, ‘Why’d you have a public input process if you’re not going to do anything with it?’”
 – City Council Member Mike Martinez

“The whole system was so far off track, it was a huge effort just to get the most basic cleanup done,” says Bailey. “A few boards were just out of control. Aides deal more directly with boards and commissions, so we were most motivated to get the system cleaned up.” Though not universally popular with sitting board members and others, the standardization of board practices, structures, and bylaws – and the tighter alignment of individual council members with B&C members – appears to be a huge step in the right direction. “It’s done the key things it was supposed to do: to get the system back on track and focused so that council gets more informed citizen input,” said Bailey recently.

So one big set of problems has been addressed and hopefully resolved. For reaching that major milestone, council and staff deserve a round of civic applause. In need of Phase II attention is the remaining set of problems documented by the task force and current participants. As attested to by numerous sources, these five key dilemmas still persist today.

1) Communication gaps: Weaknesses in communication protocols between boards and council, and boards and city staff, prevent Austin from deriving optimal benefit from its B&C system.

2) Disrespect: Existing city practices undervalue and even disrespect the volunteer service, countless donated hours, and professional expertise that essential B&C’s provide. The city is missing an opportunity to build greater goodwill toward City Hall among its most engaged citizens.

3) Sacred cows: Some boards are perpetuated as “political pacifiers”; they bloat, bog down, and dilute the overall system. Because there’s no official distinction between indispensable and less essential boards, council and staff have no clear way to provide extra support to first-tier boards.

4) No resource management: The city has never accurately tracked or evaluated how city resources and staff time are devoted to the B&C system; it thus can’t determine how those resources can be most wisely spent.

5) Fuzzy sunset reviews: The council Audit & Finance Committee gained newly defined powers to review a board, but the exact role of the city auditor and criteria for sunset reviews have not been clearly and publicly defined.

Leffingwell is the only sitting council member who has experienced firsthand the joys and frustrations of board service; he served on the Environmental Board for six years, chairing

it for five. In part for that reason, he expressed the heartiest council enthusiasm recently for tackling further system reforms.

“Good work has been done so far, but we definitely need to take on Phase II,” said Leffingwell. “I do support and value the board and commission system. I think we ought to do more to make it more effective, by improving communication in both directions.”

1) Council Communication

Before certain items (such as a zoning change for a high-rise condo) can get put on a council agenda for a vote, the matter first must go before the relevant boards and commissions for review. Board chairs and staff liaisons send board votes, minutes documenting deliberations, and sometimes letters and other commentary and information upstream to other boards and to council, which weighs it all before voting. At least, that’s how it’s supposed to work; too often the full content of board reviews don’t reach other boards or council members in time or at all.

“Our survey [of sitting board members] showed that communications with the City Council were among the most troubling issues

for board members,” stated the 2003 task force report. “The problem is serious.” From all evidence, it persists. The task force survey found: “Only 18% of respondents believe their recommendations are always communicated to Council in time for Council members to review them before a vote. ... 37% believed their recommendations were usually *not* coming



To read about the B&C system’s history and not-always-so-friendly relationship with city staff, see “Hanging Fire: The Tortuous B&C Task Force” with this article at austinchronicle.com.

communicated to the council in time.” This gap guts boards’ advisory role; their work does no good if council doesn’t hear about it. (The situation does seem to have improved: Leffingwell reported that agenda posting language now almost always includes the recommendations of boards and commissions. “And if it’s missing, I ask for it.”)

While the recent tighter alignment of all board members with a nominating council member should help communication, council members have hoped improvements would happen organically. As a body, council hasn’t adopted any standard communication protocols. Few sitting council members appear to have read (or remember) the meaty and still-relevant section of the task force report (pages 28-36) that speaks to council-board communication issues, offers practical solutions, and provides four specific recommendations – none of which has been formally, fully implemented (see “Further Consideration,” p.26).

Of course, board recommendations are just that. Martinez noted that effective leadership requires setting priorities, which may not satisfy a given board: “Council doesn’t always need to act on, or even respond to, every recommendation. We may have many other recommendations and issues we’re dealing with on a daily basis.”

Interestingly, active board members surveyed for this article all gave a high grade to their personal communication with their nominating council member but graded overall

CONTINUED ON P.24

The New B&C: What Changed?

Major alterations to standardize the structure, policies, and processes of the city’s boards and commissions system became effective last year. They affect the 43 boards listed in, and governed by, Chapter 2-1 of City Code. Here are the key changes and their significance. – K.G.

• **One per council member.** The biggest policy change is that each council member now nominates one member of each board, in most cases. Nearly all “at-large” members have been eliminated; typically they’d had weaker relations with council members. Making each board member accountable to a single council member (and vice versa) is intended to foster a closer relationship and better communication. The nominee’s appointment requires a majority council vote; all board members serve at the council’s pleasure. Eliminating at-large members meant many boards shrank in size – generally accepted but not a popular move with all.

• **A board is forever; a task force ain’t.** A board is now defined as a permanent advisory (or decision-making) body; a task force, by contrast, is a temporary body that lasts only until it completes a specified purpose. (For example, the Live Music Task Force and Waterfront Overlay Task Force were recently disbanded, after delivering their final reports to council in November and December, respectively. Of course, now both want to be made permanent commissions.) Task forces don’t have to comply with the rules governing boards unless council says otherwise. A board can be abolished at any time by a majority vote of council.

• **You’re willing? You’ll do.** Many boards had such specific appointment requirements (e.g., a member of a specific profession or group) that positions sat vacant for long periods, because no qualified applicant could be recruited, while other citizens willing and able to serve were excluded. Scads of vacan-

cies made B&C less effective; some couldn’t even make a meeting quorum. Now, board composition and membership qualifications are recommended but not mandatory. As a result, vacancies have been significantly reduced. (Still, several boards have current vacancies. Want to serve your city? You can apply for a vacant board position right from the city website. But find the right nominating council office first.) By contrast, eligibility limitations remain in full force: no lobbyists and no one who lives outside the city (unless otherwise specified); also, city employees can serve only where there’s no conflict of interest. Holdover members can’t serve for more than 60 days after their terms expire. (Previously they’d drifted on indefinitely.)

• **Nine years, and you’re through.** Now, a board member can’t serve more than nine consecutive years; previously, there were no term limits. But the nine-year clock was set to start on July 31, 2008. This provision ensured that no longtime members (such as Shudde Fath, who has served on the Electric Utility Commission since 1977) would feel targeted for immediate removal. A braver council could have started the clock just three or six years back.

• **How do you second a motion?** Almost inconceivably, the city provided no basic training to board members on their responsibilities or standard board procedures until late 2007. Many members spent their first year just learning the ropes. Now, all members must complete training within 90 days, plus an annual refresher course. (Current members are all up-to-date.) The training covers the basics of city government, the role of

advisory boards in making recommendations and advising council, board procedures, the city’s planning and budgeting process, Robert’s Rules of Order, ethics, open meeting and ADA requirements, and conflict resolution.

Members also must take an oath of office, agree to comply with ethics guidelines, and on some boards (primarily those reviewing financial contracts) provide a public financial statement. A tough-love change: If an appointee refuses or fails to file a financial statement, he or she now automatically vacates the position.

• **Yes, staff will take minutes.** The city manager designates a department to provide each board with staff support – including a board liaison. That staffer is responsible for meeting agendas and keeping and distributing minutes – a point of contention previously. The liaison also is responsible for maintaining board-department communication (although the specific duties and required communication flow still need to be spelled out and standardized). A flaw: The liaison definition doesn’t include responsibility for board-council communication.

• **Show up, or be gone.** Now, a board member automatically vacates his position after three “unexcused” absences in a row or upon missing one-third of a year’s meetings.

• **Follow the bylaws, by George.** Adoption of standard bylaws was newly required, based on a template provided. All boards now operate under the same bylaws, making the overall system far less confusing for staff, citizens, and council. Lost was the flexibility to reflect a commission’s individual mission or needs.

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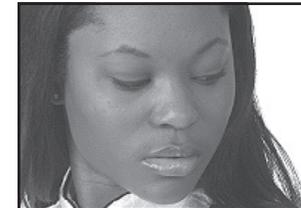
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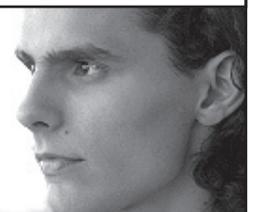


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board-council communication significantly lower. This points to the lack of effective body-to-body protocols. As the task force report noted, "A problem of this scale suggests a widespread breakdown in (or lack of) procedures." Correcting it is beyond the pay scale or authority of a council aide. It requires elected officials, aligned with city management, to commit themselves to doing more – at least for the dozen or so boards they interact with most often – with all the candidness, engagement, and spirit of collaboration they can muster.

1a) Staff Communication

Not surprisingly, citizen advisory boards (aka loudmouthed amateurs) have a long history of rankling city management and departmental brass. An especially delicate part of a board's job is serving as a third-party set of eyes on corresponding city departments. To city staff and management, it can feel like a bunch of meddlers are telling them how to run their businesses; boards have publicly ratted out departmental failings to city management and council. (Witness the Solid Waste Advisory Commission's recent call for a management audit of Solid Waste Services and the Animal Advisory Commission's ongoing implied criticism of the animal shelter director.) Boards create work for staffers, who must supply requested information, attend meetings,

draft agendas, and (only now) take minutes; staff liaisons understandably try to curtail their board duties, which often are assigned on top of a full-time job. According to current board members, department directors routinely snub requests from board chairs to present their annual plans and budgets despite the obvious relevance of this information to board strategic planning. Some departments, such as Parks and the Austin Public Library, have a reputation for working well with their corresponding boards. But few directors or their staffs voluntarily seek out the third-party perspective that citizen advisers can offer.

If council is serious about getting more value from B&C, it needs to ensure that essential boards get all the information, timely communication, and other support they need. Some commissioners – as volunteers serving their city – find it irritating as hell when paid city staff won't provide them with answers and support and, instead, treat them as unpaid lackeys, demanding that commissioners turn around work in a few hours. When surveyed for this article, commissioners reported that departmental staffers filter (or decline to provide) information flow in both directions – a longstanding, troubling problem. Said Leffingwell of his own experience: "When I was chair of the Environmental Board, I used to get frustrated on a regular basis just trying

to get staff to even tell us what happened."

Asked a question taken directly from the 2003 task force survey – "Are you satisfied with the timeliness, completeness, objectivity and clarity of the information you receive from city staff?" – members surveyed recently said that they were not satisfied. They pointed out that without good data on which to base their decisions, boards and commissions do not provide real value in reviewing matters heading toward City Council. Yet council members, unaware of the problem, may believe boards have heard the full story.

One problem: While boards are advisory to council, all liaisons are housed in departments and don't directly facilitate council-board communication. "There is a need for reforming the staff liaison role. ... There's an inherent tension between having a staff liaison who answers to the same departmental management [that] your board is, on some level, overseeing," said Solid Waste Advisory Commission Vice Chair Rick Cofer. (He's also a City Council candidate.) "I'd like to explore creating a one-stop shop for boards and commissions. At the same time, though, you need a staff liaison with a certain amount of area expertise."

"It definitely would be a big help if boards and commissions were monitoring departments more," said Leffingwell. Referring to problems that the Solid Waste Advisory

Commission belatedly brought to light regarding departmental delays on single-stream recycling and other issues, he added, "It would have been a big help on Solid Waste."

2) Don't Get No Respect

Most board members report deriving strong satisfaction from civic and board service. But they struggle with a common workplace frustration: lots of responsibility, little real authority. "We feel responsible, so we do and say things that may not be popular," noted one longtime board member, a professional who for years has donated untold hours to city board service, which otherwise could be billed to clients. "We've been asked to be a city official. But we're treated like a pain in the butt."

"Citizen participation in the boards and commissions process is a great example of what we need at City Hall," said Cofer. "But boards and commissions cannot be the place that good ideas go to die."

Several members of vital boards noted with some annoyance that the "cleanup" reforms treated boards primarily as problem children and failed to address how the city can better support its essential, most hard-working commissioners. Basic courtesies aren't extended: For example, boards issuing recommendations to council receive no notification back on how council ultimately voted. Official board letters

The B&C List

Below is our subjective division of city boards and commissions into tiers, based on the degree to which council members rely on them for advice, reviews, and recommendations.

The city's website lists some 56 boards and commissions. Of these, 43 are named and governed by Chapter 2-1 of the City Code; those are the boards listed here. The others are not governed directly by City Code, due to unique state or federal requirements or joint city-county status.

FIRST-TIER BOARDS

(noting recent hot topics)

Planning Commission*

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 6pm: City Hall, 301 W. Second, Council Chambers
Comprehensive planning and economic development, transit-oriented developments, Stubb's rezoning, neighborhood plans

Zoning and Platting Commission*

First and third Tuesdays, 6pm: City Hall, Council Chambers
Cell towers near residences, Oertli PUD, new subdivisions

Environmental Board*

First and third Wednesdays, 6pm: City Hall, Council Chambers
South Shore District PUD, Barton Springs Pool Master Plan, Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake, reinstating Environmental Awareness Awards

Design Commission

Fourth Monday, 5:30pm: City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room
Brazos streetscape, bike-rack sculptures, density bonuses, waterfront overlay, Downtown Plan, Waller Creek

Electric Utility Commission

Third Monday, 6pm: Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Rd., Assembly Room
Nuclear project expansion, Webberville Solar Project, other renewable energy

projects, Austin Energy's public participation process

Parks and Recreation Board

Fourth Tuesday, 6pm: City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room
Barton Springs Pool Master Plan, Boardwalk Trail at Lady Bird Lake, Lake Austin boat dock variances

Solid Waste Advisory Commission

Second Wednesday, 6:30pm: One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., Room 325
Zero Waste Strategic Plan, solid waste management district

Water and Wastewater Commission

Second Wednesday, 6pm: Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th, Room 104
Deconstruction of Green Water Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant No. 4, and related construction

* These three boards meet twice monthly; all others meet monthly.

For a list of all boards, standing meeting times, and city staff liaisons, see www.cityofaustin.org/boards/meetings. An index with contact information is at www.cityofaustin.org/boards.

SECOND-TIER BOARDS

Board of Adjustment**

Second Monday, 5:30pm: City Hall, First Floor, Room 1101

Commercial design standards, staff errors, rezoning petitions, compatibility/height variances

Austin Airport Advisory Commission

Second Tuesday, 5pm: 2716 Spirit of Texas Dr., Room 160

Arts Commission

Third Monday, 5:30pm: City Hall, Council Chambers

Austin Music Commission

First Monday, 6pm: City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room

Historic Landmark Commission

Fourth Monday, 7pm: City Hall, Council Chambers

Library Commission

Fourth Monday, 7pm: Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, or branch libraries

Urban Forestry Board

Third Wednesday, 6:30pm: Parks & Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar, board room

Urban Transportation Commission

Second Tuesday, 6pm: City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room

** This sovereign board can directly grant certain development variances; it doesn't go to council.

THE REST

Each of these boards and commissions meets monthly, except as noted.

African American Resource Advisory Commission

Animal Advisory Commission

Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission

Austin Mayor's Committee for People With Disabilities

Building and Standards Commission

Child Care Council

Commission for Women

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Community Development Commission

Construction Advisory Committee

Downtown Commission

Federally Qualified Health Center Board

Human Rights Commission

Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise Procurement Program Advisory Committee

Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board

Renaissance Market Commission

Residential Design and Compatibility Commission

Resource Management Commission

Sign Review Board

Asian American Resource Center Advisory Board (quarterly)

Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals (monthly when needed)

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Committee (every two months)

Electric Board (monthly when needed)

Ethics Review Commission (quarterly)

Mechanical, Plumbing, and Solar Board (monthly when needed)

Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (quarterly)

Sustainable Food Policy Board (to be determined)

OTHER BODIES

More Citizen Advisory Groups

2006 Bond Oversight Committee

Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council

Austin Community Education Consortium

Firefighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission

Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Urban Renewal Agency

Impact Fee Advisory Committee

Saltillo District Redevelopment Project Community Advisory Group

Waller Creek Citizen Advisory Committee

Joint Austin/Travis County Boards

Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board

Austin-Travis County MHRM Board of Trustees

Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors



Board Members: Voices

LINDA GUERRERO

Chair, Parks and Recreation Board

First appointed: April 25, 2002

Nominated by: Mike Martinez

"I serve due to loyalty and devotion to a city that I adore and love with a burning passion. ... A holistic view of the city's operations is vital, especially with any dual management between city departments."

sent to council typically aren't even acknowledged. (The 2003 task force report contained many specific recommendations for rectifying such communication gaps, recommendations which still appear applicable and sound.) Boards spend weeks or months listening to specific citizen concerns and developing suggestions to better their city yet never hear a word back or see any impact of their work. "It happens with neighborhood-planning teams, too; people get frustrated," sighed Martinez. "They say, 'Why'd you have a public input process if you're not going to do anything with it?'"

Asked which of the unexecuted recommendations in the 2003 report would most benefit the city, task force Chair Bill Spelman pointed to the suggestion to integrate advisory boards into departments' business planning as the greatest "missed opportunity." States the report, "Involving boards in business planning would help to refocus board activities from reactive to proactive, from confrontational to collaborative." Task force recommendation No. 33 says of the board's annual work plan, "This document should be written after a staff presentation about the department's annual budget and business plan." (Board members and chairs interviewed for this article said they had asked directors for such a presentation for years but had simply been ignored.)

Unlike previous city managers, Ott expressed support for recommendation No. 33, saying recently, "That makes a whole lot of sense." In fact, Ott said, he'd like to start asking key boards for input before a department finalizes its budget and business plan.

3) Sacred Cows, A Bloated System

Both Leffingwell and fellow City Council Member Sheryl Cole said they couldn't define exactly what some of Austin's numerous boards even do. "A dozen or so, you interact with them enough to know they're out there," said Leffingwell. "Only when a big issue comes up – like whether to move the animal shelter – do we hear from others. But there are less than a dozen that give us regular recommenda-

tions on agenda items." He added: "Those do have a lot of influence; they've already plowed the ground, so we don't need to revisit it. That's how it's supposed to work."

A big reason council has never instituted board-communication policies is the sheer volume of citizen advisory groups. While all board members consider their own mission top-of-the-list – that's why they volunteer their time – the reality of a council member's or aide's overburdened bad-day schedule can make the chorus of 400 to 500 civic voices grate like an irritating cacophony. (Not to mention the shrieking of self-appointed council watchdogs, umpteen neighborhood associations, 28 short-term advisory bodies, and a host of other squeaky wheels.)

Several council members and aides thought new communication protocols could be tested first with a small subset of workhorse

boards that most frequently offer advice on council decisions. ("But there needs to be some rationale for how you pick them," warned Cole.) Although not officially acknowledged, there's a caste system to the boards and commissions system. Council members hold

closer the boards that correspond to major city departments, functions, and utilities. A short list of essential "first-tier" B&C might include Planning, Zoning and Platting, Design, Environmental, Parks and Recreation, Electric Utility, Solid Waste, and Water and Wastewater. Reviews and recommendations conducted by their members (who often bring professional expertise to technical and complex issues) are seen as unquestionably valuable by council members. "They give us invaluable help evaluating multimillion-dollar deals. If I get a call from my Electric Utility commissioner, I sit up and take notice," said Cole, citing as an example the weight given the Electric Utility Commission's positive recommendation on a contract to purchase biomass energy. (Also notably powerful is the sovereign Board of Adjustment; it can grant certain development variances, such as height increases, that never go to council.)

Close behind is a group of "second-tier" boards, which also hear community issues (so that council doesn't have to) and provide useful if less frequent early-warning recom-

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Board Members: Voices

DAVE SULLIVAN

Chair, Planning Commission

First appointed: Sept. 8, 1994

Nominated by: Lee Leffingwell

"Having been raised in a Catholic household with parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents who had been community volunteers, I was steered toward community service and taught to be my brother's keeper. I am lucky to have a job that offers me flexibility in hours to attend meetings."

mendations on council-agenda matters. A short list might include Airport, Arts, Board of Adjustment, Music, Historic Landmark, Library, Urban Forestry, and Urban Transportation. That comes to 16 boards, with at least seven members each – as many as council offices realistically can keep up with. Consigned by necessity to the muddy "third tier" are the two dozen or so remaining boards. (A few, who've proven to be royal pains or are rarely heard from, are relegated to a bottom caste.)

In truth, without stronger communication measures, Austin long ago passed a tipping point: We have too many advisory groups of all kinds competing for limited council attention and city resources. But asked if the list should perhaps be pared down, every source interviewed jumped immediately to the political perils of any such conversation in our input-obsessed city. As one city staffer put it: "Citizen volunteers really, really care. They're doing this work because they're mission-driven. The first time a board gets recommended for possible elimination, all the citizens who care will suddenly come out of the woodwork!"

4) No Resource Management

Council members fear community censure and voter reprisals from even raising the issue

of a board's value. That's why, to date, the city has never even dared to assess its true costs to staff and operate the B&C system – a fundamental management practice for every other municipal operation. "I don't want to say we must streamline the system and make it more efficient," said Martinez. "It becomes delicate, because it's about governance and public input to council on every policy decision we make. To folks who care, it's critical." Yet in 2009, a budget year in which possible city layoffs and hiring freezes loom, scrutinizing each board's demands on staff time makes basic management sense. As chair of the powerful council Audit and Finance Committee, Sheryl Cole recently expressed cautious support for pursuing an efficiency audit of B&C.

"It seems to me we need to ask a fundamental question: Do we need all of them?" said City Manager Marc Ott, while conceding the political difficulties for council. (Witness members' lack of nerve, in the end, when they tried to eliminate the Renaissance Market Commission last year; the board was basically stripped of duties yet allowed to persist.) "I'm not speaking to any one board or commission, but could any be combined, merged, or dissolved?" asked Ott, while noting that it's council's role to set policy for such reviews. "Which remain viable and relevant today? Is there a viable business case to be made, and what does that

analysis look like?" Asked who would bell the cat, Ott said, "Since boards are advisory to council, the independent council-appointed auditor would be the right person to do it."

"I'm willing to ask my council aide to get with the other council aides and do it soon," said Leffingwell of trying to assess direct costs for the B&C system (recommendation No. 32), "so that the impact on next year's budget can be assessed." But Assistant City Auditor C'Anne Daugherty cautioned that an accurate accounting of costs would require new data-collection procedures for both staff time and hard costs: "You'd have to start today, collecting the information to allow you to assess costs next year."

5) Sunset Reviews

Recommended by the 2003 task force report (and the 1999 MGT study) are sunset reviews "modeled in part after the sunset review process that the State of Texas uses to determine whether state agencies should be continued or abolished, and whether their functions should be changed or combined with another agency." The report stated such reviews "can provide clearer expectations for boards, dramatically increasing the likelihood that boards will provide value to the City ... as well as provide for a continuing check on boards that may have become inactive or redundant. In addition, it noted that reviews "can give Council and the public a greater appreciation for all of the work

volunteers do for the city of Austin." A recommendation that the city auditor perform sunset reviews foundered backstage and never formally reached the council.

No doubt to avoid another such breakdown, the 2008 ordinance enacted by council did establish a review process – but it omits any "sunset review" terminology and is generally fuzzy on the details. Absent is a specific directive that the city auditor's office shall conduct a review, nor are criteria named. Instead, a council Audit and Finance Committee is given the power to annually designate certain boards required to conduct an *internal* review and then provide a report. The committee is to review the materials provided – work plans, annual reports, agendas, and minutes of all meetings – then "make recommendations to council on the continued need for and role of each board." (Based on ... what exactly?) The code also says, "The committee may review a board audited by the city auditor," yet it is silent on what would trigger such an audit.

In fact, the powerful Audit and Finance Committee (Leffingwell, Martinez, Cole, and Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken) has asked 20 boards to initiate an internal review. That's nearly half the boards governed by City Code. The initial review of the voluminous materials submitted last year (by 18 of the 20) is being performed by Daugherty – who, as it happens, served on the B&C task force.

Board Members: Voices

CAROL MARTIN

Chair, Library Commission

First appointed: Feb. 13, 2003

Nominated by: Will Wynn

"It is gratifying to get an in-depth look at the operations of the Library Department. ... I volunteer my time because I feel I can make a positive impact on a city service that, in turn, impacts the quality of life for Austin citizens."



Further Consideration

Here are some further recommendations for communication improvements; they typify those detailed in the 2003 task force report, as well as recent suggestions from current board members, council members, and city staff. Some date back over a decade but have yet to be enacted. – K.G.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Why don't they ...?

- Define a communication protocol, provided in a manual, that sets forth a standardized process for information flow – who's supposed to do and communicate what and when – among B&C, council offices, city staff, and citizens?
- Require that council members interview their nominees, or at least meet them, before making a nomination to council? (A surprising number of board members complained that they've never met their nominating council member.)
- Require council members (not just their staffs) to meet quarterly and communicate monthly with each of their board nominees – individually or in operationally related small groups?
- Keep a complete history of each B&C, which can be provided to new council members and their new board nominees?
- Acknowledge receipt of official letters of recommendation from boards to council members – and establish a protocol for council response?
- Establish a standard protocol for when and how board members should contact their nominating council member about a controversial issue heading toward council?
- Ask volunteer board and commission members, "What could we do for you?" to make their public service more effective?

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Why don't they ...?

- Establish a public protocol for staff and citizens for how to show respect for the time and service of B&C members, as both volunteers and city officials?
- Require department directors to meet at least quarterly or biannually with their corresponding city boards – including a required annual presentation of the department's business plan and budget?
- Require staff liaisons to complete and distribute minutes from each board meeting within a few days, when they would do the most good, not weeks later?
- Define how much autonomy boards have to develop internal policies (e.g., how petitioning citizens or companies must file information for review) and whether city staff are expected to enforce compliance with internal board policies?

INTRA-BOARD COMMUNICATION

Why don't they ...?

- When an issue goes before multiple boards – for example, Design, then Environmental, then Planning – require staff liaisons or board chairs to immediately report a board vote and supporting rationales to the other boards that will review the same issue?

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Why don't they ...?

- Provide a full-featured city Web page for at least the most active boards, where citizens can access comprehensive information: recent actions and recommendations, mission and role, bylaws and charter, meeting agendas, annual report and work plan, history of major recommendations, letters to council, board-member photos and bios? (Good model: www.seattle.gov/planningcommission.)

"Don't call it an audit; it's a review!" she emphasized. She said the city auditor's office will make recommendations to council as to whether it finds any evidence of need for a true audit. (On Jan. 15, long-time city auditor Steve Morgan announced his retirement at the end of February, which could cause delays.) What might such evidence include? She cited a board operating outside its defined mission, not fulfilling its mission, not meeting regularly, or not accomplishing its work plan.

(Of course, council also has the latitude to expand or redefine a board's mission, to correspond to the work it has done or wants to take on. For example, the Animal Advisory Commission has sought latitude to broadly address issues of animal welfare, and just last week its charge was slightly expanded.)

Rich Bailey, Mayor Will Wynn's chief of staff, predicted that any audits would begin only after August 2009, when the new ordinance will have been effective for a full year. He anticipated that only a few problematic boards would be audited. Bailey saw the new ordinance, and the closely watched challenge to the Renaissance Market Commission's continued existence last year, as having communicated the essential message: "You'll be audited and could be disbanded if you stray outside your mission." As the task force report noted, the primary benefit of having an audit process is to motivate boards to do their jobs properly in the first place – not to trigger one.

But Leffingwell expressed support for pursuing an automatic rotation of audits or true sunset reviews for all boards: "There should be a sunset provision requiring one for renewal." He added: "I greatly value citizen input and advice. If some boards are done away with, for sound business management reasons, that takes nothing away."

Perhaps the most frustrating thing a city can do is to offer citizens a role in governance then fail to deliver on the hopes and expectations created. In its past failures to make the boards and commissions system optimally functional (ensuring that members feel heard, respected, and valued), the city has missed an opportunity to build greater goodwill among its most engaged citizens – and the community at large – toward City Hall. But that opportunity still remains.

Last year, leading his first city budget process, Ott took the unprecedented step of engaging council members far earlier in the budget-drafting process. For 2009, he said, he's open to doing the same thing with boards. "I'm thinking about those conversations occurring early on – when a board relates directly to a department – during preliminary discussions about the next fiscal year," he said. "It's part of my commitment to transparency and to try to rebuild a foundation of trust in this city." In the end, that's what citizen engagement is all about. ■



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Fantasies of Inevitability

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Trillion-dollar stimulus packages, trillion-dollar deficits, a trillion-dollar war, and bank bailouts at \$300 billion a clip – the immensity of this crisis is not easily grasped. President Barack Obama's pronouncements may be bracing, but they don't add much to one's understanding, so try this: "Three hundred billion dollars is ... about what we spend annually on the departments of Agriculture, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development and Transportation combined" (*The New York Times*, Jan. 4, p.WK10). "[A]dd up just the funds that have ... been committed [as of last November, and] you get a figure ... that is larger ... than the costs of the Marshall Plan, the Louisiana Purchase, the New Deal, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the [savings and loan] crisis combined" (*The New York Times*, Nov. 28, 2008, p.A43). In response, the U.S. prints wads and wads of what Paul Kennedy in *The Wall Street Journal* calls "unsecured money" (Jan. 14, p.A13) – dollars backed by nothing.

Nothing, that is, but a fantasy of American inevitability – which goes something like this: We are the richest, strongest nation, and we will continue to be the richest and strongest, so foreigners (China, in particular) will buy our paper, prop up our government, and invest in our economy, no matter what. How the richest, strongest nation remains so while carrying the largest debt in history is left to the imagination. Kennedy writes, "If a miracle happened, and China bought most of [our debt], what would our state of dependency be then?"

That question is military as well as economic. We spend more on our military than all other nations combined and bear more worldwide military commitments than any nation ever. Obama promises to expand our military – a promise most elected Democrats

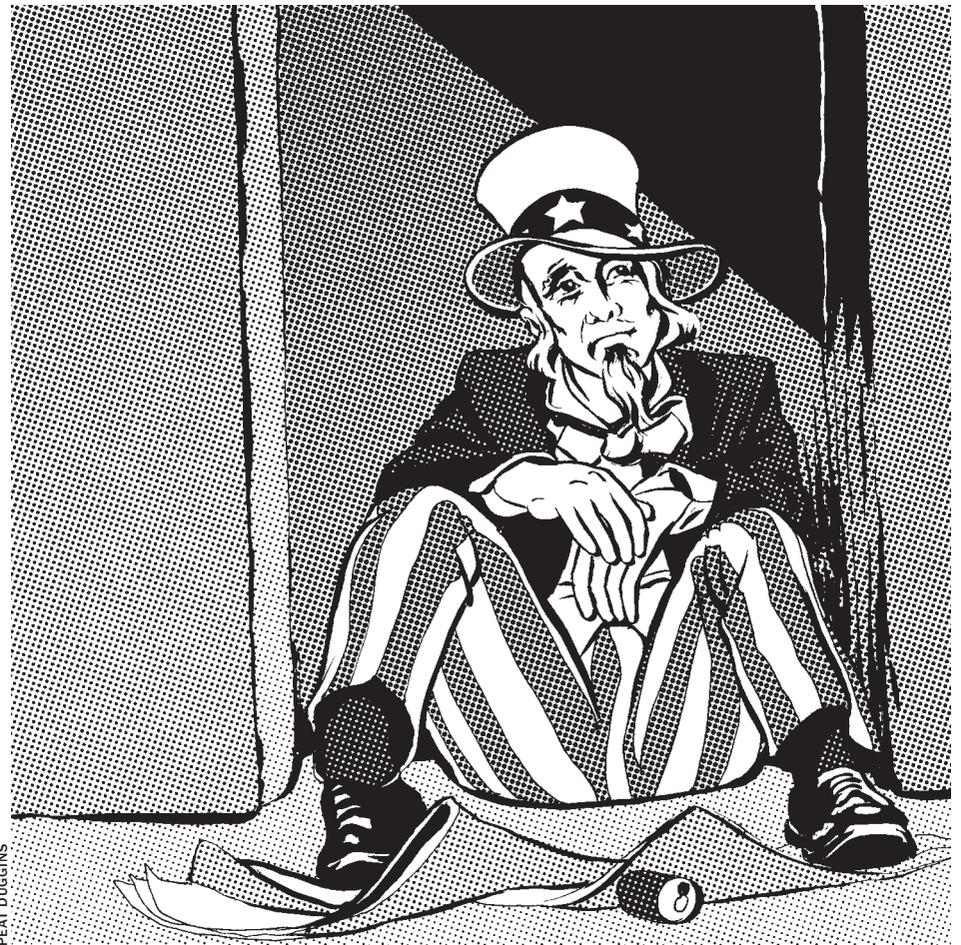
and Republicans applaud. But how can we expand our military and address our economic crisis with, uh, borrowed money? More to the point, why is it in China's interest to loan us that money?

The assumption underlying our fantasy of inevitability is, itself, a fantasy – namely, that the American consumer is the engine of the world's economy, hence the world must come to our rescue. Not so. *The Economist*, Jan. 10, p.63: "[E]merging economies' reliance on America is often exaggerated. ... [S]ince 2000 ... [m]ost of [their] growth in exports has been within the developing world. ... [I]t is ... wrong to assume that they cannot recover until America rebounds."

Stripped of economic jargon, it goes like so: This may be the historical moment when China, India, and Brazil are forced to dispense with American consumers. Their economies are slowing in this crisis, yet still growing; ours is not. Their consumer economies don't depend much on credit, so the credit crunch isn't killing their consumers the way it's killing ours. If they can sustain themselves internally and by trading with one another, why prop us up? And, again, why, oh why, is it in their interest to rebuild our military?

Our hopeless confusion about these questions was illustrated, appropriately enough, on the solstice. Read these three consecutive pages of *The New York Times*, Dec. 21, 2008:

PWK9: A lengthy editorial observed, "The [military] services are already talking up remote future threats (most involving a hostile China armed to the teeth with submarines and space-age weapons)." Suggested are various cuts and increases in specific weaponry and an "[i]ncrease [of] the size of the ground force" to the tune of "\$100 billion over the next six years." This editorial fails to note that we're broke and can rebuild our military only



PEAT DUGGINS

letters at 3am

with borrowed money. Let's see, we'll borrow from China in order to one day fight China? And China will abet this? Why?

Next page, p.WK10: Thomas L. Friedman's column is titled "China to the Rescue? Not!" He concludes, for various reasons (some pretty half-baked) that "China is not going to rescue us. ... We're going to have to get out of this crisis the old-fashioned way." How do we do that when we're broke, dependent on China buying Treasury bonds? "[B]y digging inside ourselves and getting back to basics," whatever that may mean to families having to choose between health care and rent.

Next page, p.WK11, "Financial Time Bombs," by Charles Duelfer and Jim Rickards: "[T]here is no doubt that [China's] enormous reserves give it de facto veto power over some

of Washington's [financial] policies." This is an issue of national security, so "who would warn the White House if foreign entities made a concerted attack on our financial system?" They want Obama to set up some kind of agency "to plan our response." Which would be what, exactly? Bomb our bankers? War on the people from whom we import our commodities and food? Stop borrowing and be broker and then broke? Duelfer and Rickards make no concrete suggestions because there is none to make.

Three pages of drivel passing for serious analysis.

Then go to *The New York Times* of Jan. 8, where, on p.1 of the Business section, Edmund L. Andrews assures us, "The good news is that, for the moment, there is plenty



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of cheap money available for the Treasury to borrow," but, "The situation could worsen if countries like China ... become more reluctant to do so." Andrews was probably shocked to read the headline on his own paper's front page that same morning: "China Losing Taste for Debt From U.S.": "All the key drivers of China's Treasury purchases are disappearing - there's a waning appetite for dollars and a waning appetite for Treasuries, and that complicates the outlook." Uh, yeah, "complicates the outlook" is one way of putting it.

Jump to *The New York Times*, Jan. 21, the day after the inauguration, p.A19, "China Sees Separatist Threats": "China said ... that American arms sales to Taiwan jeopardize stability in Asia. ... Last October, the Pentagon announced it was selling \$6.5 billion of weaponry to Taiwan despite protests from Beijing." They loan us money that we in turn distribute as arms to their enemy. Understandably, they're getting a little sick of that.

At its highest levels, our military is worried that it can no longer do what's asked of it. *The New York Times*, Jan. 13, p.A9, "Top Officer Urges Limit on Mission of Military": The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, "urged generals and admirals to tell civilian leaders when they believed the armed forces should not take the lead in carrying out policies overseas." He "called for more money and personnel to be devoted to the civilian agencies responsible for diplomacy and overseas economic development." Defense Secretary Robert Gates also "has delivered a series of talks, remarkable for a Pentagon chief, calling for more resources for civilian agencies responsible for delivering 'soft power.'" "Remarkable" is hardly enough of a word. The insanity of the situation is this:

The military begs relief while politicians promise to expand it with money borrowed from a rival, a potential enemy that appears less and less interested in supporting our economy at the very moment when our economy needs it most desperately. Meanwhile, our leaders encourage fantasies of American inevitability and assure us that the crisis is temporary.

Fact: At present, the dollar is, in effect, backed by China - an increasingly reluctant China. Every dollar we print is a prayer that China won't turn us away. "The value of outstanding American Treasury bills now reaches \$10.6 trillion. ... Worry centers on the possibility that foreigners could come to doubt the American wherewithal to pay back such an extraordinary sum" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 28, 2008, p.WK1). How will a country that's lost its manufacturing base pay back \$10.6 trillion and counting? It is not possible. When the world faces that fact is when our troubles really start. What's happened so far is mere rehearsal.

There's a line going around that just about says it all: "It's gonna get worse before it gets worse."

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CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY

'A Strange Land' is a changing land

Land changes over time but typically so slowly that we don't always perceive it. "A Strange Land," however, will change weekly, if not daily. Repeat visits to this Creative Research Laboratory/Blanton Museum of Art joint exhibit will reward the viewer with an ever-evolving artscape that explores themes of displacement, cultural modification, urbanization, and, yes, land.

That's how CRL gallery Director Jade Walker conceived the show, with five different artists contributing separate projects adapted specifically for the CRL gallery. For instance, Chris Taylor, assistant professor of architecture and director of Land Arts of the American West at Texas Tech University, is presenting a wall piece titled *Dissolving Between Land and Sky: Mapping Wendover* that focuses on the basin of the Great Salt Lake Desert, using drawings and photographs

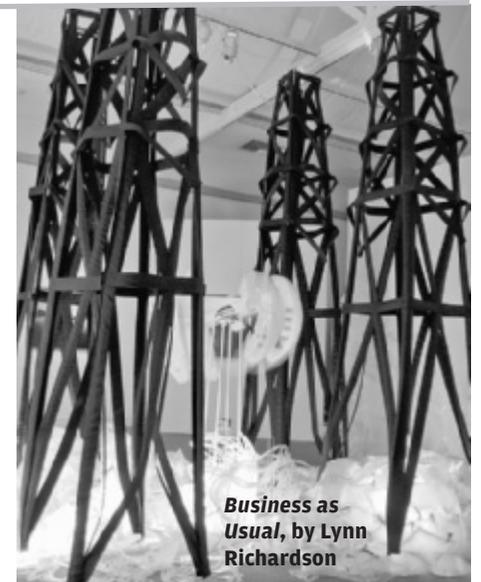
to make connections between its sociopolitical past and the geomorphological future. Taylor will be working on it in the gallery each Saturday, giving visitors the opportunity to watch it develop moment by moment as well as week to week.

Erica Bohm is also working in the exhibition space, in a functioning studio that she set up to produce images featuring Texas landmarks such as the Texas Capitol, McDonald Observatory, and the Johnson Space Center. The public can see her exploration of the Texas landscape evolve on the studio walls, where she will also document her journey from Buenos Aires. (Bohm is one of the first recipients of the Mapping Exchange: Artists Residency Programs, a new series of annual artists residencies at the University of Texas designed to stimulate intellectual and cultural dialogue between the

university community and artists from around the world. Bohm is here through the Austin-Argentina Residency, organized and sponsored by the Blanton, CRL, and Proyecto Nexar Buenos Aires, Argentina.)

Along with Bohm and Taylor, "A Strange Land" features work by UT assistant professor Beili Liu, who creates ethereal landscapes inspired in part by her personal passage from East to West; Lynn Richardson, whose minimalist architectural forms address conflicts between industrial and natural environments; and Cauleen Smith, who explores themes of gender, culture, race, and identity through film and multimedia.

A panel discussion focusing on each artist's body of work, discovering new landscapes, and artist residencies will be held Sunday, Feb. 1, 2-4pm. A closing reception will take place Saturday, Feb. 7, 6-9pm, with a performance by Carlos Rosales-Silva, a student



Business as Usual, by Lynn Richardson

in the Department of Art & Art History and staffer at Okay Mountain, investigating cultural boundaries, social constructions, and race.

— Robert Faires

"A Strange Land" runs through Feb. 10 at Creative Research Laboratory, 2832 E. MLK. For more information, visit uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab.

BARBARA SMITH CONRAD

A diva's return, triumphant



COURTESY OF ALISON BECK

remarkable voice earned her recognition, and in 1956, she was cast as the female lead in the School of Music production of Henry Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas*. But the male student cast opposite her was white, and a cross-racial romance – even on stage – generated controversy. Smith received threats to her safety, and state legislators put the screws to UT President Logan Wilson, warning of cuts in funding if Smith wasn't removed from the cast. So two weeks before *Dido and Aeneas* was to open, College of Fine Arts Dean E. William Doty told Smith she would not appear in the opera. That prompted *The Daily Texan* to run a front-page story headlined "Negro Girl Withdrawn From UT Opera Cast" two days before the show's opening. Students rose up in Smith's defense, protesting her removal from the opera with a petition that collected 1,500 names. National news outlets picked up the story, bringing Sidney Poitier and Eleanor Roosevelt, among others, to voice support for Smith. Harry Belafonte called her personally and offered to underwrite her studies at another university, but Smith chose to stay at UT, where she earned her Bachelor of Music in 1959.

She went on to an international singing career and renown as Barbara Smith Conrad (adding her father's first name to her own on learning that Actors' Equity had a Barbara Smith on its rolls), but because of her experiences, Smith remained distant from UT for 25 years. An olive branch extended by UT President

Peter Flawn in 1984 managed to bring her back into the burnt-orange fold, and she has since performed in Earl Stewart's opera *AI-Inkishafi* here; become an artistic adviser and ambassador for the American Spirituals Initiative at the Briscoe Center for American History, which is currently producing the documentary *When I Rise: The Story of Barbara Smith Conrad*; been named a distinguished alumna; and had a Presidential Scholarship endowed in her name.

Conrad's ties to Austin grow tighter again this week through a series of concerts and master classes, plus recognition from – get this – the same body that essentially kept her from playing *Dido* 50 years ago, the Texas Legislature. The Lege making amends – now *that's* change.

Conrad's appearances are as follows:

- ▶ **Friday, Jan. 30:** Conrad narrates Joseph Schwantner's "Daybreak of Freedom" at the World of Sound concert, Bass Concert Hall.
- ▶ **Monday-Friday, Feb. 2-6:** Conrad teaches master classes in opera, the Butler School of Music.
- ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 3:** The Carver Museum and Cultural Center hosts An Evening With Barbara Conrad.
- ▶ **Wednesday, Feb. 4:** Conrad performs *Intimate Reflections: In Celebration of My Journey Here*, a concert of spirituals, at Bates Recital Hall.
- ▶ **Thursday, Feb. 5:** Conrad is recognized with a resolution by both houses of the Texas Legislature and sings in the Capitol Rotunda.
- ▶ **Saturday, Feb. 7:** Conrad serves as master of ceremonies for the Black History Concert, Bates Recital Hall.

For more information, call 471-5401 or visit www.music.utexas.edu.

— R.F.

THE SHOWSTOPPERS

A 'World' of difference in 12 months

A lot can happen in a year. In January 2008, composer/lyricist Beth Falcone was enjoying the off-Broadway premiere of *Wanda's World*, a musical for tweens that she created with librettist Eric H. Weinberger about a girl with a birthmark on her face who faces rejection at a new middle school and so imagines herself a talk-show host solving the problems of other kids. Twelve months later, Falcone is enjoying another premiere of the show, this time in the heart of Texas, where she has helped develop a production that actually has teens and tweens playing the teens and tweens in the show. Last January, the Showstoppers, the preprofessional youth troupe at Zach Theatre that's staging this new version of *Wanda's World*, was doing a musical called *Golly Gee Whiz* with a gifted young performer named David Bologna in the cast. This January, he's on Broadway, regularly stopping the show in a major supporting role in *Billy Elliot: The Musical*.

All of which is to say that the Showstoppers contain some exceptional young talent (ages 7-15), and if this troupe is worth the attention of a New York composer, it's worth your attention, too. Payne Award winner Jaclyn Loewenstein directs the company and the Showstoppers production, which the cast has been working on since last summer when Falcone led a workshop here. By the way, Falcone returns to Austin – with collaborator Weinberger in tow – for the *Wanda's World* opening. Maybe next January, she'll be enjoying it with the Showstoppers on Broadway?

— R.F.

Wanda's World runs Jan. 31-Feb. 22, Saturday, 1 & 4pm; Sunday, 6:30pm, on the Kleberg Stage at Zach Theatre, 1421 W. Riverside. For more information, call 476-0541 or visit www.zachtheatre.org.

With the inauguration of our 44th president, the observation that much has changed for African-Americans in the past 50 years has been repeated so often that it's almost lost meaning. But if you want to know just how much has changed for African-Americans in that time, what things were like for them a half-century ago, ask Barbara Smith Conrad. She *lived* it. And right here in our town.

The celebrated mezzo-soprano was among the first 104 African-American undergraduates to be admitted to the University of Texas in the 1950s. Only 16 years old at the time, Barbara Smith had made her way to Austin from the tiny crossroads of Center Point, deep in the East Texas Piney Woods. Her youth and rural upbringing notwithstanding, Smith's



The Dick Monologues

COURTESY OF ORI SOFER

Skimming a Long

A roundup of the 2009 FronteraFest Long Fringe

Last week, the *Chronicle* Arts team hit the first week of the 2009 FronteraFest Long Fringe to let you know how 11 of this year's 18 shows measure up. Dates and times for the remaining performances of each production follow the reviews. Shows are performed at either Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., or the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale. Ticket prices vary. For reservations, call 479-PLAY. For the full schedule, see www.fronterafest.org.
— Robert Faires

'Things in Life'

FronteraFest regulars may be familiar with Ben Prager, whose monologue work has been selected Best of the Fest multiple times, and here you can see why. With nothing but a chair and the most minimal of costume pieces, Prager physically and vocally transforms himself into a bigoted Southern belle, a stoner recovering from an acid overdose, an old man whose wife died suddenly in a Furr's cafeteria, a black man who once operated an awesome snack bar, a young man who hates his father, and a man who has discovered his true self by writing cabarets based on famous film scores. Prager's writing is both perceptive and hysterically funny. A few times, I laughed until I cried, and never in my wildest dreams did I think I could be emotionally moved by Darth Vader doing a self-actualization dance. Prager's writing and acting embody professionalism at its most accomplished, and while I wished for a quicker tempo, that had more to do with my selfish desire to see Prager have time for yet another monologue than with anything lacking in his performance. If you're looking for an actor working at the highest level possible, you will most certainly find one here. — Barry Pineo

Thursday, Jan. 29, 7pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, noon; Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'Kill Will: The Lost Diary of William Shakespeare'

The fight choreography in *Kill Will: The Lost Diary of William Shakespeare* is top-notch. This is fortunate, because there is a whole lot of it. There's gunfire and kicking and punching and bloodying, and don't be surprised if those swords onstage get put to use at some point.

The creators of *Kill Will* seem to be yearning after some sort of status as a love child of Martin McDonagh and Guy Ritchie, with a cast of crazy characters from the British Isles and beyond beating the snot out of one another for 90 minutes. They aren't there yet, despite some well-drawn, hilarious characters and the able direction of

Nathan Osburn and playwright Austin Alexander. Some of the accents are uneven enough to cloud the story, and the plot is flimsy at best: A couple of small-time drug dealers have stumbled across the actual diary of William Shakespeare, and now half of Europe wants to kill them for it.

Still, the production features a few good performances, particularly Justin Scalise as tough-guy William Slate (think Badger in *Firefly*) and Osburn in three roles. (Warning: This show has enough cigarette smoke to choke a small mammal.) — Elizabeth Cobbe

Thursday, Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, noon; Blue Theater.

'My Bugatti Story'

Paul Ehrmann is a brave man. He'd have to be to perform what is almost an hourlong monologue that he wrote and, to an extent, lived. (The playbill claims *My Bugatti Story* is 71% autobiographical.) That takes cojones.

As Alex, a man confined to a madhouse, Ehrmann makes a journey along the quivering continuum between sanity and insanity. He waxes poetic on combustion, a metaphor for humanity's internal fire, a force that won't let him bow down to the white coats who want to erase his memories through drugs. While a boy in Paris, Alex became unhinged after hearing stories of Nazi cruelty, yet he also remembers such transcendent childhood moments as watching the northern lights with his parents. Can he withstand the nightmares so he can keep his sweet memories, too, holding on to what he calls "a meaningful life"?

It's easy to get a little lost in the tale's telling, and at times Ehrmann seems stuck in his own head, as if he's working hard to recall his Hamlet-esque quantity of lines. But the poetry and intelligence of his words and his moments of confessional intimacy keep you with him. In the end, you are glad that Ehrmann has kept his memories — and combustion — intact.

— Clayton Maxwell

Saturday, Jan. 31, noon, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'Dance Carousel'

A one-minute dance can be a godsend when you find it uninspired, garish, juvenile, or otherwise not worth your time (of which there are bound to be several in a 40-work concert). But if you're interested in seeing where a concept is going/if the dancers can really dance/what she's going to do with that light saber, the time limit can seem like a curse.

It certainly felt that way when Mari Akita and her dancers took the stage as public groupings — first seated tensely in a theatre, then as confined pedestrians reacting to one another's changes in direction. I remain fascinated by Amanda McCorkle's "Exhibit B," in which she and Debra McAdoo turned slowly and meditated on intricate movements of their hands during a confession-themed, punk-influenced song. I wanted to see what Darryl Pilate could do in his introspective solo once he really warmed up, and no doubt, Matt Williams and his dancers could have continued their infectious, grooving tributes to Michael Jackson all night. While it's frustrating to see promising work extinguished so quickly, several pieces give the illusion that the dance continues to exist after the performers leave the stage, which, arguably, is what the art is about.

— Jonelle Seitz

Saturday, Jan. 31, 4:15pm, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'The Dick Monologues'

Despite its name, there's more than dick to *The Dick Monologues*. While Spike Gillespie's performance salon started with women who had suffered at the hands of patronizing, philandering, or otherwise testosterone-poisoned males gaining a sliver of payback by recounting their stories in biting detail to an audience, this edition reveals how the show has evolved beyond its "revenge as art" roots. Apart from Gillespie's contributions, in which she brings a dog of a boyfriend to heel and drops enlightenment on a Buddhist butt head, the stories go beyond dickish dudes to a father, to a child, to surviving in a postapocalyptic world.

That's not to say the show is dickless. The material rarely strays far from the anatomical region where the male member (and its female counterpart) may be found. From Sarah Bird wryly telling how romance-novel writing unleashed her inner pornographer to Kristine Kovach riotously proposing a Global Positioning System for use during cunnilingus to token guy Southpaw Jones singing about what women can do to him, the show wallows pleasurably in the bawdy. And with writing this smart and funny, delivery this engaging, and the vibe of a South Austin living room, you leave feeling pretty pleased, too. — R.F.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 4:15pm, Blue Theater.

'Let's Get Real'

When Ted Jiles, insane millionaire life coach, has a really "gold" tidbit to share with the audience, he crouches down as if he's talking to a child or a dog. Some secrets have to do with the acronyms (NPB = Negative Pattern Breaker) that he scrawls on his whiteboard. Others are less formulaic, more van-down-by-the-river: "A lack of integrity is like body odor. Seriously, guys!"

Jiles, conceived and played by Michael Kranes, is a former homeless alcoholic and current crazy man (that's petting-an-imaginary-dog crazy). Audience members are cast as soul-searching folks who have paid \$5,000 for his 12-hour happiness course. The show pokes fun at the change-your-life-seminar phenomenon with key words, repetition, and questionable logic. But while Kranes seems to encourage audience participation, the optimum level is unclear. At the performance I attended, he clearly wanted us to repeat Jiles' mantras, but when a spontaneous answer was given to a possibly rhetorical question, it was brushed off. Perhaps this is part of the character of Jiles, who dares not stray from his script lest he lose his marbles altogether. Regardless, the unease and unpredictability it caused make for interesting theatre. — J.S.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:15pm, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'The Drowned World'

Sample vocabulary of *The Drowned World*: ministry, apocalyptic, us, exterminate, them, contempt, shame.

Total amount of movement by the actors: none (give or take a step or two).

The Drowned World sure doesn't come at you with kid gloves. Directed by Ken Webster, this harrowing tale weaves themes of love, longing, self, and genocide in a desperate, decided world that might have been the brainchild of George Orwell and Sarah Ruhl. *The Drowned World* consists of two races of people: one radiant, pure, and being hunted down; the other fearful, self-loathing, and brutally harvesting those better than them.

It's a bleak world, and the situations of the four characters (standing in a straight line on stage) make it even bleaker. Their decisions turn the knife further. The play might be hard to take, but the production is riveting to watch. Stellar performances evoke all the gripping, disturbing, difficult thoughts that playwright Gary Owen sees in humanity. Just like the play's characters, you might want to turn away from your subject matter, but this performance of *The Drowned World* won't let you go.

— Avimaan Syam

Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 2:15pm; Blue Theater.

'Drywall'

The program insert for this Long Fringe entry says *Drywall*, like any television sitcom, "is filmed in front of a live studio audience." And while I saw no cameras, I did hear a laugh track, which, like so many laugh tracks, often laughed at things that weren't particularly funny and didn't laugh at a few things that were quite funny. The plot centers around friends Doug and Peter, a Mutt-and-Jeff pair

attempting to write a play – or a musical – about pirates – or space – or space pirates. They're thwarted in their attempts by their utter lack of writing talent; by Doug's wife, Allison, who wants Doug to grow up; and by mentally imbalanced handyman Roy, who spends a lot of time trying to convince anyone who will listen that Joni Mitchell is his deceased wife. But while the concept is strong and the writing often interesting, writers David Meyers and Patrick Knisely never take advantage of one really interesting thing they've got going for them: the opportunity to stop the action and acknowledge the reality of the "live studio audience." So despite the intricate TV-show hype, the show ends up being just another play. Which is all right, I guess. I just can't get over that missed opportunity. — B.P.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 8:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 6:30pm; Blue Theater.

'Cochise!'

To get into the mood for *Cochise!*, first you need to lay down some appropriately funky porn grooves. Then you need to put on some appropriately cool tinted sunglasses. Then you need a gun, because Improv for Evil's show is an homage to Seventies cop dramas.

From the characters to the hip-huggers and bad mustaches, *Cochise!* really nails the Seventies period. The show revolves around John Cochise, a no-nonsense cop who's not afraid to break some rules (or noses) to see justice served. Improv for Evil takes a suggestion from the audience then builds an entire episode around it. The show I saw had Cochise's girlfriend kidnapped by a fishmonger kingpin out for revenge on the man who had thrown him in the slammer.

The arc of *Cochise!* recalls shows like *Starsky & Hutch* and *Hunter*, and so do

CONTINUED ON P.35

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

THEM? AGAIN? We had a near-miss with a small group of members of **Critical Mass** (wouldn't that be an Inconsequential Mass?) on South First recently – six or seven poorly dressed but well-behaved bicyclists took advantage of a red light, turned their bikes toward the cars, and put out their hands like they were the **Supremes** singing “Stop in the Name of Love.” I jabbed **Stephen Rice** in the side with my finger: “It's them! It's them!” With traffic completely blocked, they began their slower than slow procession – so slow it made me wonder how they stayed on their bikes at all. Perhaps they were superglued to the bicycle seats or perhaps permanently impaled upon them. I'm sure if they'd known who was in the car they were blocking, they probably would have attacked me with air pumps and water bottles. Fortunately, Stephen and I were able to neatly sidestep any possible melee by zipping through an opening in their ranks and leaving them in the dust. I used to have an issue with Critical Mass, but now it's a full-blown subscription.

TRANSITIONS I moved in December. After nearly 10 great years in the same little condo on the lake, it was time. My nephew **Tyler** had come to live with me in the fall, and I was pleased to take him in ... but the charm of having him there grew thin as we realized day in and day out that I simply did not have

enough space to accommodate both of us. I'd been in the process of divesting myself of so many possessions after I got my cancer diagnosis, just to make things easier when that final moment came, but it was hardly akin to moving. It was evident that I had not divested *nearly* enough, and as moving day approached, I decided the best way to pack everything was to throw it into plastic garbage bags in the back of my car. Who would have thought that I could winnow away so many things in such a small space? The walk-in closet alone was a chamber of horrors – out came wigs, costumes, furs, accessories, and glittery whatnot. It's as if **Liberace** himself lived in there. The kitchen cabinets were another nightmare. When was the last time I used a **Crock-Pot**, an omelette pan, or a **SaladShooter**? Can anyone even *imagine* me using one? An oversized armoire could have sheltered a family of six, but I had it stuffed with my prize collection of design books and antique fabrics. The artwork, mirrors, and other wall decorations were an enormous stack – they never did all fit on my walls at one time, so I always had to switch them around like a gallery. I grieved as I packed. So much had gone on in that place, and I'd lived there longer than anywhere else in my life. Leaving there gave me an overwhelming sense of insecurity, but I'd found a duplex that cost the same amount



SEABROOK JONES

Librarians on the move

but had twice the space, including a private room for Tyler (even though it is in a slummier neighborhood). The new place needed *lots* of work, most of which I'd have to do myself, but we settled in reasonably quickly and comfortably. It was beginning to come together ... and then Tyler decided he would be happy living somewhere else and was gone in the blink of an eye. The irony, of course, is that I'd rearranged my entire life to accommodate Tyler, and in less than one month, he was gone. And me? Stuck alone in a very unstylish neighborhood with more space than I need. Um, anyone looking for a room to rent? Must love Eighties disco.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE LIBRARIANS My good friend and semiregular photographer **Seabrook Jones** was honored with one of the delightful **Spike Gillespie's Kick Ass Awards** recently for his volunteer work for the **Austin Public Library** system. Seabrook donates time, work, and money to numerous charities, but the recent video public service announcement he did for the library was very clever. Calling me with that particular tone that people use when they want something from you, he says: “Help! I need hair, make-up, and clothes for a Forties-themed video shoot!” Naturally, I referred him to **Pink Salon**, which I knew also did tons of charity work, but coming up with the clothes was a different matter. Mulling it over, I knew Seabrook would need help with the right clothes, and sending him in to just any vintage store wouldn't do, so I thought: “Bingo! **Amelia's RetroVogue!**” Amelia's Jane Clarke is one savvy vintage dealer who knows her clothes *and* her business well. She outfitted the models with the perfect clothes and accessories, and Seabrook filmed them astride those Segway things from **Austin Segway Tours**. Seabrook's PSA can be seen at www.cityofaustin.org/library/coolibrarians.htm.

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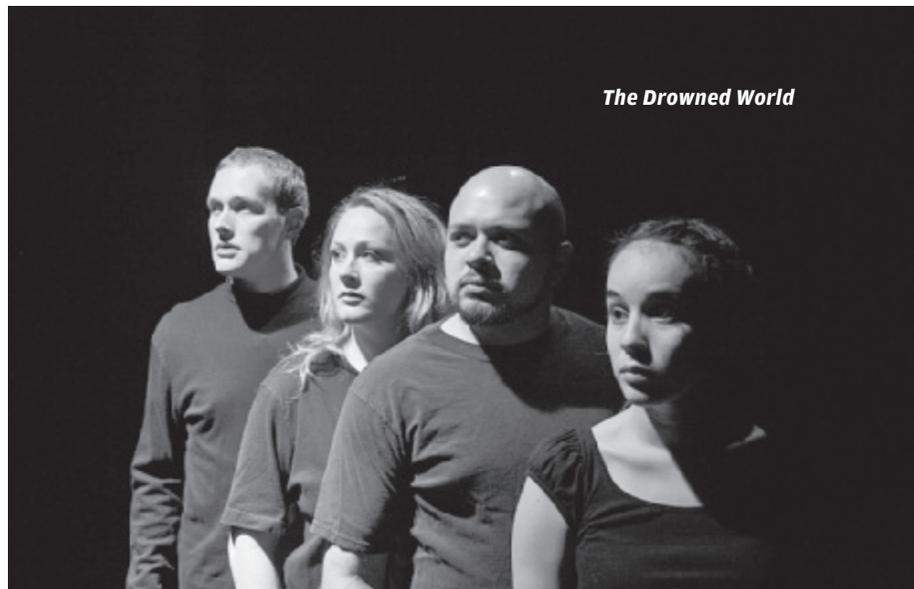
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The Drowned World

the characters: the ruthless kingpin, his moronic henchmen, a spitfire damsel in distress, angry cops, and some Russians thrown in for good measure.

Improv for Evil manages to make its show humorous without undercutting the drama of its storyline, though the resolution of Saturday's show left a little to be desired. Still, it's great to see some of the Austin improv scene's wonderful recurring shows get introduced to a wider audience. — A.S.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 10:15pm, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'Our Angle in Heaven'

Our Angle in Heaven is indeed the correct spelling of the title of Maggie Gallant's solo show. It's taken from a misspelled sign that one of her eight characters sees alongside the road in the days following Princess Diana's death. It's an emblem of the imperfect, idiosyncratic reactions of a broad spectrum of British subjects during a time of perceived national unity and mourning.

Princess Diana's death doesn't hold quite the same resonance for an American audience more than 10 years later. However, seeing other ideas spoken at a time when a nation supposedly comes together can be refreshing. And as the United States projects an image of itself as fully unified behind its new president, it can be useful to recall that we are still individuals and not everyone feels the same.

Gallant, originally from England, performs 12 quick monologues by the eight characters, including a tourist-trap opportunist, a Diana "professional impersonator," and a disinterested Muslim woman who becomes a star overnight when she is accosted on camera by a white woman desperate for common feeling. The show is quintessentially British in that there is little sentimentality. It presents lovely characters and a calm, straightforward performance full of useful curiosities. — E.C.

Sunday, Feb. 1, 4pm, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

'The Science of Suggestion'

The Science of Suggestion doesn't spell out all the 240 suggestions that its creators collected for the basis for this dance/theatre work, but the piece suggests that most had something to do with that word on everyone's lips now: change. The six dancers start by expressing ways in which they'd like to change ("I want to be more open"), then later each recites an affirmation ("Invert aversion; identify miracles," "I am letting go of expectations," et al.). And they tell stories that speak to change, such as one woman's dream of letting a tiger swallow her hand so she would know fierceness from inside the beast. And even when the dancers aren't speaking, their movements reveal some shift: One moment they're all frenzied agitation, then, as a bowl is struck, they grow still, their palms open; they walk in a mass, their motions spasmodic (rush hour?), but with each pass, one breaks off from the pack into a graceful, even prayerful position. And when the transformation isn't serene, it's joyful, an eruption of ebullient dance-party moves shared by all six. We may not know the exact nature of their desires, but we know metamorphosis has been achieved through their smiles — and our own. — R.F.

Sunday, Feb. 1, 4:30pm, Blue Theater.

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THE BIG RICH: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GREATEST TEXAS OIL FORTUNES

by Bryan Burrough
The Penguin Press, 464 pp., \$29.95

"Texas," barbs veteran journalist and author Bryan Burrough in his most recent book-length effort, "has always been the butt of jokes." This is, I believe, something of a misstatement – a personal redirection (Burrough grew up in Temple, Texas) of the inferiority complex shared by so many other residents of states that share in the distinct trouble that comes with being of the U.S. and not of its urban Northeast.

But that's not exactly the brand of armchair psychology that we'll get into here. Nah: What matters more, or should – at least to Burrough and to anyone who might want to pick up a copy of *The Big Rich* – is the fact that this perception continues to exist and, in so doing, continues to fuel Texans' needs to live up to the size of the mass of land that exists between the Red and Rio Grande rivers.

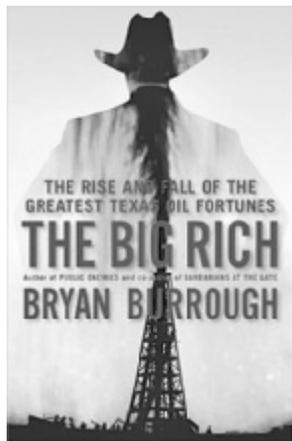
Nowhere is this sort of overcompensation more evident than in the actions of various members of the four families who make up the frame for Burrough's latest. The Hunt,

Richardson/Bass, Murchison, and Cullen clans all found wealth on an unprecedented scale when their respective patriarchs wild-catted their ways into major oil finds. Then, suddenly blessed with that which they'd never before had (and itching, no doubt, to prove that they were worth it), H.L. Hunt, Sid

Richardson, Clint Murchison, and Roy Cullen promptly began to spend. On multiple secret families. On private islands. On radical politics. On future presidents. The best part? Everything might have been fine and dandy had three-quarters of their collective brood not proven to be complete and total fucktards. (Really, Nelson Bunker Hunt? You had to have all of the silver in the world? Really?)

That this stuff makes for an easy page-turner comes as nothing of a surprise. Nor does the fact that Burrough – whose past credits include a co-author turn for *Barbarians at the Gate* (about the leveraged buyout of RJR Nabisco) and who is still a *Vanity Fair* special correspondent – did a pretty good job researching the thing and making it into a cohesive narrative. Indeed, the only thing that seems to be missing from Burrough's book is a stab at lay psychoanalysis.

And that's not exactly a terrible loss.
– Mike Kanin



REBORN: JOURNALS & NOTEBOOKS, 1947-1963
by Susan Sontag, edited by David Rieff
Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 318 pp., \$25

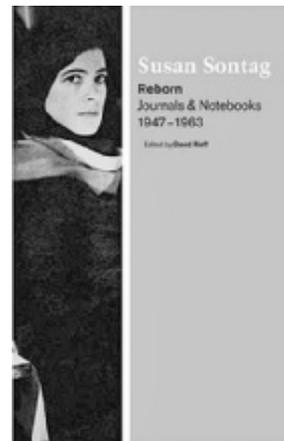
"In the journal I do not just express myself more openly than I could do to any person; I create myself." Indeed, what we discover in these selections from Susan Sontag's early diaries and journals is a sense of the author and cultural analyst in the process of becoming the international touchstone known as Susan Sontag. *Reborn* is edited by Sontag's son and is the first of three planned posthumous collections of her private writings. This first collection begins during her adolescence and ends just prior to the release of her first book and the beginning of her worldwide renown.

The insights we gain into the writer's intellectual and emotional development defy expectations and thwart curiosity, while at the same time provoking further rumination and perspective. The entries are frequently revealing yet more often notable for what they leave out. Precociousness was always a given with Sontag, who began college at the age of 16, and the most consistent aspect of the journals is their lists of books to read, acquire, and reread and the voracious record of plays and concerts attended. Yet, of her marriage at the

age of 18 following 10 days of courtship, there is nothing but a mere notation: "I am engaged to Phillip Rieff." Nothing about the marriage and the birth of her son is in evidence until she begins dissecting the problems in her marriage. "The whole point of marriage is repetition. The best it aims for is the creation of strong, mutual dependencies."

Surprising are Sontag's numerous expressions of self-doubt and self-criticism. She discovers her intellect to be fickle and subject to the sway of others' opinions. "The mind is a whore," she writes at one point. She acknowledges her internal "will to failure" in which she devalues her successes. Recurring frequently among lists of items for self-improvement is the startling reminder to bathe daily – all the more intriguing as Sontag's physical allure was almost as compelling as her intellectual

avidity. However, the most edifying aspect of this collection is Sontag's open discussion of her bisexuality, beginning with lesbian relationships in her teens and throughout her adult life. Never discussed openly in her writing and much whispered about during her last years and after her death, Sontag's lesbian identity is revealed here as central to her being. It certainly casts such works as her seminal essay "Notes on Camp" in new light.
– Marjorie Baumgarten



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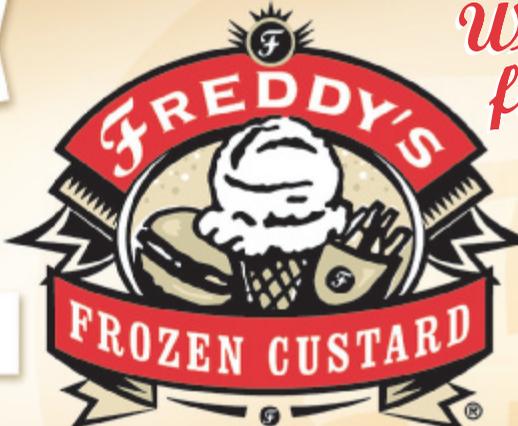
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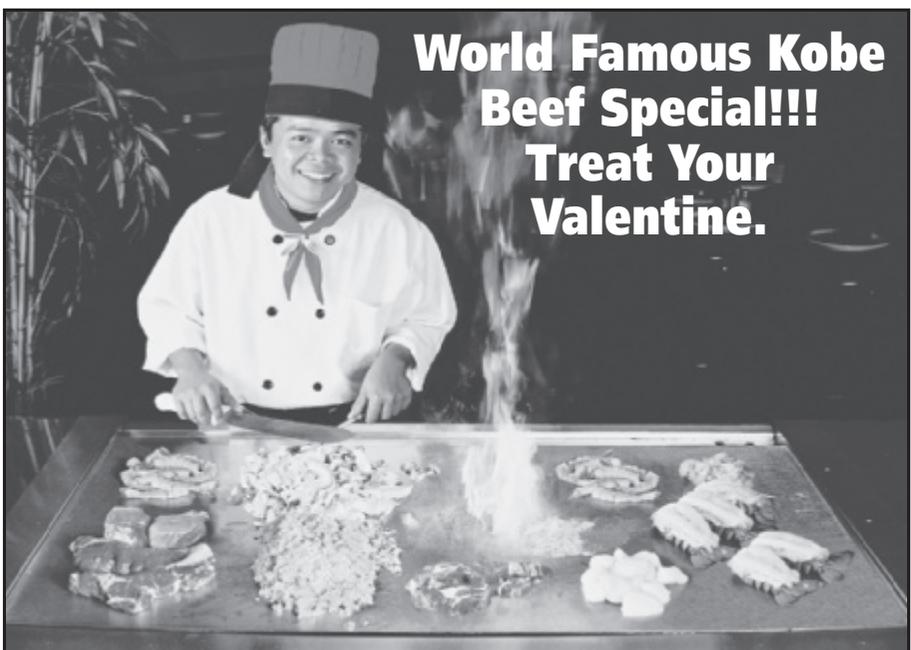


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ALAIN BRAUX

Life has a way of taking us on a twisting, turning journey to places we never dreamed of when setting out. Certainly when Alain Braux trained as a chef de patisserie in his native France, eventually working under the legendary Gaston Lenotre, he could not have imagined the series of events that has led to his current position as executive chef and nutritionist at Peoples Rx.

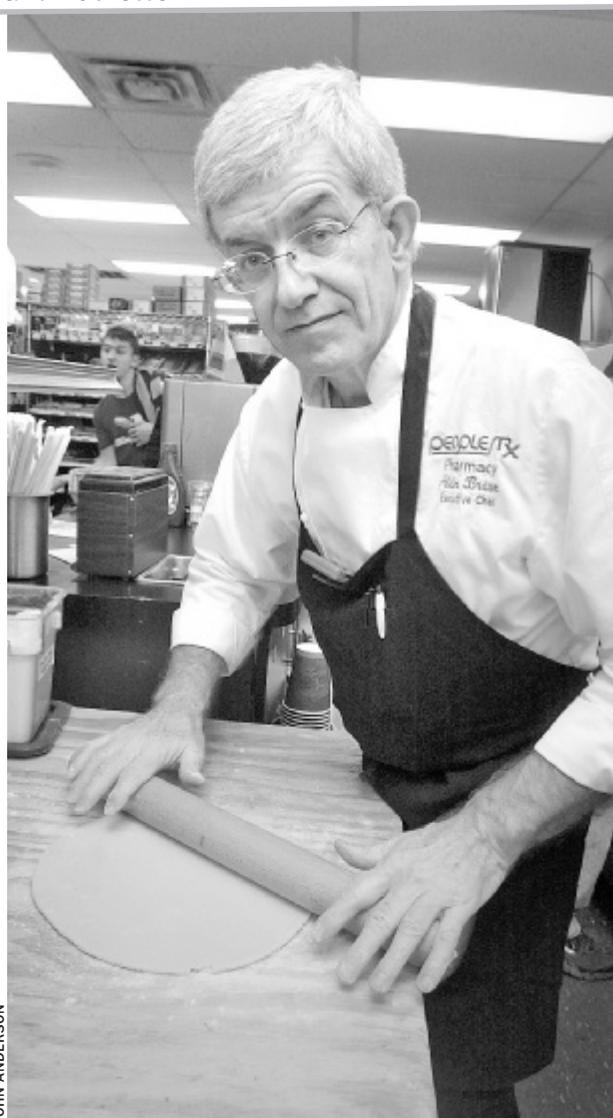
Braux came to Texas in the early 1980s, when, with Braux's assistance, the Lenotre family opened a location of its famous patisserie in Houston. Braux went on to open the Amandine Bakery here in Austin and in time held positions as executive pastry chef at the Barr Mansion and as the instructor of baking and pastry at the Culinary Academy of Austin. Along the way, Braux became interested in food as a component of healing and obtained degrees in both holistic nutrition and macrobiotic counseling. When the position at Peoples became available, Braux was uniquely qualified to fill it, with decades of experience in both exquisite cookery and nutrition counseling.

"I trained as a French chef," laughs Braux. "I admit it: I am a food geek! To interest me, food must taste good. I am lying: It has to taste *great!* So that is what I am doing: making the healthiest foods

also the best tasting. If a person has a limited diet, a lot of food allergies, I make a menu for them that does not bore."

Peoples Rx has a long history of taking a more holistic approach to wellness than your average pharmacy, offering specially prepared food as well as medicines, supplements, and information. As executive chef at Peoples, Braux oversees the production of soups, some of the salads, and all of the desserts for the popular West Lake lunch counter and prepares low-sugar, gluten- and dairy-free baked goods for the West Lake and South Lamar locations. "As soon as we can rent a commercial kitchen," Braux explains, "I will be doing this for all the stores." Additionally, he is available for diet consultations for those suffering from food-related illnesses and conditions, such as celiac disease, attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, and food allergies. He also lectures on nutrition and conducts seminars at the Culinary Academy of Austin. On Saturday, Jan. 31, Braux will be teaching a special Valentine's Day class, where students will learn "hands-on" to prepare gluten- and dairy-free chocolate mousse, raspberry soufflé, and crème brûlée. (For info, call 451-5743 or e-mail info@culinaryacademyofaustin.com.)

— Kate Thornberry



JOHN ANDERSON



COLUMBIA CREST TWO VINES WINES

It's one thing to be able to lovingly coax just a few vines into making a nice bottle of wine for a few hundred dollars. At that price, a winemaker can make the entire procedure into a work of art. It takes a very different type of talent to be able to make oceans of less-than-\$10-a-bottle (sometimes *much* less) wine every year, always winning both awards and the affection of several million wine lovers. **Columbia Crest** winemaker **Ray Einberger** falls into the latter crowd. With production running at about 2 million cases a year, Einberger is a busy guy.

These wines are consistently good, not just because of the winemaker but because of the growing climate. The area east of the Cascade Mountains in Washington state is desert dry with hot, sunny days and cool nights. In other words, ideal weather for wine grapes.

The new vintages will be hitting the shelves shortly, and there are two pieces of good news: The price of the Two Vines wines will stay under \$10, and the wines are just as good as ever. The **Merlot** is always the big sell-

er. Its popularity comes from generous blackberry aromas and fruity flavors along with just enough acidity to make it work with food or as an aperitif.

But the real steal in the lineup is the **2004 Shiraz**, a huge mouthful of wine that avoids the vanilla trap of too much oak by vinifying half of the wine in stainless steel. The result is a powerful wine just looking for a juicy hamburger.

Columbia Crest has 11 Two Vines wines: five reds, five whites, and a killer dry Rosé made from Syrah. They're available everywhere.

— Wes Marshall

liquid assets

Event Menu Feb. 6-8

➤ Gardeners and farmers are invited to take a free Methods Tour of **Boggy Creek Farm** (3414 Lyons Rd., 926-4650, www.boggycreekfarm.com). Farmer **Carol Ann Sayle** will discuss topics such as bed preparation, sowing and transplanting, composting, seasonal crop selection, harvesting techniques, raising chickens, drip irrigation, and water wells. No refreshments; wear shoes and clothes appropriate for walking around the farm. Friday, Feb. 6, 10am-noon.

➤ The **Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association** hosts its annual conference on organic production — **From the Ground Up** at the **Killeen Civic & Conference Center** (3601 S. W.S. Young Dr., 254/501-3888). The event will include farm tours; a trade show; roundtable discussions; workshops on topics ranging from marketing to rainwater collection and the production of artisanal cheeses, pecans, and cut flowers; plus the most current information of organic growing and sustainable agriculture. Guest speakers will include **Joel Salatin** of **Polyface Inc.**, as well as farmers, ranchers, marketing experts, and chefs who are making a difference in the local food revolution. For conference agenda, fees, registration, and directions, see www.tofga.org. Friday-Sunday, Feb. 6-8.

— V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

This past week was a busy one on the restaurant news beat — plenty of gossip via personal conversation, phone, and e-mail. Feb. 16 seems to be the effective date for several changes. That's when **Deegan McClung** takes over as executive chef at **Jeffrey's** (1204 West Lynn, 477-5584, www.jeffreysofaustin.com), implementing a new menu that will reflect the Creole-French and Southern influences of his New Orleans heritage combined with some Asian touches. After 16 years at Jeffrey's, three of them as executive chef, **Alma Alcocer-Thomas** is leaving the landmark West Austin eatery. No word yet on where the gracious and talented chef will be working, but it's hard to imagine a woman of her skills being on the market for long. Talented young chef **Sean Fulford**, formerly of **Vin Bistro**, is already in the kitchen at **Cissi's Market** (1400 S. Congress, 225-0521, www.cissismarket.com), replacing McClung at the wine bar; he brings a volume of food-and-wine-pairing experience... Also in that time frame, **Lamberts** (401 W. Second, 494-1500, www.lambertsaustin.com) chef/co-owner **Larry McGuire** and his various business partners will be busy with the opening of two new eateries — **La Condesa** (400-A W. Second, 499-0300, www.lacondesaustin.com), a hip Interior Mexican bistro named for the bohemian Mexico City entertainment district, set to open under the direction of chef **Rene Ortiz** in the **AMLI** building at West Second and Guadalupe in mid-February, and **Perla's Seafood & Oyster Bar**, the casual seafood spot that will take over the former **Mars** location on South Congress in time for South by Southwest... Fans of longtime Austin chef **David Garrido** will be pleased to note that he has a new restaurant in the works. Look for **Garrido's** to open in the ground floor of the **360 Condominiums** at West Third and Nueces with interiors designed by **Leslie Fossler** and **Aubrey Carter** some time in late spring. Garrido is currently testing recipes for the new menu, which will feature his unique interpretation of Interior Mexican tacos paired with wines, tequilas, and martinis... The \$600,000 renovation is complete, and **Finn & Porter** (500 E. Fourth, 493-4900) in the **Austin Hilton Downtown** is open with two new private dining rooms and an expanded sushi bar... If there's any question about where Austin families are going for Sunday dinner during this recession, I discovered the answer last weekend. The midday family crowd at **Mighty Fine** (Braker & MoPac at Arborwalk, www.mightyfineburgers.com) was just enormous, and I noticed a similar family throng eating burgers and enjoying the playscape at **Phil's Ice House** (5620 Burnet Rd., 524-1212, www.philsicehouse.com). Look for two more of the phenomenally successful Mighty Fine outlets to open this spring, one in Sunset Valley and the other in Round Rock... **Girl Scout cookies** went on sale last week and will be available through Feb. 27. The annual program teaches entrepreneurship and economic literacy to girls from ages 6 to 18, and \$2.65 from every box sold here goes directly to support the programs of the Central Texas Girl Scout Council. Go to www.gsctb.org for a listing of area cookie booth locations, or order from your favorite Austin Girl Scout... Beloved former **Central Market Cooking School** chef **Roger Mollett** died Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Minneapolis due to complications from diabetes and liver disease. We will have more information about Mollett's life and plans for a local memorial service in next week's issue. To post condolences to Mollett's partner, **Greg Murphy**, or his family, go to www.caringbridge.org/visit/rogermollett.

CORAZON AT CASTLE HILL**1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728****Monday-Saturday, 11am-11pm****www.corazonatcastlehill.com**

After 22 years in business, Castle Hill Cafe shut down for a couple of months to morph into Corazon at Castle Hill. There was much gnashing of teeth and worry over the news from the devout regulars, but other than a very pleasant makeover inside and concentration more on the Mexico-centric dishes that the cafe had done through the years, not that much has changed. Call it more of a refocus of the menu, and if you loved Castle Hill before, you'll love its offspring.

The dining room has been redone in rich, warm colors, and the walls are adorned with paintings in a south-of-the-border style – some modern, some not. Decorative pieces are placed strategically, with folk art situated about, and the windows are now covered with flourished metal panels. The effect is welcoming, casual, and subdued, and the tables are divided to offer some privacy. The music reflects the menu and the mood.

Owner Cathe Dailey and Executive Chef Mike Taddeo are both on board, as is most of the staff that you had become accustomed to. Service at both meals was top notch: efficient and helpful without being obtrusive. Suggestions were volunteered when requested, courses were timed perfectly, and plates were whisked away when empty. And we couldn't have been happier with the service portion of the meals.

Both meals began with soup. On one occasion we tried the tortilla soup (\$3.95, cup; 6.95, bowl), a tasty, dark chicken broth redolent of ancho, with chicken, avocado, tortilla whiskers, and *pasilla* chile strips. On both trips we had the Posole Blanco (\$3.95; 6.95),

a little thin the first time but rich, hearty, and delicious the second, with bits of pork, green chile, and tomatillo. The *queso fundido* (\$5.95) was problematic: The taste was more of cream than cheese, and it refused to hold on to either chip or tortilla; we tasted instead with a spoon.

The guacamole (\$5.95) is excellent: a large mound of ripe mashed avocado with lime, cilantro, onion, and a grilled serrano chile. The lamb empanada (\$4.95) is good; though we expected more of a picadillo-like interior, the lamb, raisin, and pecan flavors are there, and the knish-style pastry is flaky. The *flautas carnitas* (\$6.95) are a huge winner: fried thin tortilla tubes overstuffed with shredded pork carnita meat, served with a rich ancho, sundried cherry chutney, and some queso fresco. The barbecue shrimp taco (\$5.95) is good: plenty of small, sweet, perfectly grilled shrimp on a tortilla, topped with mango slaw, pickled onions, and toasted pecans; if the barbecue sauce were less sweet and applied a little more judiciously, it would have been perfect.

The Chicken Enchiladas Mole Coloradito (\$13.95) didn't really excite us. The "slow roasted chicken" description conjured images of whole chickens being shredded, rather than diced cubes from breasts roasted on a sheet pan. The accompanying Oaxacan red-chile sauce seemed to lack depth and dimension. The al pastor taco plate (\$11.95) arrives deconstructed, with piles of tender, richly seasoned pork, grilled pineapple, cilantro, avocado, pico, and sour cream; once constructed, the tacos are yummy. The *arrachera* beef (\$12.95) is wonderful, a marinated hanger steak grilled to perfection, but the tiny squiggle of roasted tomato sauce seemed like an afterthought, and the accompanying



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

gordita has great masa flavor but is so tough it needs to be cut with a steak knife. The pork tenderloin (\$17.95) with *pipian* sauce is a mixed bag: The pork is perfectly cooked, tender, and wonderful, but the pumpkin-seed sauce tastes mostly of tomatillo – as does another pork tenderloin, this time with Hatch green-chile sauce, tamarind glaze, and pumpkin-seed butter. The promised *pipian* crust is so thin that it probably should not have been mentioned. The black drum (\$17.95) with black-bean-tamarind-pasilla chile sauce may have been the winner of both meals; an impeccably fresh fillet, moist and delicious, with a complex and complementary sauce.

The coconut-banana cream tart (\$5.95) is fine, with a crispy phyllo-nut pastry contain-

ing coconut custard, topped with a mountain of whipped cream, with rum-sautéed bananas drizzled with chocolate riding sidecar. Double the custard, halve the whipped cream, and you have a winner.

Portions at Corazon are large, and you get real value for the menu price. The quality of the ingredients is first-rate, and every plate comes with a fresh vegetable *mélange* and usually a *lagniappe* of some sort (tamale, relish, mango slaw, etc.). If we have any problem with Corazon at all, it is with the menu descriptions. Sometimes they create a false anticipation that fails to live up to the promise, and occasionally a small dab of sauce only meant to accent reads like the prime directive.

– Mick Vann



Drungo Ice House is the latest venture to inhabit the space at the corner of 29th and Rio Grande, which has seen a few restaurants come and go over the past decade. However, unlike previous businesses that have failed to attract a loyal base of regulars, Drungo Ice House may have finally hit the target clientele. The ambience is appropriately postcollegiate at this Northwest Campus bar and eatery situated within spitting distance of Vulcan Video, Oat Willie's, Toy Joy, and Junior's Beer and Wine. Flat-screen TVs broadcast news and sports throughout the restaurant, while the walls pay homage to the owner's favorite football team, the Washington Redskins. In one corner, a pool table and dartboards beckon the competition-minded crowd, and in another corner, couches and coffee tables entice the Wi-Fi set. The rest of the space is populated with conventional tables and booths, and a covered front terrace studded with picnic tables is a treat when the weather is mild.

The owners of this new neighborhood ice house are Michael Hall and Chip Tait, who have more than 30 years of collective experience operating bars and restaurants. Hall, who trained as a cook, is a veteran of Central Market, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Zoot, and several other places around town. Tait, formerly of Lovejoys, has brought his considerable bar experience to the ample beer selection available both on tap and in bottles.

The dining menu reflects some of Hall's favorite American food dishes, as well as a few riffs on the East Coast favorites of Annapolis, Md., native Tait. Chesapeake Bay seafood inspired Drungo's seafood sampler appetizer (\$14.95), a plate groaning with steamed shrimp, fried shrimp, fried oysters, crab dip, and crab balls, which

are essentially a very bready, small crab cake. Chesapeake flavors also are to thank for Drungo's excellent shell-on, moist, and invigorating steamed shrimp (\$12.95, half pound; \$6.95, quarter) dusted with Old Bay seasoning.

But apart from these small nods toward the Eastern Seaboard, the Drungo Ice House menu is a fairly predictable collection of casual dining foodstuffs. Chicken wings, salads, pizzas, burgers, sandwiches, and fries highlight the small menu. Its salads are fresh and clean-tasting, while robust sandwiches, such as the BLT&A (bacon, lettuce, tomato, and avocado, \$7.95), are piled high with tasty fixings. Drungo's grilled Reuben (\$8.25) is exceptionally successful, dripping with sauerkraut, corned beef, and melted cheese, all tied together with plenty of Russian dressing. The Drungo Burger (\$6.95), a hefty one-third-pound patty of Angus beef, is, like all their sandwiches, practically big enough for two.

Hall and Tait are still tinkering with the menu and the pricing at this relatively young eatery. As of press time, Drungo no longer served the wood-fired pizzas that were on the menu when we visited, and the crab balls have been eighty-sixed from the list due to the difficulties of balancing quality with affordability. This is a good move, in my opinion, since these were some of the weakest items on the menu. And it underscores the owners' efforts to make Drungo a neighborhood establishment geared toward local tastes and pocketbooks. As Hall put it, Drungo Ice House has simple ambitions: to become a regular destination for the people who live in the neighborhood. Judging from the diners who were there when we visited, they're on the right track.

– Rachel Feit



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Frank & Angie's might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic home-style dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date especially those on a budget. - Zagat

Friendly staff and quick service are especially good given the volume of business this pizzeria does. What shines at Frank & Angie's is the pizza. The sauce is made daily, the crust is thin and crisp, toppings are fresh, and the cheese blend is delicious, a bit salty, and caramelized beautifully at the edges. Don't miss the cannoli for dessert. It's one of the best in town. - **Fearless Critic**

Beautifully baked, thin, chewy crust holds sauce and mozzarella cheese packing incredible flavor. Forks up. One of the "Standouts of Austin's Best Pizza." - Dale Rice, *American Statesman*

If you think pizza parlors should be low-key, colorful - and, of course, have great pizza - you've come to the right place. - **Frommer's**

Frank & Angie's is the closest you can get to Brooklyn in Austin. From great pizza and excellent pasta to the Sinatra memorabilia on the walls, this place is bellissimo! - *Insite Magazine*

In defiance of the Austin area's college-fueled pizza saturation, Frank & Angie's has fought its way to the top of the pack with its unique, New York-style pizza, ingredient-intensive calzones, and a general Brooklyn-esque atmosphere. - **City Guides**

Great freakin' pizza! - Tibetan Monks



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NORTH

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

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 #300, 251-9696. www.masalawok.com. \$

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

INDIAN, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: SWAD INDIAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT The Thali Platter is probably the best taste sampler for newbies, but you can't go wrong with the different *dosas* Swad offers. 9515 N. Lamar #156, 997-7923. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, SEAFOOD: LA MOJARRA FELIZ Authentic Mexican seafood specialties by way of Acapulco and Veracruz served in a small but brightly decorated space. Cold beer, spicy *micheladas*, and superfresh seafood are hard to beat. 8624 N. Lamar, 491-6961. \$

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BARIS PASTA & PIZZA Your basic Italian family-style restaurant, where the portions are large, the prices ridiculously low, and the quality is fine. 1501 W. Pecan #100, 989-8900. \$\$

ITALIAN, STEAK HOUSE: JOE DIMAGGIO'S ITALIAN CHOPHOUSE The chilled Frutti de Mare plate and all of the chops are first class. The place exudes post-World War II elegance, including live jazz. Dress up, and bring your American Express card. 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 835-5633. www.joedimaggiosrestaurant.com. \$\$\$

JAPANESE: O'DAKU Who would have thought a little, out-of-the-way restaurant would hold such treasures? We went straight for the *hamachi* and *uni*. What a pleasant surprise! 2501 W. Parmer #500, 834-9304. www.odaku.com. \$

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

TEX-MEX: CHUY'S NORTH LAMAR You'll find the same big plates of gooey Tex-Mex goodness that lure you to the Barton Springs location and quite a bit of the same atmosphere. 10520 N. Lamar, 836-3218. www.chuys.com. \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know. But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, such as fish, chicken, and beef. 4206 Duval St., 458-3168. www.hydeparkbarandgrill.com. \$

BURGER JOINT, TEX-MEX: JALAPENO JOE'S Present yourself at the window, and order an Angus-beef burger or the pile of Tex-Mex sustenance known as the Alonzo Platter, but save room for Ernest's Enchiladas. 4905 Airport, 451-3326. www.jalapenोजoes.com. \$

DOWNTOWN

BARBECUE: STUBB'S One of Austin's premier rhythm-and-grub joints. Damn good barbecue. The gospel brunch on Sundays has become so popular that reservations are a must for both seatings. 801 Red River, 480-8341. www.stubbsaustin.com. \$\$

BURGER JOINT: HAT CREEK BURGER CO. The menu may be simple, but the beef is 100% Angus with four cheeses to choose from, and this place has Blue Bell milkshakes, too. Check out the hand-cut fries. 600 W. Sixth, 535-8711. www.hatcreekburgers.com. \$

DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA specializes in the East Coast style of soft and gooey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner. 704 Congress, 480-8440. www.cozzolis.com. \$\$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: CARMELO'S RISTORANTE offers an upscale Italian and continental menu in a beautifully restored Downtown railroad hotel. Live accordion music five nights a week. 504 E. Fifth, 477-7497. www.carmelosrestaurant.com. \$\$\$

FINE DINING, STEAK HOUSE: RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Nationally recognized steak house in a historic Austin building. Good steaks and à la carte side dishes, plus stock-market quotes for the business crowd. 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884. www.ruthschris-austin.com. \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: CANTINA LAREDO Everything here is prepared by hand. Find daily fish specials, as well as grilled chicken and steaks complemented by signature sauces such as chipotle-wine with portobello mushrooms. 201 W. Third, 542-9670. www.cantinarelaredo.com. \$\$\$

ITALIAN, PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT serves some of the best home-style, thin-crust pizzas with a personal touch. 1209 Red River, 477-7006. www.brickovenrestaurant.com. \$\$

PACIFIC RIM: SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Busy, loud, and aimed more at the bar crowd than the food crowd. If you happen to be thirsty and want a snack while you're waiting for dinner, Saba fits the bill nicely. 208 W. Fourth, 478-7222. www.sabacafe.com. \$

PAN-ASIAN: IMPERIA Ground zero for the dim sum and small-plate craze. You'll find a great wine list, but it's the rainbow of cocktails that is truly inspired. Among the generously portioned entrées, try the Imperia Dragon Rib. 310 Colorado, 472-6770. www.imperia-austin.com. \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: AUSTIN LAND & CATTLE CO. Elegant ambience and service, with first-rate steaks at quite reasonable prices. Particular care is taken with the sides, making for a complete experience. Excellent wine list. 1205 N. Lamar, 472-1813. www.austinlandandcattlecompany.com. \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: SERRANOS *Muchas* margaritas and full-service Tex-Mex overlooking the Symphony Square amphitheatre. 1111 Red River, 322-9080. www.serranos.com. \$\$

EAST

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: EASTSIDE CAFE The only restaurant in town with its own enormous garden. That means it serves the freshest salads and vegetables in every season. 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858. www.eastsidecafeAustin.com. \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: BIKINIS SPORTS BAR & GRILL Some say the minihamburgers here are the best in town. Happy hour draws a crowd and so do the 31 TVs for the sports set. 6901 N. I-35, 454-2247. www.bikinissportsbarandgrill.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: CAFE MUNDI This Eastside boho combo coffeehouse/art space/gift shop serves up sandwiches, salads, and muffins, plus waffles on weekends! 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634. www.cafemundi.com. \$

BARBECUE: LEWIS' BAR-B-Q Step up to the window of this unassuming concrete shack for a juicy chopped-beef sandwich or a link of smoky sausage, and then have a seat at the picnic tables. 1814 Harvey, 473-2225. \$

BURGER JOINT: DAN'S HAMBURGERS One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's hamburger king, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friendly service. 844 Airport, 385-2262. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: GALLOWAY SANDWICH SHOP For Southerners, this is the familiar food that your granny used to cook. Meat with two sides, done right, and it changes every day. Try the roast beef and sweet-potato pie. 1914 E. 12th, 482-0757. \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING Dishing out huge portions of freshly cooked, Southern-style home cooking such as jerk pork ribs, the Bella Muffuletta, and heavenly pork chops, this place remains a popular standby. 2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006. www.hooverscooking.com. \$

TEX-MEX: EL CHILITO TACOS Y CAFE Fresh, fast, and portable: That's what you can expect from this festive corner taqueria. Don't miss the *cochinita* in fresh corn tortillas or the great *paleta* selection. 2219 Manor Rd., 382-3797. www.elchilito.com. \$

LAKE

BARBECUE: SMOKY J'S BAR-B-Q A definitive Texas barbecue joint with a smoking pit out back, window service, and picnic tables. Meat is available by the sandwich, the plate, or the pound, and it's still BYOB. 7008 RR 620 N., 331-4888. \$\$

PIZZA: RUDINO'S PIZZA & GRINDERS People rave about the grinders, which are toasted sandwiches. This place uses only fresh ingredients. No delivery. 11521 N. FM 620, 258-4900. \$

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

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

restaurant guide

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CHINESE: WANFU III Diner-style Chinese! Stop in sometime after shopping at Highland Mall; it will become a favorite. 6801 Airport, 459-5200. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NEWORLEDELI This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than \$5. 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. www.neworleddeli.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. \$\$

ITALIAN: CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL Order from the pasta bar, sample one of the wood-fired pizzas, or choose a grilled specialty. The menu also includes requisite manicotti, lasagna, and spaghetti options. 6406 N. I-35, 419-1220. www.carrabbas.com. \$\$\$

PIZZA: THE PARLOR Great pizza, overflowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965. www.myspace.com/the-parlor. \$

SEAFOOD: CAPT. BENNY'S SEAFOOD A full range of both fried and broiled seafood in the boat formerly occupied by the Captain's Seafood & Oyster Bar. 5700 N. I-35, 452-1417. www.captbenneys.com. \$\$

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: MAGNOLIA CAFE SOUTH This second location packs 'em in at all hours like the original but especially at mealtimes, if the lines at lunch are any indication. 1920 S. Congress, 445-0000. www.cafemagnolia.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: GREEN MUSE CAFE Drinks, pastries, gatherings, bands, Wi-Fi, and movies make this coffee shop a community hangout. 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789. www.myspace.com/green_muse. \$

BURGER JOINT: P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND Find burgers fashioned from hormone- and antibiotic-free Black Angus beef, grilled chicken (Buddy's), fresh-cut fries, and milkshakes. Sit at a picnic table on the patio. Dogs get a free biscuit. 404 S. Lamar, 473-2217. www.pterrys.com. \$

CHINESE: SUZI'S CHINA KITCHEN Normally priced Chinese food that manages to surpass the mundane, sometimes by a good bit. Vegetarians: Try the eggplant in garlic sauce, but make sure you specify "without pork." 1152 S. Lamar, 441-8400. www.suzischinagrill.com. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: SCHLOTZSKY'S BAKERY & COFFEEHOUSE This Texas chain has been baking its own bread and cranking out sandwiches for decades. There have been many posers since, but no one has come close to the original. 218 S. Lamar, 476-2867. www.schlotzskys.com. \$

FINE DINING: PAGGI HOUSE An eclectic interpretation of American regional cuisine in a sophisticated, revamped setting makes this new incarnation of an old favorite a Downtown destination. 200 Lee Barton Dr., 473-3700. www.paggihouse.com. \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: LA TERRAZA Offers standard Mexican fare served in a comfortable, clean atmosphere. Cold beer and cheap margaritas, with live mariachi twice a week. 1605 E. Oltorf, 444-0018. \$\$

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. \$\$

UT

AFRICAN: ASTER'S ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT In addition to the vegetarian selections, you'll find fragrant chicken, lamb, and tender beef. Don't forget to take home the special Ethiopian sauces and a bundle of injera bread. 2804 N. I-35, 469-5966. www.asterethiopian.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Still the perfect place to duck in for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. Check out the sandwich menu for light lunch fare. 3213 Red River, 478-8794. www.texasfrenchbread.com. \$

BURGER JOINT: DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE Open since 1926, hamburgers, chicken-fried steaks, and pork chops are still done on the griddle. 2808 Guadalupe, 477-3173. www.dirtymartins.com. \$\$

CHINESE: MINGS CAFE Applying the concept of yin and yang in Chinese cooking, this casual spot offers simple, recognizable food that people like to eat. 2604 Guadalupe, 476-8888. www.myspace.com/mingsaustin. \$

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

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

PIZZA: NIKI'S PIZZA Consistently good, crisp slices of the Big Apple, sold alone or in a pie. Niki's is one of the best pizzas in town, served up with modest panache. 2021 Guadalupe #228 (Dobie Mall, second floor), 474-1876. \$

PUB GRUB: CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Smooth pool tables, solid dart boards, tasty burgers, and a healthy selection of beers. Five hi-def screens round out your evening. 2911 San Jacinto, 322-9168. www.myspace.com/crownandanchorpub. \$

TEX-MEX: TORCHY'S TACOS Have a damn good taco (the Ranch Hand is highly recommended), or build your own breakfast taco anytime. 2801 Guadalupe, 494-8226. www.torchystacos.com. \$

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

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

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: SKI SHORES WATERFRONT CAFE Austin's "oldest family establishment" serves up great music, as well as cold brew and burgers. 2905 Pearce Rd., 346-5915. www.skishores.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: SWEETISH HILL CAFE & BAKERY This well-loved institution has earned its reputation with excellent breads, cakes, and pastries. This place keeps it coming through the lunch hour with great sandwiches on fresh bakery bread. 1120 W. Sixth, 472-1347. www.sweetishill.com. \$

BARBECUE: COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL This place will bring you a big platter of sweetly sauced beef ribs, tender brisket, and peppery sausage with all the trimmings until you tell the waiter to please stop. 6500 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1742. www.countyline.com. \$\$

FINE DINING: ZIN AMERICAN BISTRO & BAR This chic Bryker Woods eatery specializes in new American cuisine and American wines. 1601 W. 38th #1, 377-5252. \$\$\$

FRENCH, MEDITERRANEAN: WHISK HANDCRAFTED CUISINE Hot sandwiches; cold, composed salads; and hot entrées reflect the flavors of Mediterranean France. If shopping for groovy kitchen gifts leaves no time for repeat, raid the freezer for take-home options. 4238 Bee Caves Rd., 329-6405. www.whiskaustin.com. \$\$

JAPANESE: SUSHI KYU Fresh, made-to-order sushi in a fast, energetic atmosphere. Also offers Japanese staples and innovative appetizers. 2438 W. Anderson Ste. A-3, 452-7874. \$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: SARAH'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILL & MARKET Sunny Middle Eastern cafe and market featuring fresh, home-style falafel, hummus, shawarma, kebabs, pita wraps, and salads. Excellent quality and low prices make this place a neighborhood treasure. 5222 Burnet Rd. #500, 419-7605. www.sarahsmediterranean.com. \$

SPANISH: SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT You'll find traditional tapas, roasted meats, and paella. It also has a full bar and live flamenco on weekends. 7010 Hwy. 71 W. #180, 579-0726. www.segoviaaustin.com. \$\$

TEX-MEX: LA COCINA DE CONSUELO This tiny yet first-class Mexican food restaurant provides both sit-down and take-out meals, as well as exceptional, professional Mexican catering for your big event. 4516 Burnet Rd., 524-4740. www.consueloskitchen.com. \$

ingredients

bases

Olive Oil and Garlic
Pesto
Red
Barbeque

fruits & veggies

Artichoke Hearts
Banana Peppers
Black Olives
Broccoli
Fresh Basil
Fresh Garlic
Green Olives
Green Peppers
Jalapeños
Kalamata Olives
Mushrooms
Onions
Pepperoncini
Pesto
Pineapple
Portobello*
Roasted Red Peppers
Roma Tomatoes
Spinach
Sun-Dried Tomatoes
Tomatoes
Small \$.95
Medium \$1.40
Large \$1.70

proteins

Anchovies
Avocado
Bacon
BBQ Chicken*
BBQ Tofu
Buffalo Chicken*
Chicken*
Ground Beef
Ham
Italian Sausage
Jerk Chicken*
Meatballs*
Pepperoni
Pesto Chicken*
Pesto Tofu
Salami
Steak*
Tofu
Turkey

Small \$1.50
Medium \$2.00
Large \$2.50

cheese

Blue Cheese
Cheddar
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Feta
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Provolone
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Specify Garlic and Parmesan or Honey and Cinnamon Sugar.

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Mushroom Cap with Garlic Butter, Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach and Feta Cheese, topped with Mozzarella Cheese on a bed of Fancy Lettuce.

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GOURMET WHITE \$11.40 \$17.10 \$23.20

Olive Oil and Garlic with Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Provolone, Mozzarella, Feta, Vine-Ripened Tomatoes and Onions.

MIGHTY MEATY \$11.40 \$18.15 \$23.20

Piled High with Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Ground Beef, Ham and Bacon.

MEGA VEGGIE \$11.85 \$17.30 \$22.70

Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Onions, Black Olives, Tomatoes, Broccoli, Feta, Banana Peppers, Artichoke Hearts, and Tofu.

KOSMIC KARMA \$10.70 \$15.10 \$21.50

Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Spinach, Feta, Fresh Tomatoes, and Pesto.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR \$11.90 \$17.30 \$22.65

Pesto, Button and Portobello Mushrooms, Spinach, Feta Cheese, and Jalapeños.

FUNKY Q CHICKEN \$10.85 \$17.00 \$22.25

BBQ Chicken, Cheddar Cheese, Caramelized Onions, and Bacon.

PHILOSOPHER'S PIE \$10.85 \$17.00 \$22.25

Steak, Portobello Mushrooms Cap, Artichoke Hearts, Kalamata Olives, Provolone, Feta, and Mozzarella Cheeses on an Oil and Garlic Base.

CAESARI CAESARI \$10.85 \$17.00 \$22.25

Olive Oil and Garlic base with Pesto Chicken, Provolone, Mozzarella and Feta Cheeses, topped with a fresh Caesar Salad and Roma Tomatoes.

BUFFALO CHICKEN \$10.85 \$17.00 \$22.25

Hot Buffalo Chicken, Caramelized Onions, Bacon and Mozzarella Cheese, Choice of Bleu Cheese or Spicy Ranch.

HAWAIIAN \$9.70 \$12.70 \$15.40

Ham and Pineapple.

calzones

CHEESE \$7.95

Add in any ingredients from the list to the right. Ingredient prices for calzones are the same as for a small pizza.

STEAK & CHEESE \$9.50

Grilled steak, with Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, and Mozzarella cheese.

CHICKEN & CHEESE \$9.30

Grilled or Jerked Chicken, with Mushrooms, Onions, Green Peppers, and Mozzarella Cheese.

HOUSE \$8.30

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screens

SICK, TWISTED, AND SERIOUSLY FUNNY

Austin animator Lance Myers finds a new home with Spike & Mike and on that wacky World Wide Web

Animated comedy in the age of the Internet is a different, difficult beast to tame. For every CollegeHumor.com and SuperDeluxe.com, there are – and we're totally ballparking here – a hundred gajillion flash-animated microsites, scads of YouTube one-offs, and enough lonesome bedroom animators searching for an audience to blow even Wile E. Coyote's mind.

Just ask Austin animator Lance "Fever" Myers, whose short series *The Ted Zone* was picked up by SuperDeluxe.com back in 2007, only to be unceremoniously canceled when the site was subsumed by animation juggernaut AdultSwim.com last year.

"[Super Deluxe] asked me to come up with three episodes of something brand new in addition to *The Ted Zone*," explains Myers, "which was cool, because I was already playing around with and recording voices for these characters Skip and Lester. And then Super Deluxe went belly up."

Exeunt Super D, enter Spike & Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation, which quickly snatched up Myers' freakishly funny two-minute short "Skip and Lester: Here's the Stapler If You Need It" for inclusion in its legendary traveling fest. Originally planned as the pilot for a new Super D series, "Skip and Lester" features the voice work of Owen Egerton, L.B. Deyo, and Myers. We've seen it, and it rocks.

And that's not all Myers has for you, the viewer in search of laffs. There's also that damn Internet, a medium desperately in need of some short, humorous videos that are actually funny. To that end, Myers and longtime friend Deyo (founder of the Alamo's monthly



Dionysium evenings) have conceived their own comedy website, TheVideoTwo.com, which is slated to go live today.

"Nobody's really cracked the egg when it comes to figuring out a successful business model for comedy websites," says Myers. "FunnyPart.com, CollegeHumor.com, and [the late] Super D have been kind of working it out as they go along. So I figured why not start my own?"

A combination of Myers' animation output from the past decade and newly created live-action comic shorts, TheVideoTwo.com, according to Myers, will adhere to online comedy's "three-minute rule" (i.e., viewer attention spans plummet after 180 seconds, but audiences will watch multiple shorts, back to back, for hours) while simultaneously attempting to break the laugh barrier.

"I'm really looking forward to moving all my animated content to this site," Myers says, before adding, "I don't know if it's going to go anywhere or if we're going to seek advertising dollars for it. It's sort of like a blog in that the only goal is to put stuff up there. L.B. and I just like to make videos, and I'm now experimenting with shooting live-action shorts in addition to animation. So if people come, great, and if they don't, then L.B. and I will just entertain each other." — Marc Savlov

Spike & Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation opens locally at the Alamo Ritz on Feb. 20. More of Myers' animation can be viewed at www.lancefever.com.

bon-cutting makes it all official at 6pm sharp, to be followed by quick speeches from Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken, Austin Film Society Artistic Director Richard Linklater, and AFS Executive Director Rebecca Campbell.

And, you, the Austin voters, did this. A whopping \$5 million is the AFS facility's slice of the \$31.5 million bond package approved by voters to improve the city's local arts and culture facilities. Another \$1 million was pitched in by Austin Energy and the city's water utility. Two of the four former airplane hangars have been fully soundproofed and air-conditioned. The entire facility boasts improved security and safety (including fire sprinklers). But the AFS folks are just as proud of the 40-foot-by-20-foot cyc wall (a curved background) that they see as ideal

for photo, commercial, and visual-effects shoots.

Why the fuss? Since it opened in 2001, 50 feature films have been made at Austin Studios, bringing a total of \$1 billion into Austin's economy. Recent projects include the Temple Grandin biopic starring Claire Danes, *Bandslam* with Vanessa Hudgens, and the Platinum Dunes remake of *Friday the 13th*. Add to that a myriad of commercials, music videos, and still-photo shoots, and you get the picture. Prior to this latest upgrade, the nonprofit film society already had invested more than \$1 million into transforming the hangars with electrical upgrades, roof repairs, and the construction of a screening room.

— Joe O'Connell

For more information on tickets, go to www.austinfilm.org.

film news

BY JOE O'CONNELL

An Oscar, a zombie, and a film incentive walk into a bar... Did somebody say three-dot column?... What does a new Texas House speaker mean to a push to increase funding for the Texas film incentives program? This year's Lobby Day for the **Texas Motion Picture Alliance** is two days, March 3 and 4. That's when film folk will converge on the Capitol and spread their message. Look for more details on the proposed legislation soon... Congrats once again to **PJ Raval**, this time for the documentary Oscar nod received by *Trouble the Water*, the Hurricane Katrina film on which he served as director of photography... The Austin-made documentary *Zombie Girl* took the Spirit of Slamdance Award at the recently ended fest. The award goes to "film teams that best exhibit passion and talent, commitment to the independent community, and enthusiastically embrace all Slamdance has to offer." Congrats to filmmakers **Aaron Marshall**, **Erik Mauck**, and **Justin Johnson** and their subject, now-16-year-old *Pathogen* filmmaker **Emily Hagins... South by Southwest** and **IFC** are feeling the Joe Swanberg love. The mumblecorps meisterburger's latest film, *Alexander the Last*, will premiere March 14 simultaneously at the SXSW Film Festival and On Demand nationwide through IFC Festival Direct. Two other films get the same VOD treatment: **Javor Gardev's** Bulgarian noir *Zift* and the Australian comedy *Three Blind Mice*, **Matthew Newton's** tale of three sailors on shore leave before shipping out to Iraq... Meanwhile, the **Austin Film Festival** this week is holding its Writer's Ranch at Ranch Studios in Kyle. It's a residence program for aspiring screenwriters, and this year's crop includes **Ya'ke Smith** (*From Here to Nowhere*), **Sean Corrigan** (*Confession*), **Melissa McVeigh** (*Domesticated*), and **Ken Pearson** (*Short Tracker*). Their big-time instructors are **Shane Black** (*Lethal Weapon*), **Dan Petrie Jr.** (*Beverly Hills Cop*), and **Herschel Weingrod** (*Trading Places*). If you read this in time on Thursday, Jan. 29, rush to the Alamo Lake Creek where Black will be showing his *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* at 7pm and doing a post-screening talk about his career. Tickets are \$12. The Austin Film Festival itself is set for Oct. 22-29... Latino Public Broadcasting has awarded grants to both **Cristina Ibarra** for research and development related to her doc *Las Marthas* about "bi-cultural teenage debutantes staging their border interpretation of the Mount Vernon colonial pageantry in Laredo" and to **Sandra Guardada** for *Two Trinities*, her doc examining televangelists who prey on the poor. Both filmmakers are former Texas Filmmakers Production Fund recipients... **Ken Farmer's** film adaptation of the play *Rockabilly Baby* took the Audience Choice Award at the Trail Dance Film Festival, and star **Denton Blane Everett** was named best actor... San Antonio filmmaker **Perla Rivera** is holding an open casting call for a feature film Feb. 28 at the Dougherty Arts Center. More info is at www.machinacinema.com.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

REOPENED FOR BUSINESS

Make Watch Love Film party celebrates Austin Studios remodel



ROBERT STEINBOMER

Soundproof it, and they will come. Air-condition it, and they will smile. Celebrate it all with a party, and we will all be there. Welcome to the new and improved Austin Studios, the former airport hangar that helped create a real live Austin film industry. And to that end, the

Make Watch Love Film party includes a job fair Jan. 30 from 6 to 9pm at Austin Studios (1901 E. 51st). It's free for Austin Film Society members (join now), neighbors, Texas film crews, and students at the right participating schools. All others get in for \$10. The rib-

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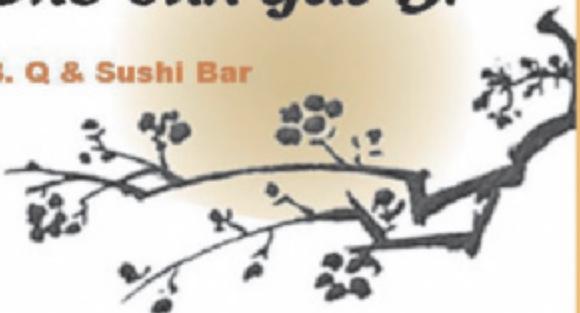
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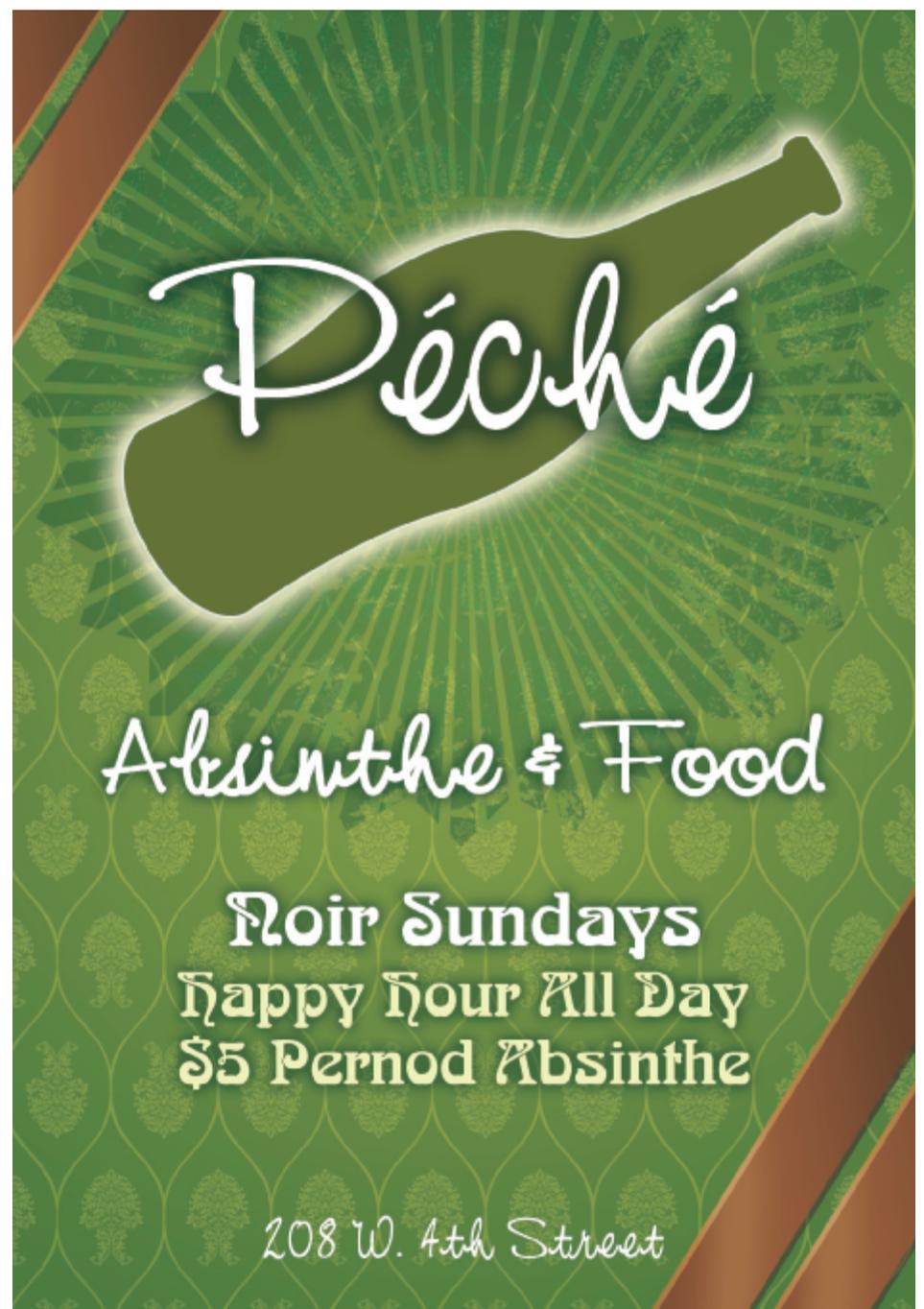
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From Penitentiaries to Picture Shows

Spiderwood Studios founder Tommy Warren follows the dream

BY JOE O'CONNELL

"We're going to have a big sign up there." Tommy Warren points across a room smelling of fresh paint. Imagine Spiderwood Studios, he urges. See it as he sees it. Workers scurry past, building, painting, securing hardwood flooring. The smell of fresh paint is in the air. Breathe it in. Outside, cattle dot the land. Warren points next at the barren, winter field. "There," he says, "will be the jumbo stage." All 20,000 square feet of it. If ...

If you know anything about the state of the Texas film industry, then you know that "if" is an increased film-incentives program to which the Texas Legislature will soon give a yea or nay. The current 5% hasn't slowed the tide of Hollywood projects going to states, such as New Mexico, Louisiana, and Michigan, that offer 25% and more. Most insiders talk 15% as the magic number needed to again compete, given a strong Texas crew base and diverse locations. Warren, both pragmatic and a gambler, is ready if the Legislature is. "I'm waiting for that good feeling in myself that filming is going to be okay here," Warren says. "I'm going to try to bring films here from my friends, but it will take some help from the Legislature." On a smaller scale, he's ready anyway, and his budding facility may well offer good medicine for a struggling industry.

Warren's dreams are already taking shape 25 miles from Austin in what is left of the Utley community, a former cotton town that is now best known as a place to launch canoes on the Colorado River that flows right through film-studio property. "When cotton went away, [Utley] went away," Warren says of the town that boasted almost 500 residents in the 1850s, noting that another Warren (no relation) built a chapel for slaves on this spot. American Indians once camped here as well, Warren says, and scientists have dug up a prehistoric bison skeleton. At the end of the road in boom years, there was a ferry to take the cotton downstream. "There's a lot of history here," Warren says, his hand sweeping across the horizon. But how do you revive a memory? Send it a letter. Warren sent a letter to himself addressed to Utley just to see if it would arrive. It did. The town came back to life.

The concrete was poured almost four months ago, and today a 6,000-square-foot soundstage is ready for Spiderwood's first official client, Church's Chicken, which is slated to film a com-

mercial here in the last days of January. Warren hopes to follow it with feature films, animation, and music videos. The stage's floor is "superflat," he says. It has 40 tons of air conditioning, production suites, lightproof/dustproof doors, lots and lots of electricity, and walls that are double-plated and insulated. Warren also sees a facility set up for wire stunts and a two-story green screen, he says as he strolls a metal walkway above the stage. "My whole first thought about Austin was that one of the things lacking was a back lot," he says. It grew from there.

Silver-haired with an old-school mustache and a country drawl that reflects his rural Arkansas upbringing, Warren's background is an odd mix that somehow fits together. A fireproof film vault at the studio? It's little different in technology than a prison cell, and Warren cut his teeth constructing prisons around Texas. Yes, prisons. After a five-year search for the perfect studio site, part of what steered him to Utley was experience building a correctional facility in nearby Elgin. He knew the lay of the land. The other lures were the Colorado River and the tony nearby Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, where he envisioned film stars camping out during productions. He sketched the film studio himself and spent more than three years clearing the Utley land, which hadn't been farmed in 30 years. He dreamed. Big.

Warren grew up dirt-poor in tiny Hampton, Ark., a dot on the map that coincidentally also produced television producer/director Harry Thomason (Warren was born five blocks from Thomason's wife/partner, Linda Bloodworth-Thomason in Poplar Bluff, Mo.) and schlock film director Charles B. Pierce (*The Legend of Boggy Creek*). Warren was a late convert to the business of dreams. Fresh from high school graduation, he crossed the border into Texas with \$27 to his name and two payments in arrears on his car. He went to night school in Dallas, earned a full scholarship to Texas A&M, then, when that money ran out, another scholarship to Centenary College in Shreveport, La. Eventually he found himself in Beaumont, Texas, where he chaired the planning and zoning commission,

built prisons, and got a taste for politics as Southeast Texas campaign coordinator for such up-and-comers as Ann Richards and John Hill. He was also handy with a camera and in the Seventies started shooting commercials for underdog local candidates. That led to acting in commercials, and the film bug had officially bit.

But it took the prisons to get him to Spiderwood, with a stopover at Paramount Studios. Warren had taken two trips to China as one of the first Westerners to see inside the Chinese courts and correctional facilities. Lillian Michelson, the longtime researcher at DreamWorks, got wind of his experiences and urged production designer Dick Sylbert to fly Warren to Los Angeles to pick his brain for the 1997 film *Red Corner*, about an American businessman who ends up on trial for murder in China. That led to other projects – including assisting on the documentary *The Man on Lincoln's Nose*, about Robert Boyle, Alfred Hitchcock's production designer on *North by Northwest* – and to Warren taking over the offices of Aleksandra Lyons at Paramount. "Anyone with a badge could claim an office," Warren says of the Paramount lot, adding that it's just such an inefficiency that spurs him to make Spiderwood a lean, well-oiled machine à la the prisons he has designed.

In that only-in-Hollywood story, Warren – who had previously done a smattering of magazine writing in Texas – and Lyons ended up co-writing a script, *The Inner Circle*, about a breast cancer survivor's struggle post-mastectomy. Warren's new company, Spiderwood Productions Inc. – the name came from complaints of a spider-filled tree at one of his prisons combined with Hollywood and his own middle name, Glenwood – shot it in the summer of 2002, and it was distributed by PorchLight Entertainment, showing up of late on the Hallmark Channel. Warren later co-wrote a series of National Lampoon videos set around golf and starring David Leisure. But he wanted to come back to Texas, and he believed he knew how to construct the perfect film studio. "Development and this business are very similar," he says, noting that he is actively courting action films and alternative markets, including the Internet, for films. In the past, he has spoken at a governor's conference about economic development. "I told them the first thing is to take care of the industry you've developed and the offshoots of it," Warren says. "What people don't realize about the movie industry is it's really a high tech industry."

Working alongside him on the studio project is his son, Trent, a Skywalker Sound-trained editor who also has worked on music videos. They wander the nascent facility, watching it come to life. A little paint here, a soundproof window there. An animation-rendering room boasts oversized wiring to assure "clean power" to avoid any computer glitches. A suite above the completed soundstage would allow

Hollywood actors a place to chill out between takes. "I just feel it," Warren says. "This is going to be great. If you can imagine it, we can make it."

Warren knows a national economic downturn colors his efforts. But the land the studio sits on has already had a trial run, providing that back lot Warren originally dreamed of. It served in the opening scene for one film in which a shack is burned down. The Los Angeles-based crew expected trouble getting a fire permit, but the local fire marshal said all was copacetic, Warren says. Welcome to Texas. Between the shiny new buildings sits an ancient barn, restored to much of its original log construction, with one exception: The door was on a building used in the original *Texas Chain Saw Massacre* in the Seventies. "I believe I can be a great ambassador for Texas and the film industry," Warren says. An icy wind whips through the former farmland. It's full of dreams mixed with cold, hard reality. ■

In a former cotton town 25 miles from Austin, Tommy Warren is building a movie studio – and banking on an ailing Texas film industry.

The Deets on DTV

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

At midnight on Feb. 17, broadcast, over-the-air television as we know it will change forever. Some of you will turn on your TV and won't notice a thing. Some of you might see a screen filled with snow if you are not properly prepared. Since a couple of people have asked me about what to expect on Feb. 17 – otherwise known as DTV transition day – I thought it useful to revisit the subject.

The DTV transition day is when broadcast TV officially switches from analog to digital transmission. Televisions manufactured and sold after March 1, 2007, should have no problem picking up the new digital transmission. (Not that you need to know, but the new transmission is called ATSC. That stands for Advanced Television Systems Committee. The old transmission is called NTSC, National Television System Committee.) Check the warranty that came with your TV. It should indicate if it's digital ready, but to make sure, check the manufacture date (not the date you purchased the TV). If the manufacture date is prior to March 1, 2007, your TV might need some help picking up the new digital signal.

You can do this by purchasing a digital converter box. They cost around \$40, and you can buy them at most electronics stores or anywhere you buy a TV. The Federal Communications Commission was distributing coupons to allow users to purchase the converter box, but it ran out of funds at the end of last year. You can get on the waiting list online at www.dtv2009.gov. However, as many of those who may not have online access (the elderly, the poor) are the least likely to do this and the most likely to be affected when the DTV conversion occurs, President Obama had asked to postpone the DTV transmission until additional funds are found to provide more coupons. The Senate voted for a delay on Monday, but the House defeated the bill yesterday.

Procrastinators take note: If you ordered a coupon to purchase a digital converter box and haven't gotten around to it, your coupon might be dead. The coupon – which looks like a credit card and functions like a gift card – expires after 90 days. The good news is that your unused funds go back into the pot to recharge coupons to distribute to other procrastinators on the waiting list.

If you subscribe to cable or satellite service, you do not need to buy a converter box. Your TV should work just fine after the conversion. And while it seems like a good excuse to get that HDTV, it's not a necessary purchase to watch TV in the DTV age. As mentioned above, a TV manufactured after March 1, 2007, should be able to pick up the new digital signal. In fact, it's required by law to do so.

If you have additional questions about the DTV transition or would like to get on the waiting list for a digital converter box coupon, use one of these sources:

Go online: www.dtv2009.gov.

Call: 888/DTV-2009 (888/388-2009).
English TTY: 877/530-2634. Spanish TTY: 866/495-1161.

Out With the Old

So, you convinced yourself to buy a new HDTV, but what to do with the old TV?

Please don't put it in the Dumpster where it will become another piece of toxic e-waste. You have options, thanks to the joint efforts of the **Texas Campaign for the Environment** and the **TakeBack My TV Campaign**. Panasonic, Sharp, and Toshiba have announced a free, nationwide recycling program with 280 drop-off locations in all 50 states, according to a message sent by the Texas

Campaign for the Environment earlier this month.

To find a location where you can dump off your old set, go to www.mrmrecycling.com/collection_map.htm.

The Texas Campaign is also working to pass a TV TakeBack bill during the Texas legislative session, while continuing work to convince the U.S. Congress to stop exporting toxic e-waste.

To find out more on what the Texas Campaign for the Environment is up to, check out its website at www.texasenvironment.org.

What Else Is On?

Austin Lyric Opera's production of *Cinderella* will air on KLRU thanks to a new collaboration between the ALO and KLRU's **iN coNtext.tv**. The Nov. 12 Long Center performance was recorded in preparation for TV broadcast. The ALO production of Rossini's *Cinderella* airs Sunday, Feb. 1, at 1pm on KLRU.

As always, stay tuned.

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



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music

THE RECORD
MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Directions to See a Ghost

Austin's psychedelic torch will be handed down at the **2008-09 Austin Music Awards** at the **Austin Music Hall** on March 18. The **13th Floor Elevators'** **Roky Erickson** is confirmed to headline alongside ever-faithful acolytes the **Black Angels** (see "I See Dead People," May 9, 2008). Considering that the kindred spirits already have a West Coast tour and a few joint recordings under their belts, the collaboration should be a trip for all ages. "I realized last year with **Rokkervil** [Erickson teamed with **Okkervil River**] we had something really magical on our hands in that we were able to put the classic with the contemporary and make it work for an international audience," relays AMAs director **Margaret Moser**. "It's timeless." Also on board are hardcore punks and AMA Hall of Fame nominees the **Dicks** (see "Saturday Night at the Bookstore," May 12, 2000), hopefully with a special guest from **Red River's** post-punk past. Expect details to emerge in the coming weeks. The Music Poll remains open through Friday. Vote now, or forever hold your bitching.

WHIP IT

New Wave rocketeers **Devo** are headed to **South by Southwest 09**, headlining the BMI showcase at the Austin Music Hall on Friday, March 20. Other standouts from the third cut include **Abe Vigoda**, **Amazing Baby**, **Bosque Brown**, **Chairlift**, **Gallows**, **King Khan & the Shrines**, **School of Seven Bells**, and **Women**, not to mention locals **Gary Clark Jr.**, **Del Castillo**, **Dan Dyer**, **Shearwater**, and **Sunset**. Plug in to www.sxsw.com/music for more.

Set Free: Andrew Kenny takes flight



Golden Eagle

"I imagined an old, wooden, mechanical instrument like a clock, something rhythmic but still a bit awkward," says **American Analog Set** mastermind **Andrew Kenny**, who moved back to Austin last summer, of his new project, the **Wooden Birds**. "Once I discovered that I liked the sound, the songs fell into place like dominoes." Though the band has yet to perform live, the Birds recently signed to indie launching pad **Barsuk Records**, thanks in part to Kenny's association with **Death Cab for Cutie's** **Ben Gibbard** via their 2003 **Post-Parlo** split, *Home Volume V*. The group's upcoming debut, *Magnolia*, a rather stark collection of serene acoustic pop, is tentatively scheduled for a spring release. As if that weren't enough to fill Kenny's South by Southwest itinerary, AmAnSet is reuniting at the Festival to commemorate the 10-year anniversaries of **InSound.com** and the release of *The Golden Band*, which the once again all-local quintet (see "Static Between Stations," Sept. 16, 2005) will perform in its entirety. "I'm hoping that everyone gets excited about playing again," Kenny concludes, "and then hopefully we'll put something together for the future."

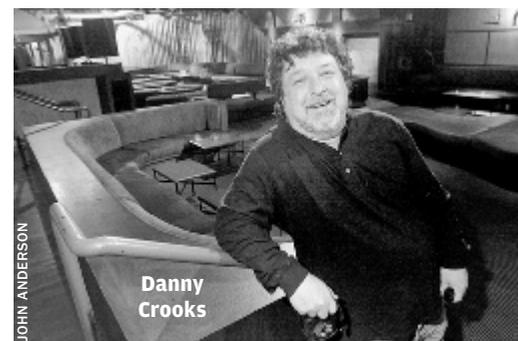
COURTESY OF JEGAR ERICKSON



The pyramid meets the eyes: Roky Erickson (l) and the Black Angels, 2008

Rumble in the Jungle

Friday and Saturday nights, **Pangaea** (409 Colorado) transforms into an exotic safari, where old money and young entrepreneurs escape behind velvet ropes and chilled Champagne. The ultra lounge does so well those two nights, in fact, that owner **Michael Ault** is giving the rest of us a chance to soak up the atmosphere during the week. "It'll be a regular music club that happens to be fancy as hell," enthuses former **Steamboat** owner **Danny Crooks**, who has started booking both local and national shows at the venue. "They're not in it to make money; they already have that taken care of. They want to do stuff that's fun and contribute to the music scene." Inaugurating **Pangaea Live** Thursday, Feb. 5, is **Grupo Fantasma**, trying to raise travel fare for its trip to the **Grammys** that weekend. Following on successive Thursdays are **Vallejo** (Feb. 12) and **Del Castillo** (Feb. 19). "After I have my first couple of shows, everyone in town is going to want to play there," Crooks promises. "It's the most beautiful club I've ever seen. And if you want to come in and buy a \$2,000 bottle, you can do that, too."



Danny Crooks

Random Play

Start checking the sofa for spare change. According to **Roscoe Beck**, bassist and locally based musical director for **Leonard Cohen**, the Man is kicking off his U.S. tour at the **Long Center for the Performing Arts** on April 2, the perfect encore to **Philip Glass'** presentation of *Book of Longing* at **Bass Concert Hall** next month. Meanwhile, **Bruce Springsteen's** *Working on a Dream* tour touches down at the **Frank Erwin Center** on April 5 (tickets go on sale Feb. 7). Also look for **E Street Band** guitarist and **Soprano Steven Van Zandt** as a featured speaker March 20 at the **Austin Convention Center** as part of SXSW 09.

Direct Events gained approval from the city of **Bee Cave** for the rezoning of the proposed land for the new **Backyard**, located on 35 acres adjacent to **Bee Cave City Park**. "The topography of the land lends itself to exactly what we're trying to accomplish," owner **Tim O'Connor** said shortly after closing the original location of the Backyard in late October. "We made a pledge that

we were going to be the greenest venue possible, or we weren't going to do it all." Groundbreaking should begin this spring.

The **BoDeans**, **Hayes Carll**, the **Greencards**, and the **Gourds** are among the headliners thus far announced for the 22nd annual **Old Settler's Music Festival**, April 16-19, at **Salt Lick BBQ Pavilion** and **Camp Ben McCulloch**. Early-bird tickets are now available at www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org.

Hats off to **Meagan Tubb & Shady People**, who visit **Cedar Street** on Monday. The local group brought home best song ("Let Me Believe") in the blues category at the eighth annual **Independent Music Awards**.

Ian McLagan shot down reports of an imminent **Faces'** reunion tour – with **Flea** from the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** on bass no less – and new album. "Nothing's happened since November," the local keyboardist said in a statement from Europe, where he's on tour with **Jon Dee Graham** and **James McMurtry**. Stay tuned.

I Could Be So Happy

Erika Wennerstrom, not just another Heartless Bastard

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

"Oh my God! I love your voice! She has the best voice!"

The words sail across the intersection of Red River and Seventh, as Erika Wennerstrom's walking one way and a really excited woman is walking the other way with a friend. Over the din of a late night Free Week crowd comes another declaration.

"I love Heartless Bastards!"

That particular intersection sees its share of catcalls, but the Heartless Bastards singer and guitarist takes this one in stride. On her revamped trio's third LP for Fat Possum, *The Mountain*, Wennerstrom's voice remains the glass of whiskey that helps their gritty medicine go down. It's also the album that will finally get them to the summit.

When we met up a month earlier on the Eastside for Bloody Marys at Rio Rita, the diminutive 31-year-old Dayton, Ohio, native was nursing a wounded foot and gearing up for a short winter tour of the Midwest. She speaks with the same husky Ohio inflection as my mom and Kim Deal. It's the kind of voice that inspires random compliments on the street of a town she's lived in for just a little more than a year.

"Awwmaaan," Wennerstrom drawls, reminiscing of the piano her mom gave her as a kid. "We never got it tuned, so it's still untuned to this day. And now I think some things sound fine when they're out of tune."

Growing up in Dayton, she absorbed her mom's Ray Charles and Otis Redding records, of which her deep baritone is reflective. She went the tried-and-true musical route, through a childhood pop phase, on to classic rock, and then punk. She was more into punk's intimacy than its rebelliousness.

"And believe me, I was a troublemaker," she adds.

You can hear it in her voice, low and throaty, like something crawling out of a Louisiana swamp but snapping like a rubber band when she hits the higher notes, almost gospel in tenor. It's round and steep, mountaineque, and when she belts it out, Janis Joplin sits up in her grave. While the voice is ancient, the Bastards' music is not. It's from the plains, flat, hard, unadorned, but born of a corn-fed indie womb that helped nurture it into the 21st century.

At 16, her dad sent her a guitar for Christmas, but it wasn't something she picked up right away. Fortunately, her rock education happened during the heyday of Dayton indie rock – the Breeders, Brainiac, Guided by Voices. After she dropped out of high school her senior year, she took up guitar again, briefly playing in the Dayton art rock band Shesus. At 21, she relocated to Cincinnati after meeting Mike Lamping.

"I was trying to find people to form a full band, and Mike and I would just end up arguing when we played together, so he said, 'Do it yourself,'" Wennerstrom

recalls. "I got an eight-track and thought, 'Yeah, I'll just do it all myself.'"

"Then I realized some of the songs really needed people."

She recorded a five-song demo in 2002 and passed it out at the bar where she worked in Cincinnati to anyone who looked like they might enjoy her working-class blues rock. Once it landed in a local jukebox, she focused on getting a live band together. Initially enlisted were drummer Dave Colvin, who played with Wennerstrom in Shesus, and bassist Adam McAllister, plus guitarist Mike Wienel. Scheduling and other commitments threw a monkey wrench into the lineup, so Lamping, who had been going to the shows, stepped in on bass.

CONTINUED ON P.52

Wennerstrom's voice is round and steep, mountaineque, and when she belts it out, Janis Joplin sits up in her grave. While the voice is ancient, the Bastards' music is not.



Heart and Soul: (l-r) Erika Wennerstrom, Jesse Ebaugh, and Dave Colvin

TODD V. WOLFSON



HEARTLESS BASTARDS *The Mountain* (Fat Possum)

Interband breakups always make for inspired recordings. The Heartless Bastards' third album and first since guitarist/vocalist Erika Wennerstrom split with longtime boyfriend/bassist Mike Lamping and relocated to Austin, *The Mountain* proves no exception. A sense of detachment and displacement lingered throughout 2006's *All This Time*, and here those feelings are stripped to the core, especially on the stark, solo, acoustic

"Be So Happy," revealing a raw beauty that evokes the lo-fi, back-porch blues of the Bastards' Fat Possum labelmates. Produced by fellow Cincinnati transplant Mike McCarthy and backed by hired studio guns, Wennerstrom clearly hasn't lost any of the garage rock fury that defined the Bastards' 2005 debut, *Stairs and Elevators*, as evidenced by the assembly-line stomp in "Early in the Morning," the emotive tidal pull of "Out at Sea," and the lonesome "Hold Your Head High." Like the Black Keys with *Attack & Release*,

Wennerstrom consciously breaks her own mold, beginning with the epic title track, an uphill battle of churning power chords and aching steel guitar and continuing through the plaintive folk of "So Quiet" and the fiddle-laced, wasteland sorrow of the seven-minute "Had to Go." *The Mountain* represents not only a point of no return and a cornerstone for the Heartless Bastards; the album's a personal triumph of desolate determination.

★★★★

— Austin Powell

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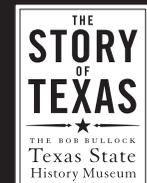
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MUSIC HEARTLESS BASTARDS CONTINUED FROM P.50

As a threepiece, Wennerstrom, Lamping, and new recruit Kevin Vaughn on drums, the Bastards were the embodiment of an Ohio blue-collar band: Wennerstrom bartended, Lamping worked for his family's janitorial-supply company, and Vaughn delivered pizzas.

As fate would have it, Patrick Carney from the Black Keys happened to see them one night in 2004 when they played Akron, Ohio, to "two drunk rednecks and him." Carney recommended the Heartless Bastards to the label putting out his band's albums, Fat Possum. The label signed the threepiece, after which Wennerstrom and company trekked down to the Fat Possum studios in Oxford, Miss., to record their debut, 2005's *Stairs and Elevators*. A tour with the Drive-by Truckers followed.

Where *Stairs and Elevators* had the stomp and distorted spirit that smelled like Dayton – plus a cover of Junior Kimbrough's "Done Got Old" for good measure – 2006's *All This Time* was more layered, still guitar-driven but with more piano and a little more experimentation. The chorus of its beautiful opening song, "Into the Open," blows bangs off foreheads when Wennerstrom bellows, "I've got wind in my veins, and it's gettin' me home."

Home, it turns out, is relative. In late 2007, partially precipitated by the end of her 10-year relationship with Lamping, Wennerstrom packed up a minivan with as much as could fit and headed to Austin. Local booking and promotions concern C3 offered her a place to stay – and to represent her – but she had extended family in the area. She found an apartment, holed up, and

began writing. *The Mountain* arcs around dissolution, healing, and starting over.

"There are good and bad parts," Wennerstrom says of being in a relationship with a bandmate. "We shared everything, but sometimes it's too much. When I get home from tour, I don't want to see anyone in the band for a while. When we began doing it full time, we saw each other all the time, lived together. You get in a band argument, and it becomes a bigger thing."

In 2008, she returned to the studio with local superproducer Mike McCarthy and a band he'd wrangled for her: former Trail of Dead drummer Doni Schroader and Billy White on bass, banjo, and occasionally guitar. It was a new experience for Wennerstrom to record alongside people she barely knew, and she admits working with McCarthy was daunting initially since she'd never worked with a producer.

"He said, 'Work on the album, and stop worrying about finding a band,'" she relates. "Concentrate on the songs; the full picture comes later."

With McCarthy at the helm, *The Mountain* certainly sounds more polished than the Heartless Bastards' previous pair of LPs. Wennerstrom decided to incorporate more acoustic and bluegrass sounds as well, utilizing mandolin, fiddle, and banjo on "Had to Go." Ricky Ray Jackson of Lomita plays pedal steel on the title track. The first half of the album is all big, thick power chords, while the second half slows down and spaces out, but throughout there's a sense of self-awareness. On the acoustic "Be So Happy," Wennerstrom lays out a human dilemma with tongue firmly in cheek:

"There are good and bad parts," Wennerstrom says of being in a relationship with a bandmate. "We shared everything, but sometimes it's too much."



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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS



"I could be so happy, if I'd just quit being sad.
I could be so funny, if I'd just quit being a drag.
I could be so sweet, if I'd just quit being sour.
I could do all these things. I have the power."

"I've had struggles, but that's not where I intend to go with the titles," she explains. "All my albums are personal. I'm putting myself out there. I think that's why it takes me so long. I don't think I can write from a nonpersonal perspective. I tend to disguise a lot of the things I'm saying, because I'm guarding my feelings. I'd say *The Mountain* is a little less guarded."

As much as her ex forms the base, *The Mountain* isn't a breakup album.

"I do have dual meaning in a lot of songs," she points out. "The Mountain' is actually about the downside of capitalism. I'm from Dayton and Cincinnati, so maybe it's more apparent there. Corporate America wants to take over, and you can't be mad at the guy who started T.G.I. Friday's. He's just trying to have a successful business. When you travel, you might not know the restaurant on the corner, but there's a Friday's, and it's not amazing, but you know what you're gonna get."

"People stick with what they know. Wal-Mart can wipe out a whole small town's business. It's something I've seen for a long time and been thinking about it for a long time, before last year. Everyone wants to be successful, keep going up the mountain, ya know?"

Climbing is one of the things that keeps the Heartless Bastards beating. As the new live band – original drummer Dave Colvin and bassist Jesse Ebaugh, both of whom live in Austin now, plus Mark Nathan from Knife in the Water on second guitar – prepares for *The Mountain*'s first major tour, Wennerstrom reflects on the subtle evolutionary shift in *The Mountain*, shrugging.

"I just try to sound like myself, because I don't know if anything sounds that different anymore." ■

Final Discount Registration Deadline is February 13! See sxsw.com/attend.



The SXSW Music and Media Conference & Festival

showcases hundreds of musical acts from around the globe on over eighty stages in downtown Austin. By day, conference registrants do business in the SXSW Trade Show in the Austin Convention Center and partake of a full agenda of informative, provocative panel discussions featuring hundreds of speakers of international stature.

Register by the final discount deadlines, February 13, and save!

A FEW SXSW 2009 MUSIC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

2009 KEYNOTE: QUINCY JONES Impresario and multi-Grammy winning producer, composer and arranger Quincy Jones will deliver the keynote address on March 19.

FEATURED SPEAKER: STEVEN VAN ZANDT 'Little Steven' will address registrants on Friday, March 20, at the Austin Convention Ce

SXSW INTERVIEW: DEVO Devo will follow up their Friday performance with a Saturday, March 21 interview as part of the SXSW Music Conference. Those seeking The Truth About De-Evolution are advised to attend. *Presented by BMI.*



QUINCY JONES
photo: Greg Gorman

STEVEN VAN ZANDT



SEE SXSW.COM/MUSIC/SHOWS/BANDS FOR HUNDREDS OF CONFIRMED SHOWCASES! A FEW HIGHLIGHTS:

8Ball & MJG • Akron/Family • Al Kapone • Alina Simone • Amanda Blank • Amber Smith • Andrew Bird • Angry vs The Bear • Anthony Snape • ARABROT • Arc Angels • Asobi Seksu • Asher Roth • Astrid Williamson • B.o.B. • Banda de Turistas • Bar-Kays • Bavu Blakes • Ben Kwellner • Ben Harper and Relentless 7 • Benny Gallagher • Black Cherry • BLACK SKIES • Blaqstarr • Blue Scholars • Bomba Estereo • Brick Bandits • Buck 65 • Buraka Som Sistema • Candy Coated Killahz • Cashier No.9 • Casiokids • Charles Hamilton • Choc Quib Town • CHOO-CHOO • Chris T-T • Come On Gang! • Crystal Method • Crystal Stilts • Damero • Dananananaykroyd • Dave Alvin • David Garza • Dead Prez • Dekadens • Devo • Dirtblonde • Division Miniscula • Doctor Krapula • EBONY BONES! • Ella • Empire ISIS • Explosions in the Sky • Flood of Red • Franki Chan • Free Sol • Friendly Fires • Futumomo Satisfaction • Gabi Almedia • Gabriella Cilmi • Gary Clark Jr. • Glasvegas • Grimy Styles • Hacienda • Hickoids • Ida Maria • Insite • Invincible • Jokers of the Scene • Kap Bambino • Kid Sister • Killer Mike • LA Riots • Lenka • Los Fancy Free • Madi Diaz • Manana • Mandi Perkins • Mexican Institute of Sound • Micachu • Midnight Youth • Mika Miko • Mike Badger • Mistah FAB • Monokino • Moriarty • Motel • Mundo Livre Sa • My Crew Be Unruly • My Federation • Nacho Vegas • Nacional • NAVEL • Outasight • P.O.S. • Passion Pit • Pato Machete • Pete & the Pirates • Peter Bjorn & John • Peter Rosenberg • Phosphorescent • Port O'Brien • Primal Scream • Ra Ra Riot • Raul Malo • Reflection Eternal • Rob Quest • Sage Francis • San Quinn • Scribe • Shad • Simplifires • The Sonics • Soulico • St. Vincent • Suzy & Los Quattro • T Bird & The Breaks • Tanya Morgan • Temposhark • The Beat Poets • The Carrivick Sisters • The Courtneers • The deBretts • The Deep Dark Woods • the Devil Wears Prada • The Everyday Visuals • The Knux • THE MOOG • The Pepper Pots • The Temper Trap • thecocknbullkid • Thee Oh See's • This Bike Is A Pipe Bomb • Tittsworth • Tommy Tee • Toy Horses • Twilight Hotel • Virgin Passages • Volodja Balzalorsky • Wale • WAZ • We Have Band • We Should Be Dead • Whitechapel • White Lies • Willem Maker • Willy Joy • Ximena Sariñana • Yarah Bravo (Subject to change) CHECK SXSW.COM FOR UPDATES!



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Don't wait for inspiration—taking action puts you in a position to get inspired. You'll stumble across ideas you would have never come up with otherwise, and maybe only because you were trying to meet a day's quota of songwriting. Show up and get something done, and invest in yourself and each other.

**10 SONGS OR 35 MINUTES
IN 28 DAYS**





PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

JOHN LEGEND

Bass Concert Hall, Jan. 23

That John Legend pleaded for the “Green Light” at the end of his 90-minute cuddle and tussle Friday night at the University of Texas’ newly refurbished Bass Concert Hall attests to the slow jammer’s stamina. Of course OutKast Andre 3000’s middle-section rap via the song’s visuals, projected on the stage set’s video backdrop, jolted more stimulation than the entirety of the headliner’s scream-accompanied performance, but then the track from Legend’s third studio LP both for Sony and Kanye West’s GOOD imprint, 2008’s *Evolver*, wasn’t the only conquest of the evening. Opening with the LP’s demand for “Satisfaction” (“gimme, gimme, gimme”), the 30-year-old former piano prodigy, sessionista, producer, and singer brought the blood, sweat, and tears.

The former was represented by a red belt bringing the only color to Legend’s black-and-white ensemble, which stripped down to a wife beater to the arch delight of the females in the house, while the latter two owe to the lover man’s work ethic and ladies’ man earnestness. 2004’s multiple Grammy winner, *Get Lifted* (“Alright,” “Let’s Get Lifted Again,” “Number One”), proved the same as “Heaven” from sophomore disc *Once Again*: Contemporary R&B fills the same niche as romance novels. If she’s happy, so’s her bookmark. Legend ended his encores with *Evolver*’s last cut, “If You’re Out There,” soundtracking projected illustrations of Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, John Lennon, Ghandi, Bob Marley, and Barack Obama. That group gets lots of people hot.

— Raoul Hernandez

COMA IN ALGIERS

Red 7, Jan. 23

Friday night offered a quintet of experimental local bands, each drafting its own version of the noise ordinance. Venison Whirled, the solo project of ST 37 drummer Lisa Cameron, welded sewer sounds from a vibrator and contact mics, among other things. No Wave quartet A Faulty Chromosome’s equation included a drum machine plus a drummer, cowbell, synth, harmonies, and love of Joy Division and K Records. Crushes, a duo originally from Los Angeles, reopened Venison Whirled’s sewer grate with electronic drums and a guitar made out of effects pedals in a manner reminiscent of Suicide or Chrome, though they could use a little polish. Cry Blood Apache, which seems to have a different configuration every time out, was its core threepiece, bass and shards of guitar pulsating behind singer Kaspar Glass’ yelped waves. Coma in Algiers’



tightly wound thrash capped the night. The quintet played material from an upcoming spring release as well as songs from 2007 debut *This Is Your Justice*, its lanky, left-handed guitarist pulling savage tones from his instrument while complemented by the feral screams of his bandmates. CIA’s live shows always feel like they’re about to derail, which is what makes them engaging. It’s the kind of music that’s itchy on the inside and projecting its discomfort noise with bed head and dilated pupils.

— Audra Schroeder

WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS

Momo’s, Jan. 24

It’s impossible to know what Warren Hood was thinking as he stepped up to the microphone at just past 10pm on Saturday night. His boyishly handsome face shone under the spotlight, much as it did when he sang in honor of his late father, Champ Hood, at the 2002 Austin Music Awards. Tonight, instead of Lyle Lovett and Scrappy Jud Newcomb, his band of Hoodlums huddled about him and his fiddle with guitar, stand-up bass, drums, and keyboards. Hood’s mouth curled into a sly smile as he plucked the instrument jauntily before setting bow to strings with jump blues, swing, and gypsy jazz, plus a smattering of tasty covers (“Blue Skies,” “Bring It on Home”) that the dance-floor-room-only crowd ate up. The audience bore a distinctly older skew considering the relative youth of the group. Perhaps the local quintet’s superb musicianship is more appealing to the graybeards than its peers, and maybe the bittersweet memory of Champ’s storied



threesome, Uncle Walt’s Band, lingers, but the sound is utterly timeless. Hood has style to burn, too, with a knack for composing songs as ageless as they are pleasing to hear (“Calm Down,” “When You Are Near”). The band dynamic turns on Hood’s seamless duets with keyboard player Emily Gimble, granddaughter of Johnny Gimble and a name to remember. Gimble’s understated style belies powerhouse vocals and keyboard skills to match, taking Hood to that higher plane of musical satisfaction. Which is just about where Hood’s thoughts might well have been Saturday night.

— Margaret Moser

KRS-ONE

Mohawk, Jan. 24

KRS-One is nothing if not a man of extremes. Saturday night at Mohawk, the hip-hop pioneer unloaded his hits early, opening with the siren alarm of “South Bronx,” from Boogie Down Productions’ 1987 opus, *Criminally Minded*, and continued through the boom bap “Sound of Da Police” and “Black Cop.” Then the Teacher went to work, issuing a series of manic, radical freestyles that outlined the history of hip-hop, demanded a return to the light, and further convoluted the 9/11 conspiracy theories spun by Stop the Violence coordinator and direct support Hakim Green (“The New World Order just put on a black face”), all with the damning intensity of a fire-and-brimstone preacher. The rest of the showcase seemed like mere tryouts in comparison, as acts delivered a MySpace page’s worth of material while the venerable Bavu Blakes held court. West Texas-bred Dubb Sicks came across like a less slim and even shadier Eminem, with parental-control quality cuts such as “Mind in the Gutter.” Crew54’s G-Christ and Master



of Self, on the other hand, made for a formidable tag team, recalling the Steiner Brothers in their prime: a two-man wrecking crew with distinctly Southern grit. The lone Houstonian, Mic Skills, won the crowd over with sheer drive and determination, but only Austin’s Zeale got licensed to ill. Backed by Kid Slice and pushing his new Rapid Ric-mixed *Haterz and Robotz*, the local phenom geeked out with a Mad Libs-esque freestyle and perhaps the best punch line of the evening: “I want to own it all like an apostrophe.”

— Austin Powell

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Ewww, Gross! Two brain surgeons in the Western U.S. admitted that recent operations had shaken them up, though both said the patients have since been doing nicely. Dr. Peter Nakaji, expecting to find a dreaded tumor in the brain of a woman in Phoenix, was heard on video of the surgery chuckling when he realized the problem was merely a worm on the brain stem (probably acquired from poor sanitation). And in December, a 3-day-old infant was doing well in Colorado Springs, Colo., following the discovery and removal of a tiny, almost perfectly formed foot from his brain by Dr. Paul Grabb.

LEAD STORY

They're either earnestly civic-minded or people with issues, but in several dozen cities across the country, men (and a few women) dress in homemade superhero costumes and patrol marginal neighborhoods, aiming to deter crime. Phoenix's Green Scorpion and New York City's Terrifica and Orlando, Fla.'s Master Legend and Indianapolis' Mr. Silent are just a few of the 200 gunless, knifeless vigilantes listed on the World Superhero Registry, most presumably with day jobs but who fancy cleaning up the mean streets at night. According to two recent reports (in *Rolling Stone* and *The Times* of London), unanticipated gripes by the "Reals," as they call themselves, are boredom from lack of crime and (especially in the summer) itchy spandex outfits.

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

People With Too Much Money: 1) The owner of a local ski shop told *Colorado's Vail Daily* in November that he was confident he could sell his parking space in a town garage for his asking price of \$500,000. After all, he said, it was on the top floor and next to an exit. 2) The upscale residents of Gate Mills, Ohio, near Cleveland, are so grateful to their town's 61 government employees that they volunteered \$50,000 in holiday tips in December.

Among the best-selling and most controversial toys of this past holiday season were the \$39.95 Mattel Gotta Go Doll and the \$59.95 Hasbro Baby Alive, both because of their interactive features, especially their digestion/excretion functions. The latter doll comes with its own food ("green beans," "bananas") and a warning ("May stain some surfaces"). The Gotta Go includes a toilet and brings the flushing process to life for the child. An industry insider told *The Washington Post* that next season's toys would be even more realistic.

The Economy in Crisis: 1) The Platinum Lounge, a lap-dancing club in Chester, England, announced in November that it would begin selling advertising, in 4-by-6-inch body-paint squares, on dancers' derrieres. Said the club's agent, "I had to do a lot of research ... to come up with the optimum size for the [ads]!" 2) In the midst of widespread unemployment in Sweden, the Håxriket i Norden company announced in November it would hire 20 professional witches well-versed in tarot, crystals, herbs, exorcism, and "contact with the other side," in the expectation that desperate consumers increasingly would require counseling.

Although to many outsiders the concept of clothing on Muslim women suggests full-body veils, many married women in Syria are decidedly more playful, feeding a market for daring and quixotic underwear (to be worn in private,

of course, and only for one's husband). Musical panties (some that glow in the dark), bras with "hands" covering the cups, and underwear designed to collapse and fall to the floor at the sound of hands clapping are just three of the popular items at boutique shops, according to a December BBC News dispatch from Damascus.

CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE

More than 1,000 new animal species were discovered in the last decade in the area surrounding the Mekong River that runs through Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, including striped rabbits and a spider bigger than a dinner plate. Also found was a pink millipede that secretes cyanide, according to a December World Wildlife Fund report.

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

In November, a jury acquitted Ms. Johnnie Miles, 42, of \$7,500 worth of fraudulent credit-card transactions against a store in Vero Beach, Fla., and Miles assumed she had thus earned her freedom. However, Judge Dan Vaughn apparently considered Miles a disreputable rip-off artist (even though technically not guilty of fraud) and used her scheming to convict her of violating probation on an earlier case. Florida law permits such collateral use of a defendant's behavior, and Vaughn sentenced Miles to five years on each of the 11 probation violations, to be served consecutively.

RECURRING THEMES

On successive days in January in two towns in Britain, loners in their 70s were reported dead from dehydration in their homes after becoming trapped in monstrous labyrinths of, in one case, hoarded garbage, and in the other, hoarded but unopened merchandise. Gordon Stewart, 74, was found dead in a tunnel system he had arranged from several tons of refuse in his house in Broughton, Buckinghamshire, and compulsive shopper Joan Cunneane, 77, was buried under so much merchandise and rubbish that it took rescuers in Heaton Mersey two days to locate her body.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Failed to Keep a Low Profile: If a motorist is carrying \$18,000 worth of marijuana, he might try to avoid attracting attention (instead of going the wrong way on a one-way street, as Samuel Randall, 27, did in Chicago in January). Or if carrying a duffel bag full of marijuana, avoid driving around in a car that lacks license plates, unlike the four women arrested in San Antonio in November. Or if there are 78 marijuana plants in the back seat, make sure that the car has a valid state inspection sticker, unlike Tracy Pioggia, in Hampden, Mass., in October.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at
www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com
(or www.newsoftheweird.com).

Read News of the Weird daily at www.weirduniverse.net.
Send items to weirdnews@earthlink.net.
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CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE PLANNING WORKSHOP

If you live or work in or around the Seton area on West 38th or near West 34th between Lamar and Shoal Creek, then tonight's your chance to provide feedback about future development in your neighborhood. 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Facility, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

DAD & THE LADIES Mary and DJ Bobbie throw one of the most popular ladies' nights around, seven years running. Come early, and catch Dad in a good mood for cheap drinks. *Thursdays: Dad's Happy Hour, 3-8pm; Ladies' Night, 8pm-close.* Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.rainbowcattleco.com.

HOMELESS COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Austin/Travis County Homeless Count and Survey needs help tallying local homeless in shelters, on the streets, or in transitional housing. Training will be provided for the teams of volunteers before hitting the streets. 4-9pm. *Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4138.* kdarakshan@frontsteps.org, www.frontsteps.org.

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL Not Spanish language lessons but an opportunity to converse and fine-tune your conversational skills in a relaxed environment. *Thursdays, 4pm; Saturdays, 11am.* Faulk Central Branch Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

REAL COMMUNITY BUILDING The Austin chapter of the American Institute for Architects presents this housing/community-building forum to facilitate creative thinking about the future of local neighborhoods. Call or e-mail to RSVP 6-7:30pm. *Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th, 452-4332.* Free. lauren@aiaaustin.org, www.realcommunity.ning.com.

RICE ALLIANCE PRESENTATION Rice University professor Andrew Barron discusses how the academic and commercial worlds can work together for faster and more successful technology development. 6pm. *InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress.* \$25 (\$15, advance).

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT Learn the latest in making your business sustainable and what that can mean for your bottom line. You'll be going green in more ways than one. Network with other sustainable-minded professionals, or join an interactive panel, or just check out the product fair. You'll be carbon-neutral before anyone can say, "jumping on the green bandwagon." *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30.* McCombs School of Business. \$75. www.utsummit.com.

TEXAS WATER SYMPOSIUM Gregory M. Ellis, attorney and executive director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, discusses the History of the Rule of Capture and Its Role and Status in Shaping Water Policy and Planning in Texas. This one's gonna be a barn-burner. 7pm. *Admiral Nimitz Museum, National Museum of the Pacific War, 340 E. Main, Fredericksburg, 325/446-2301.* Free. www.schreiner.edu/water.

UT GSC PRESENTS JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET Watch and discuss this important doc of an American icon – a black, gay American icon. 5pm. *University of Texas Communications Building A, West Dean Keeton, 232-1831.* matthewmckibben@mail.utexas.edu, www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters.



L - R: CHINESE NEW YEAR (SEE SATURDAY) | HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS (SPORTS, P.61) | FRONTERAFEST (ARTS, P.62) | 'NEW IN TOWN' (FILM, P.68) | DR. JOHN (MUSIC, P.76)

THURSDAY, JAN 29 TO THURSDAY, FEB 5

calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Texas French Bread

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm
Tulia, Texas @ Mexican American Cultural Center, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Tapes 'n Tapes The Parish
Topaz & Mudphonic Continental Club

FRIDAY 30

AUSTIN ROUNDUP It's here! The sober conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of AA and Al-Anon. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 30-Feb. 1.* Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 488-2222. chairs@austinroundup.com, www.austinroundup.com.

CELEBRATING OSCAR: ANIMATED MOVIES Some of the best animated movies from years past will be shown for the young ones, leading up to the Oscars. *Fridays through Feb. 20, 7pm.* Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wbllibrary.org/events/AcademyAwards/oscar.htm.

HOT SCIENCE COOL TALKS Dr. Tyrone B. Hayes discusses frog fertility and the implications of agricultural chemicals on humans. Activities and an exhibit start at 5:45pm, and the lecture starts at 7pm. *UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224, 779-2102.* Free. www.esi.utexas.edu.

KIDSAVE CASWELL HOUSE GALA has what every gala needs: classy tunes, live and silent auctions, wine, appetizers, an elegant venue, and a good cause. Your admission dollars go to Austin Kidsave and its efforts to find loving homes for orphaned children. 6:30pm. *Caswell House, 1404 West, 415-7082.* \$25. www.austinkidsave.org.

LAND, AIR, & WATER BENEFIT Proceeds from this evening of music, silent auctions, and snacks help benefit the Green Corn Project, Colorado River Foundation, and Environment Texas. 4-8pm. *Patagonia, 316 N. Congress, 320-8383.* www.patagonia.com/austin.

PEOPLE UNITED has a live conversation about religion and politics in the post-Bush era with Texas Observer Editor Bob Moser, Texas Freedom Network Communications Director Dan Quinn, and the Rev. Jim Rigby of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. 1pm. *KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* www.koop.org.

WINE DEVINE TASTING EVENT Somebody got fun in my fundraising event! The Women's Symphony League of Austin presents an evening of chic company, tasty bites, decadent chocolate, and select wines. The proceeds benefit Austin Symphony Orchestra's children's educational programs. 6pm. *Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 480-9373.* \$40. www.wslAustin.org.

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT (See Thursday, 1/29.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Art Palace, Big Red Sun

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Beowulf: The IMAX 3D Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 9:15pm
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest @ Wells Branch Community Library, 7pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Los Campesinos!, Titus Andronicus The Parish M.O.D. Room 710
Wozyhelmet, Record Hop Club 1808
The Gourds CD Release Antone's
The Slackers DVD Release Flamingo Cantina

SATURDAY 31

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE

Everyone's welcome (that includes women and girls) to this conference encouraging kids to keep their eyes on the prize of individual responsibility, education, and future employment. Keynote speakers will be followed by workshops in small groups. 10am. *Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman, 414-2523.* Free. www.aambharvestfoundation.com.

AUSTIN BLACK EXPO This day of African-American centered events features a free expo of family activities and vendors galore. The Soulful

Taste of Austin Cook-Off (5:30pm, free) spices things up before the temperature really starts to rise at 6:30pm with the Step Show and Ol' School Jam (\$15) playing the hits until 12mid. *Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 459-1181.* www.austinblackexpo.com.

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

BLANTON GALA: ESSENCE OF COOL If you have between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to drop on a table of 10 for this black-tie event, at least you'll know that the cash is going to support the museum's programs, exhibitions, and collections. 7pm. *The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-9206.* www.blantonmuseum.org.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO You know what to expect: drums, dancing, and scantily clad folk shaking and shimmying their inhibitions away. 9pm. *Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 452-6832.* \$35. www.carnavalaustin.com.

CELEBRATING OSCAR: BEST OF THE BEST Best Picture winners from years past will be shown, with popcorn and drinks available to complete the cinematic experience. A discussion of what makes each movie great follows each screening. *Saturdays through Feb. 21, 7pm.* Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wbllibrary.org/events/AcademyAwards/oscar.htm.

CELTIC SPIRIT FESTIVAL Music, dancing, storytelling, crafts, and children's activities, all of the Irish and Scottish ilk, keep the proceedings irie. I mean, Eire. 11am-5pm. *Walkers' Gallery, San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos.* Free. www.thingsceltic.com.

CHINESE NEW YEAR Rock climbing, a moon bounce, Kiwi the clown, and varied international entertainment keep the kiddos occupied. A video-game booth, dragon dances, and firecrackers for the big kids. Or is it the other way around? *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1.* Chinatown Center, 10901 N. Lamar, 380-9688. Free. www.chinatownaustin.com.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION It may be the Year of the Ox, but a dragon dance never goes out of style. 9:30am. *Frost Tech Ridge, 12352 N. I-35, 473-4343.* Free.

CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER DAY The National Association of Professional Organizers hosts this junk collection in an effort to promote its member businesses and get you organized. Bring a car-load of junk to dispose of free of charge. One box of



FLYING THEATER MACHINE (SEE SUNDAY)

paper to be shredded will be accepted per car, and a prize goes to the person dropping off the weirdest item. Dead bodies are not "weird." 10am-2pm. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez, 414-2505. Free. www.napoaustin.com/2009_Get_Organized_Month.html.

CLOTH DIAPERING 101 For those of us who find the idea of throwing away infant poo distasteful. Saturdays, 10:30am. Austin Baby, 505 W. Mary, 448-0118. Free. www.austinbabyonline.com.

EXODUS IN THE BIBLE & QURAN Professor of Jewish and Islamic Studies Rabbi Reuven Firestone compares and contrasts the Exodus stories. All faiths are invited to attend. 9am. Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd., 454-1589. Free. www.bethisrael.org.

GUITAR HERO TOURNAMENT Show off your riffing skills at this qualifying round. The Top 2 finalists from each tournament will move on to the May 30 championship. 2pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON'S STEM ACADEMY High schoolers are eligible to apply for this Saturday-class series for students interested in forensic science and mathematics. Every other Saturday, 9am-noon. 900 Chicon, 505-3163. Free. ablofters@htu.edu, www.htu.edu.

LATINITASFEST: CINEMA 101 This intro to film-making class for girls in grades four through eight will have them planning, scripting, directing, casting, filming, and starring in their own videos. Noon-5pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 322-9947. \$15. www.latinitasmagazine.org.

MERRY MERRY MARTINI MIXER Save \$20 on presale tickets for this popular Equality Texas fundraiser, featuring DJ Seth Cooper and some liberal doses of Ketel One. 8pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226. \$50 (\$30, advance). www.eqfed.org/eqtx/events/4thmerrymartini_jan31_fndtn_sponsors/details.tcl.

PRECARNAVAL PARTY Get those hips warmed up with food and drink specials along with the music of Branco Sete and others. 7-11pm. São Paulo's, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. www.saopaulos.net.

SEX WITH BENEFITS Gay stereotypes??? What gay stereotypes? Come explore them at this hot-off-the Philly Fringe Fest, "straight" to Frontera gig. Noon. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. www.fronterafest.org.

SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION ON RELATIONSHIPS Get your issues in check before Valentine's Day. 2pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. 206-B, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

TACTICS FOR TOUGH TIMES Are you a victim of the economic downturn? Catholic Charities wants to help with tips and tricks for getting a new job and trimming the fat on the family budget. 8:30am. St. Albert the Great Parish Hall, 12041 Bittern Hollow, 651-6100. Free. catholic-charities@austindiocese.org, www.ccctx.org.

THE GO GAME Kinda like a video game moved into real life. Teams start with a Web-enabled phone and a digital camera before setting out to

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

The **Jean and Price Daniel Home and Archives** outside of Liberty, Texas, is about as close as you can get to seeing the Texas Governor's Mansion these



GERALD E. MCLEOD

days. The Greek Revival-style home on the grounds of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center was completed in 1983 using the architect's plans for the governor's residence.

Since the June 8, 2008 arson, the Austin home of Texas governors has been obscured from view by fences. The fire severely damaged the building's facade and roof. Most of the home's historic furnishings were in storage because of renovations in progress at the time. The Office of the Governor says it will probably be several years before the governor can occupy the residence again.

Price Daniel Sr. was one of the 40 governors to live in the mansion since Elisha M. Pease moved in in June 1856. Born in western Liberty County, Daniel practiced law in Liberty until elected as a state representative in 1939. He was speaker of the Texas House in 1943 but left to fight in World War II.

After the war, he served as state attorney general (1947-1953), U.S. senator (1953-1957), governor (1957-1963), and on the Texas Supreme Court (1971-1978). He had held more high state elective offices than any other Texan when he died in 1988.

Daniel and his wife, Jean, a great-great-granddaughter of Sam Houston, built the replica of the Governor's Mansion on their ranch outside of Liberty primarily as a guest house and library for his collection of books on Texas history.

"The Daniels only lived in the house a couple of weeks," says Darlene Mott, librarian at the Sam Houston Center. Their real home was past a small hill from the mansion.

From the outside, the two-story house looks almost exactly like the original as designed by Abner Cook. The "X-and-stick" railings on the porches and the six 29-foot columns were a Cook design trademark. Added to the Daniel mansion were the two wings that were never built on the Austin mansion due to lack of funds.

Except for the entry hall and stairs, the interior of the Daniel house looks nothing like the Governor's Mansion. Daniel's library of more than 3,000 books occupies a large part of the downstairs. The rest of the house is filled with antiques, family heirlooms, and honorarium from the Daniel family. One of Mott's favorite pieces is a child's high chair that can be folded into a stroller or rocking chair.

The Jean and Price Daniel Home and Archives is about three miles north of Liberty. Admission is free when the Sam Houston Center library has staff enough to give tours. The library also houses a museum of unique artifacts. The home and library are open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and Saturday, 9am to 4pm. For more information, call 936/336-8821, or go to www.tsl.state.tx.us/shc.

917th 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.

outoftown

WOODY GUTHRIE IN PAMPA, 1929-1936 The exhibition documents Guthrie's formative years in the Texas Panhandle where he first learned to play guitar and write songs. *Through July 31. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, 806/651-2244. www.panhandleplains.org.*

INDIAN ARTIFACT & COLLECTIBLE SHOW includes pre-1900 North American Indian artifacts, arrowheads, and collectibles on exhibit and for sale. *Sat., Jan. 31. Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Park, Fredericksburg, 830/626-5561.*

STAR NIGHT offers a tour of the night skies through a high-quality telescope. *Sat., Jan. 31, 6-8pm. Westcave Preserve, 24814 Hamilton Pool Rd., Southwest Travis County, 830/825-3442. \$5 (\$2, children). www.westcave.org.*

EVERYBODY'S BLUE FESTIVAL features the best local talent with Ben Beckendorf, Shelley King,

the Bonafideblues Band, Jay Boy Adams, Danny Brooks, Clay McClinton, Seth Walker, and Pinetop Perkins & the S.A. Blue Cats, along with Dave Hohmann on sax between each set. *Sat., Jan. 31, 2pm. Luckenbach, 830/997-3324. \$30. www.luckenbachtexas.com.*

ASIAN FESTIVAL features a variety of delicious foods, as well as dance and martial-arts demonstrations, Asian games, and vendors selling Asian crafts, jewelry, clothing, and more. *Sat., Jan. 31, 10am-5pm. Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, 210/458-2329. \$8 (\$4, children). www.texancultures.com.*

ALL BREED CAT SHOW features eight judgments throughout the day plus a variety of vendors selling feline-related items. *Sat., Jan. 31, 9am-4pm. Knights of Columbus Hall, 2804 Gun and Rod Rd., Brenham, 713/703-6555. \$5. www.brenhamtexas.com.*

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL celebrates the Year of the Ox with traditional food, games, performances, and festivities for the entire family. *Sat., Jan. 31, 10am-4pm. Chinese Community Center, 9800 Town Park, Houston, 713/271-6100. Free. www.cchouston.org.*

explore Downtown Austin, discovering secrets, finding clues, and rediscovering what's been around them this whole time. Sign up online as a team or as an individual, and join a team of other orphans. *1pm. Warehouse District. \$30. www.thegogame.com/brownie/signup/index.asp.*

TRIBELLA RELEASE PARTY All the best things come in threes: Tribella celebrates the release of its latest with opener Paige Lewis. *8:30pm. The Peacock, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979. \$5. www.myspace.com/tribellatheband.*

AUSTIN ROUNDUP (See Friday.)

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL (See Thursday, 1/29.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Beowulf: The IMAX 3D Experience

@ IMAX Theatre, 9:15pm

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience

@ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo

Drafthouse Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Fucked Up Emo's

The Crack Pipes CD Release Beerland

TSOL Red 7

Carnaval Brasileiro Palmer Events Center

The Slackers DVD Release Flamingo Cantina

SUNDAY 01

ARE THE BEARS PLAYING THE SUPER BOWL? They are in Austin. At the

Rainbow! Join the big, burly Lone Star Bears for food, folks, fun, and beer bust prices whilst the Cards meet the Steelers and the Boss kills at halftime. *4-9pm. Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.lonestarbears.com.*

BABY-WEARING 101 Learn the latest in wearing your baby like an accessory. Mommies can be chic, too. *Sundays, 3pm. Austin Baby, 505 W. Mary, 448-0118. Free. www.austinbabyonline.com.*

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN This week, Environment Texas Director Luke Metzger discusses the environmental issues facing the Texas Legislature. *10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.*

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4 to 10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5 (free for babies). www.flyingtheatermachine.com.*

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL Volunteer, and help rid the land along Turkey Creek of invasive plants. *9:30am-1pm. Emma Long Park, off FM 2222 just west of Loop 360, 263-6443. daniel.diet@ci.austin.tx.us, www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland/onlineeregistration/ecowebevents.cfm.*

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION Learn the practices of mindful sitting, walking, tea drinking, and discussion. It's more than just lazy yoga. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 909/503-5296. Free. www.plumblossomsangha.org.*

TEXANS AGAINST REAL IDS This gathering of concerned citizens will discuss how best to stop Real IDs, one of the many ill-conceived riders from the War on Terror legislative blitz of 2005. *First and third Sundays, 3pm. Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503. Free. www.beatthechip.org.*

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM The director of the Texas Freedom Network discusses the debate over the science curriculum in Texas public schools. *Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.*

AUSTIN ROUNDUP (See Friday.)

CHINESE NEW YEAR (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Jimi and Otis: Live at Monterey @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

MV & EE with the Golden Road Mohawk

BT LIVE Weekly live music at everybody's fave up-north gay bar. It's ... 'bout time. *'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.fusenote.com.*

BUSINESS STARTUP ORIENTATION RSVP to this city-sponsored event, and learn all you need to know to start your own small business. *First Mondays, 6:30pm. Manchaca Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd., 974-7800. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/sbpd.*

DOCUMENTARY NIGHT: KING CORN Learn about the hidden staple of the American diet and the effects of its ubiquity. *7:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.*

ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY LECTURES Learn about local and national environmental issues and their effects on local water policy. *First Fridays, noon. Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm.*

IMMIGRATION SPEAKER SERIES UT clinical law professor Denise Gilman and Che Lopez of the Southwest Workers Union discuss the increase in migrant deaths and the militarizing of the U.S.-Mexico border. *6pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

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

MANTIE MONDAYS Get your undies in a wad for the Wet Underwear Contest. Kelly Kline hosts, and the Manwatch Dancers set the standard for the competition. *Mondays. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

MIDWINTERS LECTURE SERIES The Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary hosts this three-day lecture series featuring pastors and professors from all over the country. Go to www.austinseminary.edu for a complete schedule and list of speakers. *Mon.-Wed., Feb. 2-4. Shelton Chapel, 100 E. 27th (Austin Seminary Campus), 404-4800. Free.*

MOVIE & DISCUSSION Director Michelle Garcia screens her film *Tell'em Who You Are: In Defense of Land and Family*, followed by a discussion of the U.S.-Mexico border wall and the land being forcibly relinquished to make it. *7pm. Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 471-2933. Free.*

PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER Call to RSVP and have the issue of working with a significant other demystified. *Noon-1pm. Business Success Center, 7600 Burnet Rd. #130, 933-1983. Free. www.bscusa.com/Support.htm.*

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 Feb. 13 issue is Monday, Feb. 2.** 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 Ash Bell (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

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

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

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



WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS ROAST (SEE MONDAY)

JANA BIRCHUM

SPIRITUALITY IN MOVIES If Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day* doesn't make you see the light then you might want to make friends with the atheists. 6:30pm. *First English Lutheran Church*, 3001 Whitis, 478-1933. Free. www.1stenglish.org.

ST. DAVID'S CAPITOL HEALTH EXPO has flu shots, blood-pressure screenings, cardiac-risk assessments, body-fat testing, and more. If you need more fun with your health screenings, there will also be rehab demos on a Wii Fit. Mon.-Fri., Feb. 2-6, 8am-5pm. *Texas Capitol Rotunda*, 11th & Congress, 482-4199. Free.

UNDERSTANDING FIBROMYALGIA Get information on fibromyalgia's causes, effects, and remedies. 7pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 892-3366. Free. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS ROAST The local ladies of politics get taken down a few notches at this roast hosted by the National Women's Political Caucus. Reps. Valinda Bolton, Dawnna Dukes, Donna Howard, and Diana Maldonado better check their egos at the door. 6pm. *Wyndham Garden Hotel*, 3401 S. I-35, 590-1527. \$65 (\$45, members). www.nwpc-tx.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Barfly @ Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience
 @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Goblin Cock Red 7

TUESDAY 03

ANANSI & THE MOSS COVERED ROCK tells the story of a mischievous trickster in the African jungle. Will Anansi get away with his latest prank or get his comeuppance? This shadow-puppet show is part of the library's Black History Month celebration. 11am. *Pleasant Hill Branch Library*, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

BIRDING TUESDAYS mean two hours of trail-walking and bird-watching with Stan VanSandt of the Travis Audubon Society leading the way. Go online for specific directions to the meeting point, bring your binoculars, and don't forget your love of gawking at birds. 9am. *St. Edward's Park*, 7301 Old Spicewood Springs Rd., 300-BIRD. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES Local experts discuss the emergence of entertainment districts within Austin (e.g., SoCo, the Triangle, the Warehouse District). Are they helping our economy? What can we do as consumers to keep them thriving? 7:30am. *Chez Zee*, 5406 Balcones, 499-0435. \$25 (\$20, members). www.leadershipaustin.org.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE Listen to the pros as they teach you to transform your yard into a habitat for all manner of woodland creatures. 7pm. *Texas State Teachers Association*, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free.

GIG FOR GOD Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said "anything." Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. *Freddie's Place*, 1703 S. First, 445-9197.

IT'S RAINING GLITTER! Remember when you were in that glam frat in college and Tuesday night was *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* night? And when you weren't tossing off licks (...) you were snogging up boys? No? Well come down to Rain, and make those memories now. *Rain on 4th*, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.

LONESTAR MENSA MEETING Everyone's invited, and everyone can feel like a smarty pants. This week, learn to have a local, family vacation on a budget. 7pm. *Old Quarry Branch Library*, 7051 Village Center Dr., 491-9881. Free. www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

RAGBLOGPALOOZA Help this local progressive blog keep the Man in line. Blogging doesn't happen for free, so bring some donation cash, and the Melancholy Ramblers will reward you with live music. 6-9pm. *Scholz Garten*, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958. Donations appreciated. www.theragblog.blogspot.com.

gayplace

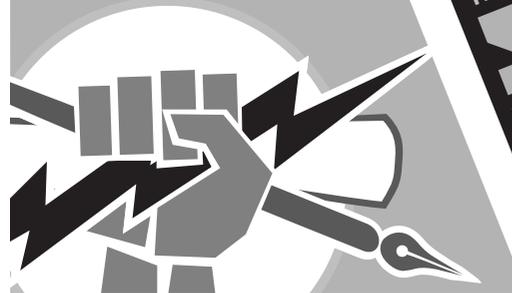
BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

FAGGOTDYKEQUEERLEZZIE This week has been declared by the **Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network** as **No Name-Calling Week**, a week to ponder the impact of words and to review anti-bullying strategies, not just for kids and students but for everyone. We, ourselves, have been taken to task for our flip and casual use of certain slang – perhaps rightly so, perhaps overreaction. Personally, I (Kate) identify as “queer” and “dyke” way before I get around to the word “les-

Send gay bits to
[gayplace@
 austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).
 Visit
[austinchronicle.com/
 gayplaceblog](http://austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog).

bian,” and I have a good idea that it offends some folks. Ownership and reappropriation of language is something in which I strongly believe but is an argument for another day (or a long blog post). For now, consider the power of what we say and the implication behind it. The network hosts a website (www.nonamecallingweek.org) loaded with some powerful info and food for thought. See the Gay Place Blog, austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog, for more.

WINNERS TO BE
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FACE IT, you know exactly what you're going to get if all you give is a box of chocolates this Valentine's. Our recommendation? Start planning now with our continually updated online Valentine's Day guide at austinchronicle.com/valentine. Or you can risk it and wait for the print version of our Valentine's listings. Just don't blame us when the custody battle gets ugly.

WEDNESDAY 04

ANANSI & THE MOSS COVERED ROCK See Tuesday. 10:15am. *Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 974-7302. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

CAREER FAIR Dust off your résumé and dress shoes, and brush up on your sales pitch, because you'll be selling yourself, and you want a good price. 11am-2pm. *Embassy Suites Hotel, 5901 N. I-35. www.nationalcareerfairs.com.*

GET YOUR ESTATE IN ORDER Protect yourself. No one else will. The Human Rights Campaign hosts an estate-planning seminar, highlighting strategies to secure your financial future, including wills, power of attorney, domestic partnership, and the Pension Protection Act. 6:30pm. *Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 202/216-1547. Free. www.hrc.org/estateplanning.*

HERITAGE/WINDSOR HILLS BRAINSTORMING SESSION Be a part of the neighborhood planning process, and help set goals and make recommendations for area trees, parks, health, environment, and more. The city can't work with the community if the community doesn't show up. 6:30pm. *Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.*

LEARN TO POLE DANCE This all-female class will have you swinging and spinning all sexy-like. That way you can be as nasty as you want to be when magic time rolls around. 7:30pm. *Forbidden Fruit, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090. \$25 (\$20, advance). www.forbiddenfruit.com.*

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET This growers-only market features fresh food, chef demos, kids activ-

ities, live music, and more every week, rain or shine. *Wednesdays, 3-7pm. The Triangle, 46th Street, between Guadalupe and Lamar. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

POVERTY ROUNDTABLE focuses on employment and working toward self-sufficiency. Call or e-mail to RSVP 8:30am-1pm. *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 646-1277. tbell@caritasofaustin.org, www.caritasofaustin.org.*

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION MEETING There may not be many local waves to catch, but there are local waterways worth preserving. Find out how at this meeting of moist environmental stewards. 6:30pm. *Wahoo's Fish Taco, 509-A Rio Grande, 476-3474. www.surfrider.org/centraltexas.*

YOUTUBE: GRETCHPHILL At precisely 5:57am today, some hot new Gretchen Phillips shall hit the YouTube. www.youtube.com/user/gretchphill.

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

MIDWINTERS LECTURE SERIES (See Monday.)

ST. DAVID'S CAPITOL HEALTH EXPO (See Monday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Dougherty Arts Center

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Barfly @ Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 7pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm
The Grocer's Son @ St. John Library, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Legendary Shack Shakers Emo's
Dr. John One World Theatre
Ben Mallott Continental Club

THURSDAY 05

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING Speak now, and help determine Austin's funding priorities (housing, community development, economic development, etc.) for the 2009 fiscal year. Familiarize yourself with the current plan by visiting www.cityofaustin.org/housing/complan. 09-14.htm. 6:30pm. *Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.*

CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA UT's Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association hosts this annual conference gathering scholars from around the world for three days of lectures, panel discussions, and events, with opening remarks by Jesuit priest and former Nicaraguan Minister of Education Fernando Cardenal and closing with a talk from Ecuadoran indigenous rights leader Luis Macas. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 5-7. Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 471-2933. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/llilas/conferences/llassa_09/index/.*

POLITICAL ACTION BOOK CLUB 6pm. *State Capitol Rotunda, 11th & Congress, 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.*

DAD & THE LADIES (See Thursday, 1/29.)

ST. DAVID'S CAPITOL HEALTH EXPO (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm
The Spanish Prisoner @ Texas Union Theatre, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Kevin Costner & the Modern West Antone's

STEAK NIGHT & CHOCOLATES FOR CHARITY Come early for a \$6 steak (or chicken) with all the fixin's, plus the adventure in mouthfeel known as Chocolates for Charity, run by the United Court to benefit local nonprofits. Then stay late for Jame Perry's original amateur strip-off. *Tuesdays, 6pm & 12mid. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.*

TRINITY CENTER TRAINING Hone your sensitivities around issues regarding transgender and homelessness communities, with the Transgender Education Network of Texas' Lisa Scheps and Stephanie Martinez. 6-8pm. *Trinity Center, 304 E. Seventh, 610-3553. melanie@trinitycenteraustin.org.*

MIDWINTERS LECTURE SERIES (See Monday.)

ST. DAVID'S CAPITOL HEALTH EXPO (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Barfly @ Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm
Phantom of the Paradise @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Ruthie Foster CD Release Antone's

now ...

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY FAERIES, ELVES, & SATYRS That's THCFES to you, delicate nymph of the forest glen. (All's we wanna know is: *Where are the fekkin' unicorns?!*) THCFES is a group for alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae. Yae! groups.yahoo.com/group/thcfes, tribes.tribe.net/texasfaeries.

HELPING HANDS CENTER needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.*

HOST A CREEK CLEANUP Is the creek you love filled with beer cans and six-pack rings? All you have to do is gather some friends to clean it up, and Keep Austin Beautiful and Watershed Protection and Development Review will give you all the guidance and materials you need. 391-0617. *Free. www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/creekcleanup.*

CHARLIE'S GRILL RE-OPENS Austin's gay club right next to the Capitol dome is open for lunch and dinner every *Monday through Friday* (see new, extended hours). On *Tuesdays*, the hours extend even further (until 8:30pm) for one of the best steak nights around. Come have dinner with family! *Mon.-Fri., noon-7pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*

UT GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER Your Longhorn queer hub, as it were. Regular business hours (*Mon.-Fri., 9am-5pm*) so you can learn about cool campus doin's like Queer Students Alliance, GLBTGrad, OutLaw, Queer People of Color and Allies, Transgender Texas, She Says, and more. 232-1831. gsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/gsc.

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (*April 22*), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them they're for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.*

LETTERS TO SALA AT TEXAS HILLEL On display: a rare collection of Holocaust-era letters, postcards, photographs, and official documents that Sala Hirschner managed to save at great personal risk after surviving five years of Nazi work camps. *Topfer Center for Jewish Life, Texas Hillel, 2105 San Antonio St. www.texashillel.org.*

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIRCUTS Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through the month of January, Avant's three locations will offer free cuts for those donating their hair to disadvantaged children whose illness has caused severe hair loss. Check the Avant website for a list of donation guidelines. *Avant salons, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 318 Colorado, and 9600 S. I-35. \$20. www.avantsalon.com/newsletter/locksoflove.*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Local Randalls and H-E-B markets along with St. Ignatius Catholic School (120 W. Oltorf) will be offering prepackaged food bags that can be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank now until the Super Bowl. The goal is to help collect 500,000 pounds of food. www.souperbowl.org/austin.

MDA CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Muscular Dystrophy Association is looking for volunteer counselors to care for a young person between the ages of 6 and 17. You will become a companion to a child with a muscle disease for the duration of the weeklong camp sessions. Both counselors and kids benefit from the life-changing experience. 800/572-1717. www.mda.org/clinics/camp.

BIG IDEA BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION Do you have a big idea for a new business? Go online to submit your genius. The finalists present their business plans to people on *April 17*, at the BiG Idea Day, with the winner taking home \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Deadline for entries is *Feb. 20*. 928-8010. www.bigaustin.org/business_plan_competition.htm.

GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITIONS Call to schedule a weekend audition for this local treble choir. Tryouts are being scheduled on weekends through *Feb. 8*. 453-0884. www.austin.girlschoir.com.

COMMUNITY TAX PREPARATION Don't have the money for a professional tax service but still unsure about adding everything up correctly? If your income is less than \$25,000 for an individual or \$50,000 for a family of 2 to 4 people, then you're likely eligible. Call 211 or go to www.communitytaxcenters.org for a complete list of criteria, locations, and hours, as well as information about which forms to bring.

DTV CONVERTER BOX COUPONS NEEDED Confused by the switch to digital television on *Feb. 17*? Imagine what it's like for homebound individuals on a very fixed income. Meals on Wheels and More is looking for unused DTV converter box coupons to share with its clients. Call to donate, and MOWAM reps will handle the installation process. 476-6325. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org.

HEALTHY HEART MONTH Through the month of February, get a chiropractic exam, consultation, and x-rays of a problem area for a donation of \$25 to the American Heart Association. *Central Chiropractic Clinic, 3001 N. Lamar #201, 477-1020. www.central-chiropractic.com.*

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP NOMINATIONS are for those who keep Austin's growth from becoming a disservice to the community it should be benefiting. But your favorite nonprofit and community organizations, businesses, developers, designers, and neighborhood groups can't win unless they are nominated first. Download the nomination form now; the deadline is *Feb. 20*. www.envisioncentraltexas.org.

AQUIFER DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS Hays County and Austin area high school students are encouraged to enter the groundwater essay contest for a \$1,500 scholarship to an institution of the student's choosing. Applications must be received by *March 6*. 282-8441. www.bseacd.org/scholarship_program.htm.

& later

BFF LADIES NIGHT Half-off, ladies! Take that however you like it, but to kick off a month's worth of February sales, Birds is throwing a party with treats, massages, and goodie bags. Speaking of which, Rebecca Havemeyer hosts. *Fri., Feb. 6, 6-9pm. Birds Barbershop, 6800 Burnet Rd., 454-1200. www.birdsbarbershop.com.*

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts *Feb. 10* and meets on *Tuesdays, 6:45-9:30pm*. For more information or an application, visit the APD website, www.cityofaustin.org/police, or read "My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1, 2006, for *Chronicle* Associate News Editor Nora Ankrum's experience with the program. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.

EROTIC READINGS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY Women, love, eros, and belly dancing. Say what? *Sat., Feb. 7, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free.*

GRETCHEN PHILLIPS' MANLOVE Who doesn't need a li'l man love every now and again? Gretchen explores man, love, and manlove. Great, big, hairy manlove. *Fri., Feb. 13, 8pm. The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3000. \$10. www.gretchen-phillips.com.*

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY It's all about the testing and treatment, people. Come to this health fair to mobilize and be proactive. *Sat., Feb. 7, 10am. Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 972-6115. Free. carole.barsch@ci.austin.tx.us.*

NO VALENTINE? THEN SPEW IS FOR YOU. Queercore courtesy of the Spew party, featuring the Extravaganza, Box Squad, and Deadly Companions. But not as deadly as that nasty ex. *Sat., Feb. 14, 9pm. Red 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100. \$3 (\$5, under 21). www.myspace.com/spewpartyaustin.*

YOUTH SPIN SPRING TRAINING Area high schoolers are invited to get some broadcast training for this youth-produced radio show on KOOP. The program consists of commentaries, interviews, music, and more, and you can be a part of it. Classes start *Tue., Feb. 10* at the Griffin School. Call or e-mail for more info. 454-5797. adam@griffinschool.org.

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in
The Austin Chronicle?
Submit your sporty happening online at
austinchronicle.com/commform.

BY THOMAS HACKETT *playingthrough*

If **Kat Nash's** stellar sophomore season has taken me by surprise, I'm not alone. The Longhorn guard with the baby-soft touch from beyond the arc has been no less surprised.

She leads the team in scoring and rebounding and has the third most blocks and steals.

Not bad for someone who, until recently, never really thought of herself as a basketball player. Sure, she played hoops at Plano West High School – well enough to win the most valuable player honor at the Class 5A tournament her junior year, bringing home the school's first state title. But basketball was her older sister Kristen's and brother Michael's sport.

"I always thought I was better at volleyball," she says. "I had more fun playing volleyball. There was less pressure. All my friends played. When I was looking at colleges, I looked at trying to play both sports. UCLA does it, but it wasn't really an option at Texas."

Wanting to stay in state, Nash decided to go with basketball, in part because her sister was on the team but also in recognition of certain hard realities – namely, that as an outside hitter, she would have been competing for a spot on the volleyball team against **Destinee Hooker** and **Juliann Faucette**.

"I kind of think I made the right choice," she giggled. "I mean, those two girls are pretty good. And once I got into college, I started enjoying basketball a lot more. I wasn't a shooter in high school. I'd never made a 3-point shot. But when I came here in the summer [before freshman year], I started shooting, and they started going in, and that gave me confidence."

That confidence was in full display back in mid-December, when



Kat Nash

PHOTO BY SUSAN SIMMON, COURTESY OF UT

Please write
Mr. Hackett at
[playingthrough@
austinchronicle.com](mailto:playingthrough@austinchronicle.com).

Nash put up 27 points against Arizona (she averages 13.9 and 6.5 rebounds).

Despite a blowout loss Sunday to Oklahoma (89-69), **Gail Goestenkers** has a better team in her second season in Austin. At 14-4, the Longhorns still lack a strong inside presence, but they have more depth off the bench, a more balanced offense, and they're a lot more fun to watch. Junior shooter **Erika Arriaran** is back from knee surgery and no worse for the wear. Freshman guard **Ashleigh Fontenette** has brought speed and tenacity to the floor. **Carla Cortijo** remains rock-solid at point guard. And expect last season's leading scorer, **Brittainy Raven**, to step it up in February – she's due.

"I wouldn't have thought that I would be as key a player as I've been," Nash says. She's not the kind of player who dazzles you with her speed and athleticism. Somewhat shy off the court, she can also seem a bit receding on it, hanging back, seldom driving the lane, waiting for her moment without an iota of swagger. But she has great court sense. As her rebounding shows, she knows exactly where she needs to be.

Luckily, that's playing basketball in Austin and not volleyball in California.

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSSIE RULES FOOTBALL The **Austin Crows** are holding tryouts for their 2009 season. Soccer and American football players are encouraged to give it a go. Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome. The Crows are members of the Texas Australian Football League. See their website for more. *Tuesdays, 6:30pm; Saturdays, 11:30am. The field in front of Barton Springs at Zilker, 750-4620. Free.* www.austinfooty.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's and Women's Swimming Vs. Arizona: *Fri., Jan. 30, 6pm; Sat., Jan. 31, noon.* Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. **Men's Tennis** ITA kickoff: TCU vs. South Florida: *Sat., Jan. 31, 11am.* Vs. UC Santa Barbara: *Sat., Jan. 31, 2pm.* Third-place match: *Sun., Feb. 1, 11am.* Championship: *Sun., Feb. 1, 2pm.* Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Kansas State: *Sat., Jan. 31, 3pm.* Vs. Missouri: *Wed., Feb. 4, 8:30pm.* Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texassports.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. Southern Arkansas: *Sun.-Mon., Feb. 1-2, noon (doubleheader on Sunday).* www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

UT HOCKEY The Longhorns hockey team is here to fill your local hockey void now that the Ice Bats are gone and the Texas Stars won't drop the puck till late 2009. Vs. Arkansas: *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30-31, 8pm.* Chaparral Ice, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$5 (\$2, students; kids under 6 free). www.texasicehockey.com.

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Texas-Arlington: *Sat., Jan. 31, 2pm.* Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Southern Louisiana: *Wed., Feb. 4, 7pm.* Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor (doubleheader): *Tue., Feb. 3, 2pm.* southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSSIE'S GRILL & BEACHBAR VOLLEYBALL Registration is ongoing for Aussie's Spring I coed volleyball season, and will continue until all slots are full. www.aussiesbar.com.

NATIONAL CHAMPS ALUMNI CLINIC Hosted by the YMCA of Greater Williamson County and University of Texas alumni baseball players, this youth baseball clinic is open to boys and girls in first through eighth grade. UT players scheduled to participate include **Buck Cody**, **David Maroul**, **Curtis Thigpen**, **Drew Stubbs**, and more. *Sat., Jan. 31, 1-3:30pm.* Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. \$65 (\$40 for YMCA family members). www.ymcagwc.org.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS The legendary Harlem Globetrotters are back to thrill kids and their parents alike with their athletic antics. *Thu., Feb. 5, 7pm.* Frank Erwin Center, 477-6060. \$15-\$115 (magic circle). www.uterwincenter.com.

WAYA SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION The **West Austin Youth Association** is now registering for the following sports: coed basketball, coed soccer, developmental volleyball, lacrosse, softball, and more. *Through Feb. 20.* www.waya.org.

THE GO GAME Kind of like a video game moved into real life. Teams start with a Web-enabled phone and a digital camera before setting out to explore Downtown Austin, discovering secrets, finding clues, and rediscovering what's been around them the whole time. Sign up online as a team, or as individual, joining a team of other orphans. *Sat., Jan. 31, 1pm.* Warehouse District. \$30. www.thegogame.com/brownie/signup/index.asp.

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 Feb. 13 issue is Monday, Feb. 2.** 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:

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

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.

START WITH SUBSTANCE Quaker has committed to donate up to 1 million bowls of oatmeal to needy children through their partnership with **Share Our Strength**. Buy some oatmeal, enter the bar code on the **Start With Substance** Facebook page, and fuel it forward. *Through Feb. 28.* www.startwithsubstance.com.

OUTLAW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MOTOR SPECTACULAR Monster trucks, tuff trucks, quad racing, and more! All your fave monster trucks will be in attendance, including **Tuff E Nuff**, **Nitemare**, and **Monkey'n Around**, and fans with tickets are invited to the Pit Party, 6-7pm Friday, where they can get up close and personal with the drivers and their trucks. Tickets on sale at O'Reilly Auto Parts stores. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30-31, 7:30pm.* Travis Co. Expo Center, 7311 Decker. \$19 (adults), \$9 (kids 3-11); \$20/\$10 day of the show. www.mapmotorsports.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

CRITICAL MASS Bicyclists have been "subverting the paradigm" in Austin since October '93 with this monthly ride celebrating two-wheeled transportation. Let's keep it civil, everybody. Held on the last Friday of each month. *Fri., Jan. 30, 5pm.* Riders meet at the UT West Mall (Guadalupe between 22nd & 23rd). www.critical-mass.info/austin.html.

TXBRA TOUR OF NEW BRAUNFELS Hosted by the **Texas Bicycle Racing Association**. See www.txbra.org for details and directions. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1.* New Braunfels.

soccer watch

BY NICK BARBARO

The **United Soccer Leagues** released the **Premier Development League schedule** Wednesday; the **Aztex U-23** squad will play in a newly aligned, all-Texas Mid South Division; Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Mississippi have all moved to the Southeast Division, replaced by expansion clubs in Midland and McAllen. Austin plays Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Laredo, and El Paso three times each, and the expansion clubs twice each, in a season running from May 1 to July 19. The Aztex are looking for **game-day volunteers**; attend a meeting *Thursday, Jan. 29, 6pm* at *Sherlock's Pub*, 9012 Research, or e-mail Alex Wolf at awolf@austinaztex.com.

Sacha Kljestan scored all three goals Saturday night, as the **U.S. Men** beat Sweden, 3-2, in their first game of 2009. The 23-year-old Chivas USA midfielder was already on trial with Scottish giant **Celtic Glasgow**, said to be mulling a \$2.7 million offer to the MLS for him.

The **Dallas Texans** have been named best girls' youth club of the year by **Soccer America**. Four other Texas teams were in the Top 30, including Austin's **Lonestar SC** at No. 26. The Texans also ranked second on the boys side, heading three Texas clubs in the Top 8.

The **English Premier League** season has effectively split into two divisions, with six teams having a shot at a top-four finish, and as many as 14 are involved in the relegation scramble to avoid the bottom three and "the drop." Aztex affiliate **Stoke City**, winless in nine games, is currently in a three-way tie at the bottom and heading into a make-or-break stretch: Eight of their next 10 games are against teams they're within a few points of.

arts listings



Austin Playhouse, through March 1
Running time: 2 hr, 15 min

A man remembers.

In a sense, that's all there is to Brian Friel's play: a man conjuring a moment of his past in which little of moment occurred.

And yet, as the memories of Michael, the narrator of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, take shape around him in Austin Playhouse's new production, we're made aware of how much is going on even when nothing appears to be happening, how lives are brushing against one another and being altered by the slightest contact, how time is still rushing forward and swiftly turning the present into the past.

The fragment of his past that Michael conjures is the August of his seventh year, when all the talk in his village was of the harvest and harvest celebrations; when the cottage that he and his mother shared with her four sisters filled with music, thanks to an old radio they'd acquired; when the sisters' only brother returned to Ireland from Uganda, where he had spent 25 years ministering in a leper colony; and when Michael's father paid the last of his rare visits to their home.

As we come to know these characters in their present, we also come to know their pasts, as people here slip regularly into reveries of yesterday. This play is a house of memory, and the people in it take shelter under its eaves. In some scrap of nostalgia or joy or aliveness they knew long ago, they find refuge from a present that is tenuous and a future that terrifies. The five sisters are just scraping by with the money brought in by Kate's job teaching and the sale of gloves knitted by Agnes and Rose, and neither livelihood is secure, given the disturbing warning Kate received from the schoolmaster and the talk of a textile factory opening. When Babs George's Kate surrenders her prim schoolmarm comportment to the real

possibility that her family's life is unraveling, the panic in her eyes cracks the heart. It's a pain mirrored elsewhere: in Steve Shearer's Father Jack when he first shuffles into view, eyes reddened and moist and painfully lost, a man uprooted from the land that had become his home; in the sunken shoulders and aching silence of Rebecca Robinson's Agnes, who pines for Michael's father, Gerry – a disarmingly charming Brian Coughlin – even as he dances with Christina, the sister who bore his child (Lara Toner, guarded yet still drawn to her boulder beloved).

But these characters step into a memory and ever so briefly let go of their concerns and fears about their lives. We see it in the broadening grin on Cyndi Williams' face as her Maggie recalls a dance contest in her youth, in the light in Shearer's eyes as Father Jack recalls a pagan ceremony of the harvest. A train-station farewell, jam, a friend, their mother – all are recalled and provide refuge from the storms of today and tomorrow. The relief is but momentary, though, which gives both play and production its bittersweet edge. As Michael weaving his spell of memory, Huck Huckaby speaks so gently, it's as if he's tending a soap bubble, something so fragile and evanescent that it might vanish if not handled with utmost care. I can't say if Don Toner's staging here betters the one he did for Live Oak Theatre 16 years ago – Irish accents come and go like summer breezes, and opening weekend, some bits still felt choreographed more than lived – but it did make me appreciate anew Friel's lyrical, stirring script and the preciousness and power of memory. – Robert Faires

theatre

AUSTIN CABARET THEATRE: JIM CARUSO'S CAST PARTY The popular NYC-based event pays a brief, pyrotechnic visit to this river city, as Stuart Moulton and ACT present Jim Caruso and Billy Stritch joining with some of Austin's best crooners and belters (e.g., the Fantastic Faireses) to bring you a night of fabulous entertainment, cabaret-style. Glimmer, glamour, glad rags – catered by Sterling Affairs. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 29-30, 7pm. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 453-ACTS. www.mansionatjudgeshill.com.*

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE The delightful Steve Martin play (in which the padre of cubism meets Albert Einstein at a cafe in Paris) gets a staging in Round Rock under the direction of Christina Gardner. *Jan. 30-Feb. 21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15 (\$13, seniors, students, teachers, military). www.sambasstheatre.org.*

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' This spectacular, foot-stomping, keyboard-thumping musical tribute to the maestros of the Harlem Renaissance (especially Fats Waller) stars Ruben Studdard and Frenchie Davis. *Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$31.50-87.50. www.austintheatre.org.*

WANDA'S WORLD Zach Theatre's youth performing troupe, Showstoppers, presents this off-Broadway hit as adapted for them by the show's composer, Beth Falcone, and directed by Jaclyn Loewenstein. (See "The Showstoppers," p.31, for more.) *Jan. 31-Feb. 22; Saturdays, 1 & 4pm; Sundays, 6:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$14 (\$12, kids). www.zachtheatre.org.*

LEGALLY BLONDE The touring Broadway show of the musical based on the Hollywood movie comes to the newly refurbished Austin venue known as Bass Concert Hall. Song, dance, and xanthic spunkiness-a-go-go with an energetic cast. *Feb. 3-8. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. \$19.50-68.50. www.broadwaycrossamerica.com.*

CLOSING

MISS WITHERSPOON Christopher Durang's acclaimed and sort of *Groundhog Day*-like comedy about a woman who is reincarnated over and over "until she gets it right" is directed by Karen Jambon for Different Stages and features Jennifer Underwood (*The Casket of Passing Fancy's* Duchess) in the title role. *Through Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

LOVE, SEX, AND THE I.R.S. Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's wild farce – Love! Cheating! False identities! Cross-dressing! – is directed by Matt Gauck for the Palace Theater out in Georgetown. *Through Feb. 1. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Robert Harling's classic of Southern womanhood is presented by the Way Off Broadway Community Players out in Leander under the direction of Lynda Davidson. *Through Jan. 31. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy, Leander, 512/259-5878. \$15 (\$12, students, seniors; \$8, children). www.wobcp.org.*

ONGOING

FRONTERAFEST The (16th) annual five-week juggernaut of theatre and performance art – based at Hyde Park Theatre but extending itself (in the Long Fringe and other sections) all over town – continues. What sort of short shows are you looking for? Interesting monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Short films? Multimedia? Yes: any of those, possibly all of those, on any given night of the **Short Fringe**. Then there's the **Long Fringe** with its longer presentations. Our estimable Arts Editor Robert Faires provided a full schedule in the paper last week; now we continue to list the basics of the week-by-week events here. (See "Skimming a Long," p.32, for the *Chronicle's* first-week roundup, and see p.64 for a Short Fringe review.) See the Hyde Park Theatre website for more. www.hydeparktheatre.org.

SHORT FRINGE at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY.

Thu., Jan. 29, 8pm: "Five 'Til" by Aimée Gonzalez. "Cash Smear" by David Garcia. "Lovey & Lovey": Michael Jastroch and Tami Nelson are as funny as they are tipsy, and, boy, they're snockered. "Las Vegas Girl" by Timothy Braun. "Midlife Narrative With a Mandolin" by Nettie Hartssock.

Fri., Jan. 30, 8pm: "Duty to Warn" by Teresa Stankiewicz. "Snow in the Heat of Summer" by Consuelo Samarripa. "Stories From the Block" by Tim Curry. "Reunion Musical II" by Charley and Carolyn Devany. "A Reluctant Tragic Hero" by Anton Chekhov, via the Humdrum Collective.

Sat., Jan. 31, 8pm: Best of Week Three

Tue., Feb. 3, 8pm: "McSki" by Bill Johnson. "Edges" by Amy McAndrew and Cindy Vining. "(Dys) Connected" by Collin Bjork. "My Darkness, My Inheritance" by Marcella Garcia. "Dada Space Clown" by David Jewell.

Wed., Feb. 4, 8pm: "After School Special: The Musical" by Rain Nox. "Pyretown" by John Belluso. "The Bitter Poet" by Kevin Draine. "One AM" is improv by Chris Trew and Tami Nelson. "Almost Entirely Unlike Comedy" by Hank Schwemmer.

Thu., Feb. 5, 8pm: "The Walls Are Alive (with the sound of)" by Jennifer Margulies. "Damned Avalanche" by Patrick Knisely and Jenny Carlson. "Oh, Daddy!" by Rhonda Kulhanek. "Lulu's Charms in the Dark" by Candyce Rusk. TBA by Katherine Catmull.

LONG FRINGE at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118.

The Bird and the Bee from Capital Theatre. *Fri., Jan. 30, 7pm.*

Drywall from Buy the Whey. *Sat., Jan. 31, 8:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 6:30pm.*

The Dick Monologues from Spike Gillespie and friends. *Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

A Matter of Taste from Poison Apple Initiative. *Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 10:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 8:30pm.*

Sex, With Benefits from Daniel Huntley Solon. *Sat., Jan. 31, noon.*

Kill Will: The Lost Diary of Shakespeare from Strike Theatre. *Thu., Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sun., Feb. 1, noon.*

The Science of Suggestion from Christina Houle and friends. *Sun., Feb. 1, 4:30pm.*

The Drowned World from Gary Owen and Ken Webster. *Sat., Jan. 31, 6:30pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 2:15pm.*

Reality Check from Green Room Theatre and those Medberrys. *Fri., Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 2:15pm.*

LONG FRINGE at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886.

Dance Carousel from Spank Dance Company and Austin Independent Choreographers. *Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

Our Angle in Heaven from Maggie Gallant. *Sun., Feb. 1, 4pm.*

Things in Life from Ben Prager. *Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm; Sun., Feb. 1, noon.*

Tear Down from Hat Shop Productions and John M. Lively. *Fri., Jan. 30, 7pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 5:45pm.*

Let's Get Real from Michael Kranes (who generally rocks, btw). *Sat., Jan. 31, 6:15pm.*

52 Pick Up from Gemma Wilcox Productions. *Fri., Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 8pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 1:45pm.*

Leela's Wheel is also from Gemma Wilcox Productions. *Thu., Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 2:15pm; Sun., Feb. 1, 8pm.*

My Bugatti Story from Paul Ehrmann. *Sat., Jan. 31, noon.*

Cochise! from Improv for Evil. *Sat., Jan. 31, 10:15pm. www.hydeparktheatre.org.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 13 issue is Monday, Feb. 2.** 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:

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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. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

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PARAMOUNT

FronteraFest Short Fringe, Hyde Park Theatre | Jan. 24 | Week Two



| SHANA MERLIN (L) AND SHANNON MCCORMICK ARE GET UP.

The Best of Week Two was such a high-speed train of spoken word, crackling improv, and raw poetry, the audience could barely contain itself. Gasps were audible, laughter plenteous, and between performances, Hyde Park buzzed with comments such

as, "I can't believe that was improv," and, "This is some of the best FronteraFest I've seen." We, the audience, were lucky to be there, and we knew it.

With three of the five shows performed by black, Hispanic, and gay artists, race and identity politics were a big theme. When spoken-word artist and self-described "cool-looking black guy" SaulPaul waved his hand between himself and the audience and said, "This barrier right here ... it's officially broken," he set the tone for the night. Walls were coming down.

Through hip-hop verse, music, and narrative, SaulPaul told his hard life story without blame or apology, morphing from foster child to scholarship student at UT to inmate at the state pen to UT student again. He's a disarming raconteur. He finished with improvised spoken word; as the audience shouts out words, he writes them on his arm, then turns them into hip-hop poetry. (Off the cuff, he matched "banana" with Tony Danza and "swelling" with cerebellum.)

The women of Stamp Lab performed "T.A.G.," an impressionistic montage. A ghost named Nina raves quietly, a strong old woman named Billy rails on social change and gentrification ("I'm a certified Negro," she says, refusing the label "African-American"), a singing woman chugs across the stage as a train with a 3-foot beehive, and a captivating gay girl waits for the bus, eager to split town. The piece may be baffling, but it is visually arresting.

Heavyweights from the Austin Poetry Slam scene Christopher Lee and Christopher Michael consumed the stage with a raucous, goose-bump inspiring homage to the power of poetry. They are skilled word jugglers,

tossing around unlikely rhyme pairs such as "gargoyle" and "aluminum foil." Scenes of a crack junkie jonesing and an Iraq veteran recalling how he put pieces of his friends in Ziploc bags made me cringe with their brute honesty. They take you there.

Get Up improvisers Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin are so in sync, it's scary. Is it supernatural? A mind meld? Or just wicked smart improv? Here they brought us "The Adventurers," a riff off 1930s serial drama. Their characters, Maurice and Josephine, recover ancient manuscripts and battle Katarina Von Eivel, their archrival. After asking the audience to suggest an exotic location, a girl threw out "Djibouti" but mispronounced the country's name. McCormick didn't miss a beat — that man knows his geography. Then, Maurice and Josephine were off — to Africa, lions, village elders, and improv hilarity that left me craving more.

FronteraFest famoso Big Poppa E closed the show. A pro at dissolving the audience's reserve, he'll do or say anything, including planting a fat kiss on a lady near me and reciting a love poem to a girl in the front row. He's been traveling on a Greyhound bus in recent months and has some fresh poems, both irreverent and sweet. One of the best had the line: "I don't want to make out with you; I want to make a fort with you." Shucks, Big Poppa E, are you saying good old-fashioned make-believe is sometimes as good as sex?

Seems like it. The creativity onstage here beat any date I've had lately. The only disappointment of the evening was that we could vote for only two shows to continue on to Best of the Fest.

— Clayton Maxwell

HAMLET Japhy Fernandes and the Austin Drama Club present a modernized version of the classic. E-mail him for location. *Through Feb. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. ceasarbnice@yahoo.com.*

DANCING AT LUGHNASA Don Toner directs an outstanding cast in this bittersweet, life-affirming Brian Friel play about an Irish bastard's childhood. *Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-28 (half price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

THE TEXCENTRIC SHOW The madcap jesters of Esther's Follies branch out with this send-up of old-time radio shows: sketches, skits, live music, and so on, a sort of locally warped version of *A Prairie Home Companion* to enhance your dining pleasure. With Sand Sheff, Ellana Kelter, and Ted Meredith, directed by Doug Ewart. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. Free (through Feb. 25). www.patsycowgirlcafe.com.*

BEEHIVE Larry Gallagher's original big-hair Sixties girl group musical is back for a Motowned month of roof-raising, dance-stepping farewell performances under the direction of, yes, Dave "Hard Workin'" Steakley. *Through Feb. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org.*

DINNER THEATRE

DEADLY HOUSEWIVES is an interactive murder-mystery from Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players. It's also a parody of everybody's favorite sexy suburban TV series. Enjoy plenty of pasta and parmigiana and suchlike fare as you help the comedic cast figure out who committed murder in the ever so desperate neighborhood. *Through Jan. 31. Saturdays, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.*

AUDITIONS

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE The Gaslight Baker Theatre in Lockhart is holding open auditions for this Warren Graves comedy, to be directed by Tysha Calhoun in March and April. Seeking: Men and women. *Tue.-Wed., Feb. 3-4, 7pm. Gaslight Baker Theatre, 204 N. Main, Lockhart, 512/426-1059. www.gaslighttheatre.com.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

Ryan Hamilton The nationally touring comic makes a laff stop in Austin. **Dustin Ybarra** opens. *Feb. 3-7. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Mike MacRae is more than enough to give impressionists a good name, so they say, with his extended vignettes expertly skewering the day's pop icons. But you may want to see him because he was part of *Frank TV*. Or because **Paul Oddo** opens? *Through Jan. 31. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This week: The energetic **Parallelogramophonograph** rearranges your mind's furniture with the Harold-loving **Southwest Berkeley**. *Thu., 8pm.* **2prov 2nite** features four two-person improv troupes: **One A.M., Girltrap, Ratliff and Jackson,** and **Henry Has Epilepsy**. *Thu., 10pm.* Once again, it's that **Proctor** show, now with the **Faculty** and **Look Cookie**. *Fri., 8pm.* **Residencies** The improv showcase starts with **Unfurled** and the **Draft**. *Fri., 9pm.* **Punchline** The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues! *Fri., 10pm.* **Stool Pigeon** features an Austin celebrity jump-starting the improv with a thrice-told tale. *Sat., 8pm.* **Cage Match** Two teams wage unholy war and heathen mayhem upon each other, improv-style. *Sat., 9pm.* **Cold, Cold Improv** The ColdTowne house troupe dishes up a comedy conflagration for your entertainment, along with the **Frank Mills**. *Sat., 10pm.*

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

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its riotous musical comedy and sketches, now with the **Unleaded Supremes** singing "The Big Three Bailout," guest comedian **Derek Reid as Barack Obama** with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and a **new illusion** (it's called "Wet!") from 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.*

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

Friday: Double Barrel has two teams of improvisers competing for your laughter and applause. *8pm. \$10.* Next comes the eminently topical **This Week Tonight** show, working its wild improv off the news (of the weird, of the wonderful, of the just plain newsworthy) of the past seven days. Holy current events, anchorman! *10pm. \$10. Through Jan. 26.*

Saturday: After School Improv Here's some fresh improv based on audience suggestions and performed in the style of those old-school teenage cautionary tales. Marijuana! Gangs! Sexual predators! Oh noes! *8pm. \$10.* **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$10.*

Thursday: It's **Threerfer Madness** time, in which three different troupes, drawn from the best in town, battle for improv supremacy. *8pm. \$10.*

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

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Chad Warren**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Martha Kelly She's been all over your TV and all across this funky country of ours; now she's back in Austin to, the idea is, make you laugh. Also, **Jeremy Neal** and **Chad Warren** open. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30-31, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK features the best comics in Austin, so they suggest — right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

KICK BUTT COMEDY ComedySportz Reunion Shows Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cutups return to the stage with this series of tomfoolery. *Lesfoolery, actually. Saturdays, 6pm. Monday Night Mash: Improv Mondays, 8pm. Open Mic Comedy Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

LAST GAS COMEDY Stand-up comedy every Saturday. *Sat., Jan. 31, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects takes this Janus-faced month to a close with a formidable improv showcase, featuring everybody's favorite dessert topping **THE: Whispersmack** and the musical and estrogenifying antics of **Girls Girls Girls**. *Sat., Jan. 31, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

dance

CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS: BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL Big Range Austin is a dance festival that presents contemporary dance exploring diverse concepts within the movement arts, encouraging experimentation, collaboration, and performance excellence in a fun and challenging environment for artists and audiences. Festival dates are *June 5-14* at Ballet Austin's AustinVentures StudioTheatre. See the website for details and applications. Deadline: *Jan. 31. www.spankdance.com.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: AUDITIONS

Entry-level adult and youth male and female dancers and actors who wish to be trained for membership in the company are needed. Candidates must possess outstanding, raw dance talent and/or natural acting ability and a vibrant stage presence. Previous knowledge of a Latin/folkloric dance style and formal acting skills helpful but not necessary. Call or e-mail for details. *Through Jan. 31. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

SPANK DANCE COMPANY: DANCE CAROUSEL

Ten choreographers offer 40 dances in 40 minutes in this perennial FronteraFest Long Fringe fave! There are few better ways to sample modern dance, and these little morsels range from the absurd to the abstract, making for a feast of dance for first-time viewers or veterans of the form. *Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.spankdance.com.*

TWO LEFT FEET

BELLY DANCE WITH FINGER CYMBALS Stacey Lizette teaches all levels of dancers, using different cymbal rhythms with a focus on fluidity of hand and arm movements. (Finger cymbals are available for purchase or loan.) *Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.*

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new 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.*

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. 323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAGON Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.*

THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES Unique twists on standard favorites: Ballet NEXT, L.A. Street Jazz, Cardio Jamz, Cardio Strip-Hop, and more. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100, 327-2869. First class free.*

ESQUINATANGO: GET READY FOR CARNAVAL! A variety of Brazilian samba classes for all levels of dancers, led by Rebekah Fowler, includes a special workshop, a free open house, and weekly classes, all to get you in shape and in the mood for the biggest party of the year. Thus far, anyway. See the website for details. *Through Jan. 30. 209 Pedernales. 524-2772. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES Laura Pellegrino offers ongoing classes for beginners, experts, and you in-betweeners in her country's sexy dance of record. *Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. www.tangointexas.com.*

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING 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.*

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.*

ZUMBA DANCE The Latin-inspired international music and dance steps are designed for everyone, every shape, and every age. *Tuesdays, 5:45am; Thursdays, 7pm. Brushy Creek Community Center. E-mail for details. zumbaustin@yahoo.com.*

ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES Andrea Ariel teaches modern dance to students of all levels. Please call for more information. *Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 458-4258. \$12 drop-in/\$10 class card.*

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 website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

FLAMENCO CLASSES Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. 923-3270.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. *Saturdays, noon-1pm (beginner), 1-2:30pm (intermediate). 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.*

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 Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3 donation. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

NIA CLASSES The Nia technique is an energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. 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.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbutcoffee.com.*

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. \$5 (\$2, members). www.austinswing syndicate.org.*



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'Annette Lawrence: Free Paper'



Flatbed Gallery
Through Feb. 6

It's worth dashing over to Flatbed Gallery to see "Free Paper," the Annette Lawrence solo show presented by Austin Green Art and ForestEthics. In it, this accomplished and nuanced artist

addresses a bunch of neat things simultaneously with simple materials, including the passage of time, calendars, edge quality, abstract sculpture, personal environmental impact, collecting, and storing.

The installation is made of hand-torn paper strips that are stacked on shelves. Each 2-inch-wide stack consists of unsorted junk mail balanced in piles of various sizes. Lawrence presents one pile for each month of the year. One (secret) rule of abstraction is that multiples of anything start to look cool – a rhythm appears and gives it strength. While these chronological archives are made of colorful advertisements, the end color reads as a gray mass. By collecting and combining these disparate pieces, Lawrence has transformed them into a unified and believable new vision of fuzzy towers. The whole group in a line reads to me like the Zapotec ruins of Monte Albán or some ancient ziggurat made with powerful geometry. The systematic 2-inch stacks are so regular and repetitive that the little droopy parts at the ends give them force and an odd tension. The curvature of the Earth on a wide horizon is vaguely implied by the longer ends of paper when they sag at the outskirts of the stack. It's natural to see landscapes in all horizontal shapes.

Many artists, as builders, possess a unique sensitivity to their personal environ-

mental impacts as consumers. Recently I recognized the perilous territory that these green artists enter as well as their bravery. For example, one collects small raw materials with a vision of creating a valuable bigger new thing. This is the beginning. One artist I've met collected bottle caps for a few months but stopped because he realized that his collection could show publicly how much beer he drank. Faith Gay recently talked about "feeling crazy" because she collects bits of things (for additive sculptures) in her pockets, even as she moves through her home. The list of fine artists who are physically addressing environmental issues in their work is growing rapidly. Put Lawrence on the list of prescient locals such as Gay, Virginia Fleck, and Peat Duggins.

Lawrence also made a charming series of corrugated storage boxes for display, each one a negative shape carefully taped into a customized rectangle. These are crafty humorous brown silhouettes of groovy mesalike inner shapes. Precious cartons and expensive crates do help your status in the art world (secret). This is good-looking art with heavy recycling mojo, but the primacy of the craftsmanship is what's paramount. Thanks to Randy Jewart of Austin Green Art for bringing Lawrence's show here. If you like this art show, Google Chris Jordan's photos after you've signed the petition at www.donotmail.org. – Rachel Koper

classical music

OPENING

WORLD OF SOUND: BASS REOPENING The UT Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, choruses, and Jazz Trio perform to help reopen the Bass Concert Hall en masse. Samuel Ramey, Frederica Von Stade, and Barbara Conrad are featured among 150 performers on the big stage. Plus, there's an encore performance by soundanistas Ghostland Observatory. *Fri., Jan. 30, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. www.utpac.org.*

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: DUO ERATO Martha Masters won the Guitar Foundation of America's International Competition in 2000. Here she teams with Risa Carlson as Duo Erato, now touring the world performing their highly likable sounds. *Sat., Jan. 31, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 300-2247. \$35-50 (\$25, ACGS members, seniors, students). www.austinclassicalguitar.org.*

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Barbara Smith Conrad The renowned mezzo-soprano and civil rights pioneer performs a program titled *Intimate Reflections: In Celebration of My Journey Here*, which features tons of songs, spirituals, and more. (See "Barbara Smith Conrad," p.31, for more.) *Wed., Feb. 4, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. Miró Quartet* Mendelssohn turns 200 (or would have) this year, so the faculty string quartet performs a pair of quartets and an octet (16 tets, if you do the math). Also, the winners of the Mendelssohn Quartet Competition. *Thu., Feb. 5, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$20 (\$17, UT faculty, staff, seniors; \$10, students). 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

NOTES & ENCORES

TEATRO DE ARTES DE JUAN SEGUIN: NOCHE DE GALA CONTESTANT SEARCH The 24th annual competition is *March 7*, and there is a mandatory meeting for auditioners on *Jan. 31*. The competition is open to anyone wishing to showcase his or her mariachi singing talent onstage, accompanied by a professional mariachi group. Vocalists will compete in four divisions: youth, amateur, professional, and masters (previous winners of the professional division). Vocalists wishing to participate in the competition should provide name, address, and telephone number by phone or e-mail; registration packets are available on the group's website. Mandatory meeting: *Sat., Jan. 31, 5pm. Teatros Cultural Arts Center, Seguin. 830/303-3320. www.teatrodeartes.org.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: MUSICIAN AUDITIONS Professional musicians are invited to audition for PRFD's orchestra. The company is interested in singers and instruments of almost any kind, including acoustic guitars, cuatro and accordion players, large and small percussion, strings, horns, winds, and more. Advanced youth musicians and singers are also sought. As segments of Puerto Rico's traditional music are not in written form, musicians should have a proficiency for playing by ear. Call or e-mail for details. *Through Jan. 31. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

visual arts

EVENTS

JAPONICA SALON: CALLIGRAPHY Talk and demonstration of Japanese calligraphy by Kaori Kitta. *Mon., Feb. 2, 7-9pm. 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. www.casadeluz.org.*

OPENING

BIG RED SUN Revitalized vintage furniture by Veronica Koltuniak, photography by Denise Prince, and the new line of Arkivos by MINIMIS Design. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 30, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 28. 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688. www.bigredsun.com.*

ART PALACE: BUSINESS IN THE FRONT, PARTY IN THE BACK In response to an art historical tradition of depicting the unclothed body in art and an equally complicated cultural tradition of modesty, Heyd Fontenot paints "naked people." This is an excellent display of them. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 30, 8-10pm. Exhibition: Through March 11. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.*



ART PALACE REVEALS HEYD FONTENOT'S 'BUSINESS IN THE FRONT, PARTY IN THE BACK' THIS FRIDAY.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: LAURA LATIMER "Sideshow of Relics and Revelations" is the artist's newest set of mixed-media installations, this one exploring "the intersection of landscape with narrative." Reception: *Tue., Feb. 10, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Feb. 4-25. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.lauralalimer.com.*

CLOSING

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: FACULTY ART *Through Feb. 5. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400. www.stedwards.edu.*

SEEING SPECIAL THINGS The works of more than 400 Austin Independent School District students explore the question "Where do creative ideas come from?" *Through Feb. 1. 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free. www.amoa.org.*

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE Eleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display through the gardens. *Through Jan. 31. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.*

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: LACEY RICHTER "Paint, Dance, and Dialogues" are the new works by this artist. *Through Jan. 31. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery/htm.*

BROCCA GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth. www.broccagallery.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR New works from the gallery's 50 represented artists, each piece priced less than a grand. Highly recommended. *Through Jan. 30. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eycontactart.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.*

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. *2309 Thornton.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Agustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaoboadastudio.com.*



LAURA LATIMER'S 'SIDESHOW OF RELICS AND REVELATIONS' OPENS AT THE BUTRIDGE GALLERY.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.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.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: TEXAS HILL COUNTRY LANDSCAPES Original paintings of Central Texas vistas by Hermon Adams, Manuel Garza, Cal Gaspard, Sally Minter, Rick Morris Patterson, Jim Rodgers, Don Ward, and many others. Through Feb. 28. 1219 W. Sixth, 495-9363.

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. Through March 8. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 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 South Austin home. Saturday-Sunday, noon-9pm, 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.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LAB: A STRANGE LAND features works by Beili Liu, Lynn Richardson, Cauleen Smith, Chris Taylor, and Mapping Exchange artist-in-residence (from Argentina) Erica Bohm. (See "Creative Research Laboratory," p.31, for more.) Panel discussion: Sun., Feb. 1, 2pm. Closing reception: Sat., Feb. 7, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 7. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. uts.cc.utexas.edu/~criab.

AUSTIN GREEN ART: FREE PAPER Annette Lawrence's exhibition addresses issues of excess and consumerism, with daily junk mail both the inspiration and material used for the creations on display. Through Feb. 6. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.austingreenart.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ABSTRACT Curated by New York-based Maureen Mahony. Through Feb. 28. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Gráfico, an independent network of Latino print-making centers, explores the centers' diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES ART EXHIBITION Through Feb. 14. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: WONDEROUS INSTRUMENTS Take a curator-led tour and see homemade, odd, or rare musical instruments, exotic tools, miraculous and magical objects, and more as this intimate museum presents its latest gathering of wonderments for your amusement and edification. Tours: Saturdays, 1-4pm, through May 30. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

DIVERSEARTS: THE ROAD TO HOPE New East Gallery commemorates the inauguration of Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States of America, with the opening of this new show, subtitled "A Photographic Glimpse of African-American Life, 1850-1960," including a number of rarely seen images from some of the 20th century's most celebrated documentary photographers. Through Feb. 28. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: WARREN OATES IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008 This multiartist show is themed loosely on deceased character-actor Warren Oates (!), because those OK MT folks, they like to mess with the obscurish pop culture in interesting ways. Through Feb. 21. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B, 293-5177. www.okaymountain.com.

REAL GALLERY: MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP Members' holiday art exhibition. 2824 Real, 775-0458. www.artworksbykathiherrin.com.

IMAGINE ART: 12 X 12 Through March 25. 1314 W. 45th, 323-9390. www.rfbdtxas.org.

STUDIO2GALLERY: LOVE'S WRIT New works from a diversity of artists juried by Jacqueline May. Through Feb. 14. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. www.studio2gallery.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: LESLEE FRASER Suburban malls, the Bible, scientific theory, and domestic talismans all provide ripe fodder for Fraser's miniature parables as she assembles familiar tokens into vignettes both tender and thoroughly skewed. Through Feb. 21. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

SPIDER HOUSE Sculptured word art by Austin artist Joseph Santandrea. Through Feb. 14. www.travelzealot.com.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER The found-object art of Barbara Irwin is displayed with watercolor paintings of wildflowers and other works in mixed media by artist Keith Steber. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

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.

TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Ruth Lauer's paintings. Through Feb. 21. 3213 Red River, 478-8794. www.texasfrenchbread.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

GLASSTIRE: CALL FOR VIDEO AUDITIONS See the website for details. Deadline: Feb. 20. www.glasstire.com.

STUDIO2GALLERY: MODELS AND ARTISTS, THE MUSE IN HISTORY Juror Rick Fink invites you to explore the creative collaboration between models and artists. This show will feature artists working in different mediums to record nude and seminude images. See website for applications and more. Deadline: Feb. 10. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. www.studio2gallery.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ADAM SHEPARD explores the difficulty of achieving the American dream in *Scratch Beginnings*. Shepard gave himself a year to get a car, an apartment, and \$2,500. He started with a sleeping bag and \$25. Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

ANN DALY does the days in her *A Year of Clarity: The Monthly Guide for Women*. Thu., Jan. 29, 7pm. [BookWoman](http://BookWoman.com), 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

DAVID SHIPPY AND MICKIE PHIPPS do a victory lap with their *The Race for a New Game Machine: Creating the Chips Inside the Xbox360 and PlayStation 3*. Sat., Jan. 31, 1pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

PERLA SARABIA JOHNSON grills with some polar bear grease in *Global Warning*, a science-fiction thriller set in Texas. Sat., Jan. 31, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

CARL HIAASEN digs into an oil mystery in his latest twisted novel, *Scat*. Sat., Jan. 31, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

PAUL DAMIEN presents his *Help! Debunking the Outrageous Claims of Self-Help Gurus*. Sat., Jan. 31, 3pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

SYBIL ROSEN offers a sweet biography of the complex songwriter Blaze Foley in her *Living in the Woods in a Tree*. Highly recommended. Sun., Feb. 1, 3pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

CHARLES BOCK parades his well-reviewed novel, a tale of not so *Beautiful Children*. Definitely recommended. Mon., Feb. 2, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar.

CHRISTINE MAYNARD AND JULIA HIGGINBOTHAM play duck and cover with their *Panic Attack Survival Guide*. Wed., Feb. 4, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

STORY CIRCLE NETWORK Nonprofit organization for women, offering monthly reading and writing circles and more, in North, Central, and South Austin. 454-9833. www.storycircle.org.

SOUTH AUSTIN GROUP *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. Mon., Feb. 2, 1:30pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

7% SOLUTION CLUB *The Last Good Kiss* by James Crumley. Mon., Feb. 2, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar.

THE UTTER READING SERIES brings you the best new prose and poetry writers in Central Texas. Tue., Feb. 3, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones. Wed., Feb. 4, 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

THE JUNTO IN AUSTIN *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* by Thomas Friedman. Tue., Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.

ADULT POETRY CIRCLE Workshop and sharing for beginners and the experienced. Tue., Feb. 3, 7-8:30pm. Spicewood Springs Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

OPEN MICS

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom the World Poet. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. Hot Mama's Espresso Bar, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamasesspresso.

SPOKEN AND HEARD is co-hosted by Stacey Shea and Element 615. Uncensored round robin. Sundays, 7-9pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttoffee.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pmo 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. Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Gartn, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stalwarts. Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *murmur of absence (how can it be so relentless) to hold nothing - to fill a mouth with unmarked days or when she came to that field a withered ghost how he stitched wings to her bones - pretend - he whispered - in your last hour that holes belong to a god we carry cupped in red & flowing or when holes become nests how she never regrets the cost of music.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

senses in a tight black box
all we want is to see to hear to speak
and with miles between us all we want
is each other
that's the whole story
the height of humanity
attaining the state
of less cranky dogs
pit bulls trained to let go
- Craig Sullender, from "face value"



CHARLES BOCK WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET HIS 'BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN' AT BOOKPEOPLE ON MONDAY.

film listings

Che: Part Two

D: Steven Soderbergh; with Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Santiago Cabrera, Franka Potente, Jorge Perugorria, Edgar Ramirez, Victor Rasuk, Joaquim de Almeida, Lou Diamond Phillips. (R, 131 min., subtitled)

At the start of Steven Soderbergh's two-part epic about the life of South American revolutionary, guerrilla soldier,

and T-shirt iron-on Ernesto Guevara (an epic I feel like I started watching months ago, when I was still young), "Che" looks fresh, clean, and optimistic: the picture of youthful idealism in a guayabera shirt. Nearly five hours (and several armed insurgencies) later, when the Argentine doctor turned hero finally gives up the ghost on the dirt floor of a ramshackle hut in rural Bolivia, felled by a soldier's bullets, he looks more like an Old Testament prophet after years spent wandering in the desert eating bugs and talking to bushes: still a true believer but beaten down by circumstance and cruel reality. In the second half of Soderbergh's bold, bloated, rambling, tiring, yet strangely brilliant story of Comandante Guevara, all the confidence of the first film (set during the Cuban revolution of the late 1950s and released here last week) has been shoved out of frame and replaced by a sense of impending doom. Bolivia was Guevara's Waterloo, his last stand against imperialism. He'd gone there with a fighting force of 50 men in 1966 in an attempt to overthrow the government of President René Barrientos but soon found himself in a yearlong slog through hell. His tiny army had no support from the local communists, meaning they had no political strength; the campesinos who had come out of the jungle to help him and Castro in Cuba 10 years earlier this



time rejected the brave-new-world promises of the Argentine carpetbagger in army fatigues, and they showed their displeasure by informing on him and his soldiers. And to top things off, communications were cut off to the band's supporters back in Cuba, so they had no money and no supplies, meaning as their rebellion dragged on, they became less an ideological force than a group of starving animals, pursued at every turn by the U.S.-backed Bolivian military. So, you've got dissension, disaffection, disillusionment, despair, and death: otherwise known in Hollywood as Irving Thalberg's "Five Ds" of guaranteed box-office success. Luckily for us, Soderbergh is one of those rare directors who's able to make uninterrupted misery engaging (joining Carl Dreyer, Ingmar Bergman, Werner Herzog, Terrence Malick, and Todd Solondz ... and possibly every director who ever worked with Jeremy Irons). Sure, it helps that he's got the beauty of the Bolivian countryside in his corner and one of the greatest actors in movie history subsuming himself in a legendary and controversial character, but it's his own aesthetic conviction that life's insignificant moments are the ones to keep a camera on that allows him to spin history into art and find a little meaning in all the hopelessness. — Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

new reviews

LUCK BY CHANCE D: Zoya Akhtar; with Farhan Akhtar, Juhi Chawla, Dimple Kapadia, Rishi Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor. (NR, 156 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Zoya Akhtar, daughter of an Indian filmmaking family, debuts here with this exposé of the Mumbai-based film industry. Some of Bollywood's greats, including Shahrukh Khan and Aamir Khan, appear as themselves; Akhtar's brother Farhan, also a director (*Dil Chahta Hai*), stars. — Kimberley Jones
Tinseltown South

NEW IN TOWN D: Jonas Elmer; with Renée Zellweger, Harry Connick Jr., Siobhan Fallon, J.K. Simmons, Mike O'Brien, Frances Conroy. (PG-13, 96 min.)

What the hell is going on with Renée Zellweger? She's always been a polarizing actress, but even longtime fans of her sparkiness and, well, barkiness in films such as *Cold Mountain*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and Doris Day channeler *Down With Love* can't help but be befuddled by her recent choices (including this month's Golden Globes getup, in which she channeled Day once again, only the latter-era, frosted and feathered kind). Hollywood can be unforgiving, especially about its aging actresses; if Zellweger is going to make a case for her continued relevance in a town that tosses its former sweethearts to the dustbin by age 40, then she'll have to pick smarter projects than *New in Town*. It's a fish-out-of-water comedy formerly known as *Chilled in Miami* — one of several interesting facts related in a recent *New Yorker* piece by Tad Friend about movie marketing. The article also poses the age-old question: How do you market a piece of crap? The answer, as ever, is to dress up said crap as something else — in this case, something funny, something sexy, something about the life lessons imparted on a stumbling exec in 4-inch heels (Zellweger) when she arrives in small-town Minnesota to shake up its underproducing factory. It pains me to report that the film — which has a likable enough cast of character actors such as Simmons (*Spider-Man*) and Conroy (*Six Feet Under*) and a sufficient leading man in the still-easy-on-the-eyes Connick Jr. — wildly underperforms under the trailer's already low-set expectations: It is not particularly funny or sexy, and those life lessons have little to do with the aggressive folk wisdom of the people of New Ulm, Minn., but rather what happens when a total bitch wakes up and realizes there are human costs to corporate dealings. *New in Town* might have better played on the less demanding stage of, say, a Lifetime made-for-TV movie, where Elmer's muzzy direction and a script (by C. Jay Cox and Ken Rance) pockmarked with implausibilities would feel slightly less consequential. Still, forgettable films make it to the big screen all the time; what is more rare is a forgettable

film about a character written and portrayed so stridently as to be both an irritant and a bore. That character's name, by the way, is Lucy, a fact only recalled after consulting the studio's press notes. Which is telling and may well be *New in Town's* only real distinction: to have the ability to verily disappear before one's eyes. — Kimberley Jones

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

TAKEN D: Pierre Morel; with Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Liam Neeson plays a former CIA "preventer" who must call on all his secret-agent prowess when his daughter is abducted in Paris and sold into the sex trade. French filmmaker Morel makes his English-language debut from a script co-written by Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element*). — Kimberley Jones
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS D: Patrick Tatopoulos; with Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy, Rhona Mitra, Kevin Grevioux, Steven Mackintosh. (R, 92 min.)

It's a testament to Bill Nighy's cadaverous panache that this third entry in the ongoing exsanguinators vs. lycanthropes franchise (that's vampires and werewolves to anyone not weaned on *Famous Monsters*) is as tolerable as it is, which is barely. Nighy's best known on this side of the pond as the tentacular Davy Jones of the past two *Pirates of the Caribbean* films and also to genre fans as *Shaun of the Dead's* crotchety, doomed stepfather. But he's also a British Academy of Film and Television Arts award winning West Ender whose ominous frame, piercing eyes, and chilled delivery pretty much define what it means to be a flesh-and-blood character actor in an increasingly CGI world. When director Len Wiseman hit upon the central conceit of the *Underworld* series back in 2003, he wisely locked in Nighy as the vampire king, Viktor, a deliriously hammy role that the actor has been only too happy to, um, sink his teeth into with a creepy charm that borders on the absurd. Fans expecting to drool over series mainstay Kate Beckinsale, who previously engaged Nighy tooth and nail as the black-patent-leather-clad Selene, are in for a sad day at the bloodfest. Not only is Beckinsale's character absent, but she's been replaced as the series' female lead by *Boston Legal's* Rhona Mitra, who is cast here as Viktor's daughter Sonja, which frankly does no one, fanged or furry, any good at all. Granted, this is the franchise's shark-jumping origin-story-cum-prequel, and so the events

openings & ratings

Che: Part Two (R)

New in Town (PG-13)

The Uninvited (PG-13)

Luck by Chance (NR)

Taken (PG-13)



Taken

in *Rise of the Lycans* take place centuries prior to Selene's birth. But the absence of Beckinsale's trademark grim sass is the final tenpenny nail in *Underworld's* coffin. Working from a script co-written by series scribe Danny McBride (not to be confused with the *Pineapple Express* actor, also a writer), new director (and former creature effects designer) Tatopoulos wallows in exposition and chaotically edited action set-pieces that seem downright sluggish. Apart from Nighy's sly vamping, the only other remarkable thing about *Rise of the Lycans* is Sheen's ur-furball Lucian, who falls for Sonja and thus sets the stage for eternal war between the two races. It's all a bit *Romeo and Juliet*, minus the wit but with the added bonus of Sheen's recent highbrow roles in *The Queen* and *Frost/Nixon* echoing, weirdly so, amidst the background clatter of talons, teeth, and the savage grace of Nighy. Enough of all this internecine, interspecies squabbling. Bring on Benicio Del Toro's *Wolf Man*, already, and let the real howling begin.

— Marc Savlov

★ 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 UNINVITED D: Thomas Guard, Charles Guard; with Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel, Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn, Maya Massar, Kevin McNulty. (PG-13, 87 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The Hollywood tradition of plucking inspiration from Asian horror sources continues with this remake of 2003's *A Tale of Two Sisters* from South Korean director Kim Jee-Woon. The two sisters in question are having a hard time adjusting to the new fiancée (Banks) of their recently widowed father (Strathairn) — not to mention all the weird shit going bump in the night.

— Kimberley Jones

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

first runs

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

BEDTIME STORIES D: Adam Shankman; with Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, Russell Brand, Richard Griffiths, Teresa Palmer, Lucy Lawless, Courteney Cox. (PG, 99 min.)

Adam Sandler has finally found his audience: 3-year-olds. It makes perfect sense, really. From setting bags of dog feces on fire in *Billy Madison* to urinating on buildings in *Big Daddy* to ogling bouncing breasts in *Click*, Sandler has always prided himself on being the poster boy for American male regression, so it was only a matter of time before he gave up the pretense of being an adult and just started making kids movies. In his latest, Sandler plays a goofy hotel handyman with a passion for the simpler things in life — gum balls, sports cars, laughing at little people — who is suddenly thrust into the world of adult responsibility. But unlike previous films in which Sandler's infantile irrepressibility played like an act of rebellion against the square world, in *Bedtime Stories*, the actor's childishness, when in such close contact with the childishness of real children, comes off merely weird, if not borderline mentally challenged. (12/26/2008) — Josh Rosenblatt

★ CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown South

BRIDE WARS D: Gary Winick; with Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen, Kristen Johnston. (PG, 87 min.)

One wonders what could have possibly recommended the mean-spirited, laughless *Bride Wars* to Hathaway. Surely not Hudson, whose effect on critics (and increasingly the box office) is not unlike that of a roach motel on its six-legged guests. Actually, I suppose some credit should be given to Hudson for playing against type here; putting aside her usual squishy bunny-rabbit roles, she plays the alpha dog Liv, a Manhattan lawyer who has subtly bullied her best friend, Emma (Hathaway), for years. Both women have harbored since childhood the desire to marry at the Plaza Hotel in June, which is exactly the plan, until a scheduling snafu places their two weddings on the same day. The situation quickly escalates from awkward fumbling to passive-aggressiveness, and then on to all-out guerrilla tactics. If you've seen the trailer, you already know the wages of war — the blue-hair sabotage, the tanning-salon incident, the wedding-aisle throwdown. (01/16/2009) — Kimberley Jones

● Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★★★★★ 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

CADILLAC RECORDS D: Darnell Martin; with Adrien Brody, Jeffrey Wright, Gabrielle Union, Columbus Short, Cedric the Entertainer, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Eamonn Walker, Mos Def, Beyoncé Knowles, Eric Bogosian. (R, 108 min.)

Cadillac Records is a music portrait of the musicians, such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Chuck Berry, and Etta James, who gravitated to postwar Chicago, and the Chess Records label, which recorded and promoted so much of their work. Although writer/director Martin's movie plays loose with many of the historical facts, her aim is dead-on in terms of nailing the spirit of the thing. *Cadillac Records* bobs and weaves, strides and duckwalks, samples and smiles on the sounds that made urban Chicago such a blues melting pot. It's best to not get too hung up on the purity of every single ingredient that goes into the pot, because that will only get in the way of the dish's overall taste, and *Cadillac Records* has flavor galore. The actors cast as the bluesmen and -women are spectacular — again, not so much for their physical mimicry but for their spiritual inhabitation of the historical figures. (12/12/2008) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

VULCAN VIDEO

112 W ELIZABETH ST & 609 W 29TH ST

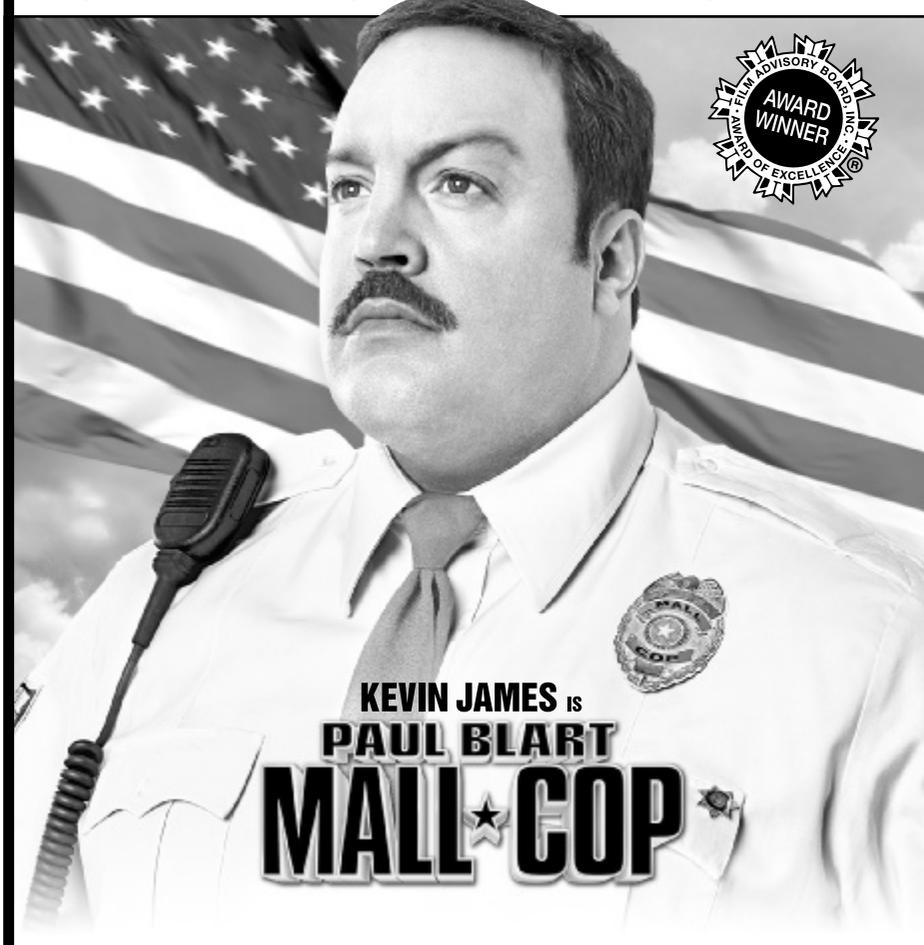
AMNESTY DAY

WE TAKE HALF OFF ALL LATE FEES ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH.



ROMAN POLANSKI:
WANTED AND DESIRED

DON'T MESS WITH HIS MALL



COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A HAPPY MADISON PRODUCTION "PAUL BLART: MALL COP" EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAYMA MAYS KEIR O'DONNELL BOBBY CANNAVALE STEPHEN RANNAZZISI AND SHIRLEY KNIGHT PRODUCED BY MICHAEL DILBECK WRITTEN BY WADDY WACHTEL DIRECTED BY WADDY WACHTEL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JEFF SUSSMAN WRITTEN BY KEVIN JAMES & NICK BAKAY PRODUCED BY ADAM SANDLER JACK GIARRAPUTO TODD GARNER KEVIN JAMES BARRY BERNARDI

HAPPY MADISON PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED (SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN) SOME VIOLENCE, MILD CRUDE AND SUGGESTIVE HUMOR AND LANGUAGE PaulBlartMallCop.com DIRECTED BY STEVE CARR

NOW PLAYING
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

showtimes

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy **Quote-Along:** Wed, 9:25pm
Cinema Cocktails: Barfly: Mon-Tue, 7:45pm; Wed, 4:30, 7:00
Weird Wednesday: The Black Six, 12mid
Master Pancake: The Matrix: Fri-Sat, 7:40, 10:35
Terror Tuesday: Mausoleum: Tue, 10:30pm
Moulin Rouge Sing-Along: Thu (2/5), 7:00pm
Pop Princess Sing-Along: Thu (2/5), 10:25pm
TV at the Alamo: Puppy Bowl: Sun, 3:00pm
Music Monday: Such Hawks, Such Hounds: Mon, 10:15pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009: Sun, 10:00pm
The Wrestler: Fri, 4:01, 5:04, 7:03, 9:40; Sat, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sun, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Tue, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 9:40; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:15, 7:00, 9:40

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:45, 10:40pm; Sun, 11:00am, 3:00pm; Mon-Wed, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:45, 10:40pm; Thu (2/5), 11:00am, 3:00, 6:45pm
Defiance: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30; Sun, 12:00, 3:15, Mon, 12:00, 10:30; Tue, 12:00, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30; Wed, 12:00, 3:15, 10:30; Thu (2/5), 12:00, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30
Gran Torino: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10; Sun, 12:30, 3:40; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 8:00pm
TV at the Alamo: Lost: Wed, 7:00pm
***Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri-Sat, 12:20, 3:30, 7:30, 10:35; Sun, 12:20, 3:30; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:20, 3:30, 7:30, 10:35
***Taken:** Fri, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:05, 3:05, 7:10, 10:00
TV at the Alamo: 24: Mon, 8:00pm
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 3:20, 6:50, 9:45; Sun, 12:15, 3:20; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:15, 3:20, 6:50, 9:45
***The Wrestler:** Fri-Sat, 12:10, 3:10, 7:25, 10:25; Sun, 12:10, 3:10; Mon, 12:10, 3:10, 10:25; Tue-Thu (2/5), 12:10, 3:10, 7:25, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

Kids Club: The Adventures of Baron Munchausen: Sat, 10:00pm
Che: Part One: Fri, 7:35pm; Sat, 4:35, 7:35; Sun, 11:00am, 4:35, 7:35pm; Mon, 4:35, 7:35; Tue, 7:35pm; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:35, 7:35
Che: Part Two: Fri, 7:00, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 1:40, 10:35; Mon-Thu (2/5), 10:35pm
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 2:55, 7:00, 10:30; Mon, 7:00, 10:30; Tue, 2:55, 10:30; Wed-Thu (2/5), 7:00, 10:30
Defiance: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:05, 10:00; Mon, 3:45, 7:05, 10:00; Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 10:00; Wed, 3:45, 10:00; Thu (2/5), 3:45, 7:05, 10:00
Doubt: Fri-Sun, 12:10pm; Mon, 4:00pm; Tue, 12:10pm; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:00pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10; Tue, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
AES: Phantom of the Paradise: Tue, 7:00pm
Revolutionary Road: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05; Tue, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05pm; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40; Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40pm; Wed-Thu (2/5), 10:40, 7:40, 10:40

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

TV @ the Alamo: Battlerist Galactica: Fri, 12mid
TV @ the Alamo: Gossip: Mon, 7:15pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20pm; Mon, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Tue, 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:15, 7:25, 10:20
TV at the Alamo: Heroes: Mon, 9:30pm
Let the Right One In: Fri-Sun, 9:45pm; Thu (2/5), 9:45pm
TV @ the Alamo: Lost: Wed, 9:30pm
Marley & Me: Fri-Sun, 1:45, 4:30; Mon, 4:30pm; Tue, 1:45, 4:30; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009: Tue, 10:00pm
Taken: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30; Tue, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
The Earth Stood Still: Fri-Sun, 7:20pm; Tue-Thu (2/5), 7:20pm
The Wrestler: Fri-Sun, 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50; Tue, 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50; Wed-Thu (2/5), 4:05, 7:05, 9:50

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays.

Austin Jewish Film Festival: Fri
Doubt: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm
Frost/Nixon: 12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50
Milk: 12:00, 2:50, 7:00, 10:05
Rachel Getting Married: 1:00, 10:15
The Reader: 12:10, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40
Revolutionary Road: 12:50, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
Slumdog Millionaire: 12:30, 3:20, 4:20, 6:40, 7:30, 9:45
The Wrestler: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.

Bride Wars: 4:55, 7:10, 9:25
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:30, 5:00, 8:30pm; Sun-Thu (2/5), 1:30, 5:00, 8:30
Defiance: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00
Frost/Nixon: 1:50, 7:15
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
Hotel for Dogs: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
Sensory Friendly: Hotel for Dogs: Sat, 10:00am
Inkheart: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Sun-Thu (2/5), 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
Marley & Me: Fri-Sat, 11:35am, 2:15pm; Sun-Thu (2/5), 2:15pm
New in Town: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:05, 4:25, 7:45, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:05, 4:25, 7:45, 10:05
Notorious: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 4:35, 10:35pm; Sun-Thu (2/5), 4:35, 10:35
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20pm; Mon-Wed, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20; Thu (2/5), 1:30, 3:15
Revolutionary Road: Fri, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30pm; Sat, 1:55, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30; Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:55, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:25
Taken: Fri-Sun, 10:55am, 1:10, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:10, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:25
The Uninvited: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 1:45, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:45, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.

Bedtime Stories: Sat-Wed, 12:40pm
Bride Wars: Fri, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20; Sat-Tue, 12:20, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20; Wed, 12:20, 2:40, 10:20; Thu (2/5), 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 9:10pm
Defiance: 3:20, 6:30, 9:50
Gran Torino: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; Sat-Wed, 11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Thu (2/5), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
Hotel for Dogs: Fri, 1:40, 4:05, 6:40; Sat-Tue, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:40pm; Thu (2/5), 1:40, 4:05, 6:40
***Inkheart:** Fri, 1:35, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Wed, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05pm; Thu (2/5), 1:35, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
***Last Chance Harvey:** Fri, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30pm; Sat-Wed, 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30; Thu (2/5), 11:20am, 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30pm
***New in Town:** Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Wed, 12:10, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Thu (2/5), 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Metropolitan Opera: Encore: Orfeo ed Euridice: Wed, 7:00pm
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Wed, 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00; Thu (2/5), 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00
***Slumdog Millionaire:** 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:30
***Taken:** Fri, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40; Sat-Wed, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40; Thu (2/5), 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Wed, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20pm; Thu (2/5), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
***The Uninvited:** Fri, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Wed, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm; Thu (2/5), 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.

Bride Wars: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 9:40pm
Defiance: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:35; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:20, 6:30, 9:35
***Frost/Nixon:** 10:10pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 12:55, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:55, 7:00, 10:05
Hotel for Dogs: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:10, 4:45, 7:15
***Inkheart:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:05, 4:40, 7:30
Last Chance Harvey: Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00
***Milk:** Fri, 12:40, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Fri-Sat, 12:40, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Tue, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Tue-Wed, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Wed-Thu (2/5), 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Thu (2/5), 3:45, 7:10, 10:15
Metropolitan Opera: Encore: Orfeo ed Euridice: Wed, 7:00pm
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
***Revolutionary Road:** Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:10, 6:35, 9:20; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:10, 6:35, 9:20
***Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:35, 6:45, 9:45; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:35, 6:45, 9:45
***Taken:** Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05
***The Uninvited:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.

Australia: Fri, 6:30pm; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 6:30; Mon-Thu (2/5), 6:30pm
Beverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
Cadillac Records: 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55
The Day the Earth Stood Still: 2:00, 4:30, 7:40, 10:05
Four Christmases: Fri, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Quantum of Solace: 3:50, 10:00
The Tale of Despereaux: Fri, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Transporter 3: 1:55, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

Bride Wars: Fri, 1:15, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:15, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:15, 3:45, 6:30, 9:00
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 3:20, 8:05; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 3:20, 8:05pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:20, 8:05
Defiance: 9:10pm
***Doubt:** 12:50, 6:50
Gran Torino: Fri, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25
Hotel for Dogs: Fri, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:45, 3:30, 6:40
***Inkheart:** Fri, 1:20, 4:35, 7:25; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:20, 4:35, 7:25pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:20, 4:35, 7:25
***Last Chance Harvey:** Fri, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
***My Bloody Valentine 3D:** Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:35
***New in Town:** Fri, 1:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 1:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
***Slumdog Millionaire:** Fri, 12:40, 3:50, 7:15, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 12:40, 3:50, 7:15, 10:10; Mon-Thu (2/5), 12:40, 3:50, 7:15, 10:10
***Taken:** Fri, 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
Twilight: Fri, 3:40, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 3:40, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 3:40, 9:30
The Uninvited: 10:00pm
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20
***The Uninvited:** Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (2/5), 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

Bride Wars: Fri-Tue, 12:45, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30; Wed, 12:45, 3:15, 10:30; Thu (2/5), 12:45, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 9:15pm
Defiance: 9:30pm
***Doubt:** 1:25, 3:55, 6:40
Gran Torino: 12:50, 3:50, 6:45, 9:50
Hotel for Dogs: 1:05, 3:45, 6:30
***My Bloody Valentine 3D:** 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
***Inkheart:** 12:55, 3:35, 6:35
***New in Town:** 1:20, 4:05, 6:55, 9:25
Metropolitan Opera: Encore: Orfeo ed Euridice: Wed, 7:00pm
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 10:00
***The Reader:** 1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:20
***Revolutionary Road:** 1:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25
***Slumdog Millionaire:** 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05
Sword of the Stranger: Thu (2/5), 7:30pm
***Taken:** 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45
***Underworld: Rise of the Lycans:** 1:30, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
***The Uninvited:** 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20

CITY LIGHTS THEATRE 420 Wolf Ranch Parkway, 512/868-9922.

Austin Jewish Film Festival: Fri

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.

Che: Part One: Fri, 6:50pm; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 6:50; Mon-Thu (2/5), 6:50pm
Che: Part Two: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (2/5), 9:50pm
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 6:45pm; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 6:45; Mon-Thu (2/5), 6:45pm
Rachel Getting Married: Fri, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thu (2/5), 7:10, 9:30
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (2/5), 7:00, 9:40
Synecdoche, New York: Fri-Sun, 4:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (2/5), 10:00pm

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.

Frost/Nixon: Fri-Sat, 3:30, 7:00, 11:55; Sun-Thu (2/5), 3:30, 7:00
Gran Torino: Fri-Sat, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; Sun-Thu (2/5), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
Inkheart: Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 11:50; Sun-Thu (2/5), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
My Bloody Valentine 3D: Fri-Sat, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12mid; Tue-Thu (2/5), 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
New in Town: Fri-Sat, 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30, 12mid; Sun-Thu (2/5), 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30
Notorious: Fri-Sat, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, 12mid; Sun-Thu (2/5), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20, 11:40; Sun-Thu (2/5), 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
Taken: Fri-Sat, 12:20, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10, 11:35; Sun-Thu (2/5), 12:20, 2:35, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10
The Unborn: 12:10, 4:40, 9:20
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans: Fri-Sat, 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:35; Sun-Thu (2/5), 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10
Underworld: Fri-Sat, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:25; Sun-Thu (2/5), 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700-8308. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.

Bride Wars: 11:50am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:15, 9:35pm
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:35am, 3:05, 6:30, 9:55pm
Defiance: 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
Gran Torino: 11:30am, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40pm
Hotel for Dogs: Fri, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25; Sat, 12:05, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25; Sun, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, Mon, 2:25, 4:45, 9:25; Tue-Thu (2/

Tulia, Texas

Tulia, Texas (2008) D: Cassandra Herrman and Kelly Whalen. (NR, 56 min.) This documentary, which screened at SXSW 08, explores the truth behind this town's notorious arrest in 1999 of 46 people for selling cocaine – nearly all of them African-American. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Nate Blakeslee, author of *Tulia: Race, Cocaine, and Corruption in a Small Texas Town*. @Mexican American Cultural Center, Thursday (1/29), 7pm; free.



DEFIANCE D: Edward Zwick; with Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos, Allan Corduner, Mark Feuerstein, Tomas Arana, Jodhi May. (R, 137 min.)

Defiance is the true story of the Bielski family, three Jewish brothers who, in 1941, escaped into the forest of their native Belarus to elude capture by the Nazis, set up a small ad hoc village, and ended up saving more than 1,200 Jewish lives through daring rescue raids and armed resistance. The story, in other words, is pure Hollywood gold, full of opportunities for stirring speeches, ethical quandaries, lessons about tolerance and humanity, and violence against Nazis. Zwick (*Glory, Blood Diamond*) has spent his entire career struggling to find the balance between opposing impulses – the sentimentalist's desire for emotional-historical heft and the artist's fascination with conflicted humanity – a struggle that's all over *Defiance*. Standing in for the first impulse is composer James Newton Howard, who never met a tender moment he didn't want to choke to death, but representing the second, thankfully, are Craig and Schreiber, who are more interested in psychological ambivalence than unblemished heroism. (01/16/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

DOUBT D: John Patrick Shanley; with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, Joseph Foster II. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Shanley adapted his Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play, *Doubt*, for the movies and also chose to direct the film. The cast he gathered is peerless, but unfortunately, the actors don't all behave as though they're performing in the same movie. A collection of acting styles, from the broad to the contained and the exacting to the unrestrained, creates an unevenness of tone and interpretation. Streep plays Sister Aloysius, the unwavering principal of the St. Nicholas school, into whose dominion comes the new young priest, Father Flynn (Hoffman). The ensuing struggle between the two over morality and power carries with it all the baggage of Catholic tradition and hierarchy as well as the period's secular strife between men and women. It's a cerebral tug-of-war for the viewer, a struggle that's made only more opaque with the film's closing line of dia-



Amadeus: Director's Cut

Amadeus: Director's Cut (2002) D: Milos Forman; with F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce, Elizabeth Berridge, Simon Callow, Jeffrey Jones. (R, 180 min.) Celebrating Oscar: The Best of the Best Pictures of the Year. Forman's intelligent biopic pits forgotten composer Salieri (Abraham) against the boy genius Mozart (Hulce). Discussion will follow. @Wells Branch Community Library, Saturday, 7pm; free.

logue. Meanwhile, storms suddenly stir up outside, and lightbulbs repeatedly burst in Shanley's effort to cinematically underline the pent-up emotions within. (12/26/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown South

FROST/NIXON D: Ron Howard; with Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Matthew Macfadyen, Rebecca Hall. (R, 122 min.)

Frost/Nixon is a behind-the-scenes account of the momentous interviews with Richard Nixon conducted by British TV personality David Frost in 1977, three years after the former president had resigned from office in disgrace. The film is adapted for the screen by Peter Morgan from his play and stars the play's two leads: Langella (who also won a Tony for this role) as Nixon and Sheen as Frost. Almost by definition, *Frost/Nixon* is a two-handed work, a psychological boxing match between the two protagonists, and Langella and Sheen, the actors, are evenly matched. Each man also counts a few coaches and assistants in his corner, making the taped interviews seem all the more like a prizefight. *Frost/Nixon*, like Morgan's *The Queen*, is at its best when it's examining the fragile intersection of media and politics. On its own, however, I'm not sure that this story of Frost's chutzpah and Nixon's intractability is inherently that gripping. (12/26/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

GRAN TORINO D: Clint Eastwood; with Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang, Ahney Her, Christopher Carley, John Carroll Lynch. (R, 116 min.)

Nick Schenk's *Gran Torino* screenplay wasn't written with Eastwood in mind as the film's star and director, but you'd never guess that was the case, so comfortably does the film fit the lauded filmmaker and icon's public persona and body of work. Eastwood's performance as Walt Kowalski perfectly caps his long career as an actor. As director, Eastwood's usual economical yet efficacious style marks the film, but it is his performance that is really the heart of this show. Still lithe and taut in his movement, Eastwood nevertheless allows his aging body to sag in places and fail him on occasion. Eastwood also finds the humorous aspects of the character – heard often in the instinctive growl the character directs toward all annoyances, be they his own money-grubbing family members, gangbangers, or the neighborhood priest. Eastwood plans to go on making more movies, but it's doubtful any will be as satisfying a career culmination as *Gran Torino*. (01/09/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ 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, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

HOTEL FOR DOGS D: Thor Freudenthal; with Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon, Don Cheadle, Johnny Simmons, Troy Gentile, Robinne Lee. (PG, 100 min.)

Hotel for Dogs is a family-friendly operation. A couple of kids – orphans, no less – covertly maintain their family dog, Friday, as they move from one uncaring foster home to the next

after “losing” their parents. Currently, Andi (Nancy Drew's Roberts) and Bruce (Austin of *Wizards of Waverly Place*) reside with the untalented rock musicians Lois (Kudrow) and Carl (Dillon), who've taken in the kids only for the support checks that come with them. Cheadle plays the well-meaning social worker tasked with the near-impossible job of placing the brother and sister, who are unwilling to be separated. Apart from the portrait of the evil rock & rollers, *Hotel for Dogs* is a decent family film, sure to please animal-loving kids and their parents alike. Well-acted, the movie also looks good and is stocked with lots of goofy gadgetry. Bruce is a kid inventor who outfits their dog hotel with all sorts of mechanical contrivances worthy of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*. (01/23/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

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

INKHEART D: Iain Softley; with Brendan Fraser, Eliza Bennett, Paul Bettany, Helen Mirren, Andy Serkis, Jim Broadbent, Sienna Guillory. (PG, 106 min.)

Softley has delivered a rollicking, overstuffed, but enormously entertaining adaptation of German author Cornelia Funke's fantasy adventure *Inkheart*. The story revolves around a family of humans who unknowingly have the power to bring to life the characters in the books they read aloud. This brings inadvertent disaster to the Folchart family when antiquarian book doctor Mo (Fraser) reads the titular novel to his wife (Guillory) and baby daughter (Bennett). For every character that is read into our world, a human being is sucked into the world of the book, and thus *Resa* vanishes, replaced by the grinningly evil Capricorn (Serkis) and his thuggish, illiterate minions. Along the way, Helen Mirren, a unicorn, L. Frank Baum's flying monkeys, and a minotaur arrive, vying for viewer attention. Softley imbues the world of *Inkheart* with just the right amount of fantastic detail, but the most resonant and, frankly, wonderful aspect of the film is its unabashed love for books and the wonders to be found within. (01/23/2009) – 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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THE WRESTLER
(12:10 3:10)
7:25 10:25

MATINEE SHOWTIMES WILL CHANGE 2/2

UNDERWORLD
(12:15 3:20)
6:50 9:45

slumdog millionaire
(12:20 3:30)
7:30 10:35

The Curious Case of BENJAMIN BUTTON
(11:00 3:00)
6:45 10:45

GRAN TORINO
(12:30 3:40)
7:00 10:10

DEFIANCE
(12:30 3:15)
7:05 10:30

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TAKEN (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10 11:35
Sun. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10

THE UNINVITED (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20 11:25
Sun. - Thu. 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20

NEW IN TOWN (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:20 9:30 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:20 9:30

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:50 2:55 5:00 7:05 9:10 11:35
Sun. - Thu. 12:50 2:55 5:00 7:05 9:10

INKHEART (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40 11:50
Sun. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

NOTORIOUS (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:35 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:35

PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20 11:40
Sun. - Thu. 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20

GRAN TORINO (R) Fri. & Sat. 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40

THE UNBORN (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 12:10 4:40 9:20

FROST/NIXON (R) Fri. & Sat. 3:30 7:00 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 3:30 7:00

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The Grocer's Son

The Grocer's Son (2007) D: Eric Guirado; with Nicolas Cazalé, Clotilde Hesme, Daniel Duval, Jeanne Goupil, Stéphan Guérin-Tillié. (NR, 96 min.) **Reel Independents.** In this French box-office hit, a man returns from the city to tend to his father's business in the countryside of Provence and has trouble fitting in. @St. John Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.



The Spanish Prisoner

The Spanish Prisoner (1997) D: David Mamet; with Campbell Scott, Rebecca Pidgeon, Steve Martin, Ben Gazzara, Ricky Jay, Felicity Huffman. (PG, 112 min.) **Harry Ransom Lectures.** Director, playwright, and writer David Mamet joins UT President William Powers Jr. for a screening and conversation about the film. (*) @Texas Union Theatre, Thursday (2/5), 7pm; free.



LAST CHANCE HARVEY D: Joel

Hopkins; with Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin, Richard Schiff. (PG-13, 99 min.)

There's about a 20-year age difference between Harvey (Hoffman) and Kate (Thompson), and he's a Yank, and she's a Brit, but otherwise, they are solidly middle-aged characters who meet and enjoy each other's company over the course of a day and then mutually grab on to what seems to each like a last chance for love. With its thin plot and its title character an American abroad in London, *Last Chance Harvey* comes across as something like a *Before Sunrise* for the less-than-nubile set. Were that writer/director Hopkins' dialogue and visualization as scintillating as Richard Linklater's is in his *Sunrise/Sunset* romances. Of course, the combined acting brilliance of Hoffman and Thompson could elevate the hoariest of clichés and turn almost anything they touch golden – and that is most often the case with *Last Chance Harvey*. These two prove a pleasure to watch in tandem, and their work is complemented by an outstanding supporting cast. (01/16/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan

MARLEY & ME D: David Frankel; with Owen

Wilson, Jennifer Aniston, Eric Dane, Kathleen Turner, Alan Arkin, Haley Bennett. (PG, 111 min.)

Be you a dog or cat person, you'll likely enjoy Frankel's adaptation of journalist John Grogan's best-selling account of life, love, deadlines, and death with the "world's worst dog," a yellow Labrador retriever named Marley. Never mind the frisky CGI superheroics of *Bolt* or the teary mawkishness of *Old Yeller* – Marley is into extinction-level household devastation, scandalous fecal shenanigans, and the terrorization of Kathleen Turner, all of which sound like great fun and indeed are. Wilson, seemingly fully recovered from whatever personal demons were tormenting him last year, plays Grogan with his usual battered charm, and Aniston, as his wife, Jennifer, is, well, Jennifer Aniston. Ostensibly a story about a mad, bad, dangerous-to-walk dog, *Marley & Me* has far more to say about the bonds that make up the modern American family. And Marley, the dog from hell, (wouldn't you know it) turns out to be nothing shy of a gift from heaven. (12/26/2008) – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan

MILK D: Gus Van Sant; with Sean Penn, Emile

Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco, Alison Pill, Victor Garber, Denis O'Hare. (R, 127 min.)

Van Sant's very fine biopic restricts itself to the last decade of Harvey Milk's life, when the semi-closeted insurance man living in New York moved to San Francisco's Castro district and embarked upon a historic campaign (four, in fact) to become the first openly gay man elected to public office. Technically, *Milk* is a knockout, and the film is terrifically acted, top to bottom. Still, when the focus of the script (by first-timer Dustin Lance Black) turns almost exclusively to the Proposition 6 fight and Milk's last days, the film loses much of its loose-limbedness. *Milk* is a more conventionally satisfying picture than Van Sant's previous *Aughties* output, which consisted of aggressively experimental films that didn't always work but got under the skin something fierce. The deeply heartfelt *Milk* is more of a surface skim: a fairly standard biopic – if a very fine one, indeed – but never the transcendent work we hoped for. (12/05/2008) – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★ Arbor, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D

D: Patrick Lussier; with Jensen Ackles, Jaime King, Kerr Smith, Betsy Rue, Tom Atkins, Kevin Tighe, Megan Boone. (R, 101 min.)

If you've ever wanted to see a tiny motel owner smashed through her mandible and impaled on a ceiling by a miner's pickax, this is the movie for you. It's also the movie for you if you're just dying to watch a sexy blonde's head sliced in two – slooowly, oh so slooowly – by a razor-edged shovel. Did I mention the wealth of anatomically correct eyeball trauma? No? Well, this is a way-above-average remake of George Mihalka's plodding 1981 splatter film. As one retro slasher fan to another, I kid you not: *My Bloody Valentine 3D* earns every bloody drop of its hard "R" rating and does so with an eye – heh, heh – toward resurrecting the moribund Eighties-style slash 'n' splash teen slaughter picture with precious little irony or *Scream*-esque, self-effacing commentary. It's just guts, guts, guts (and attendant blunt trauma) from the get-goo to the final shot, all of it presented in fully immersive, well-choreographed 3-D. (01/23/2009) – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

NOT EASILY BROKEN D: Bill Duke; with

Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson, Maeve Quinlan, Kevin Hart, Wood Harris, Eddie Cibrian, Jenifer Lewis, Niecy Nash. (PG-13, 99 min.)

In its opening scene, *Not Easily Broken*, based on a novel by megachurch pastor T.D. Jakes, threatens to be a message film, with the overtly religious theme spoken by the minister at the wedding of Dave (Chestnut) and Clarice (Henson): God, says the clergyman, must be the third partner in a marriage. Struggling contractor Dave and high-end real estate agent Clarice's marriage grows increasingly troubled, which is demonstrated by Clarice's growing unpleasantness. With thin plotting and events pulled from everyday fare, the film feels like an acquaintance taking a little too long to tell you about the problems in his life. When the film gets past these tiresome scenes, it loosens up into something pleasant. Sweet humor permeates the camaraderie between Dave and his buddies (Cibrian and Hart), and Clarice becomes human when gabbing with her friend Michelle (Nash). The mostly black cast rises above the script's clunky passages. (01/16/2009) – *Theresa Everline*
★★ Millennium

NOTORIOUS D: George Tillman Jr.; with Jamal

Woolard, Angela Bassett, Derek Luke, Anthony Mackie, Antonique Smith, Natori Naughton, Kevin Phillips, Dennis L.A. White, Marc John Jefferies, Julia Pace Mitchell. (R, 123 min.)

In *Notorious*, the life of hip-hop artist Christopher Wallace, aka Notorious B.I.G. or Biggie Smalls, assumes the shape of the standard biopic formula. The well-known hallmarks of this rapper's life are all here: his attentive upbringing in Brooklyn by his single mom, the lure of the streets and the fast cash of the drug trade, the stint in jail, the women, the fresh sound of his rhymes, the transformative hookup with producer Sean Combs (aka Puff Daddy, P Diddy, et al.), and the friendship and falling out with West Coast hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur (who was murdered six months prior to Wallace). Director Tillman is unable to tease out much more nuance or shading from this highlight reel, whose events are already well-known to the public. Still, the performances are vibrant and capture a sense of the individuals behind them. As Wallace, Woolard proves an excellent study. (01/16/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

PAUL BLART: MALL COP D: Steve

Carr; with Kevin James, Jayma Mays, Shirley Knight, Raini Rodriguez, Keir O'Donnell, Stephen Rannazzisi, Bobby Cannavale, Peter Gerety, Adam Ferrara. (PG, 87 min.)

With this film comedian James graduates from second banana to leading man. From the premise onward, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop* revels in fat jokes and the gunless impotency of mall security guards. The movie presumes the image of a fat mall cop patrolling his cathedral of commerce on a little Segway to be endlessly hilarious. Give the character a goofy name like Blart and a dopey-looking mustache, and what more does a movie need to do to hit a home run? The film provides James with ample opportunity for knockabout physical humor, at which the comedian appears reasonably adept yet hardly capable of the surprising gracefulness of a fat comic master such as Jackie Gleason. The plot has Blart proving his mettle when robbers hijack the mall and he becomes the city cops' eyes and ears on the inside. Director Carr adds nothing to the overall mix with his rudimentary point-and-shoot visual strategy. (01/23/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eyed, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father, Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spotlight. (10/31/2008) – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★ Arbor, Dobie

THE READER D: Stephen Daldry; with Ralph

Fiennes, Kate Winslet, David Kross, Bruno Ganz, Lena Olin. (R, 123 min.)

The question at the heart of *The Reader* is what have we learned (and forgotten) from history's bloody backwash? Luckily for *The Reader*, the angelic Ganz, as a sage professor of law, is on hand to nudge the question of wartime culpability to the fore. But that's not what's most remarkable about *The Reader*, it's just what's most intellectually chewy. The real red meat of Daldry's film is the May-December romance between a weary-looking, sexually rapacious streetcar ticket-taker (Winslet, shockingly good throughout) in postwar Berlin and the sickly young schoolboy (an enthusiastic, excellent Kross) on whom she initially takes pity and then seduces, ravenously and to his great delight. One day she's gone, with no explanation, and the boy grows into a promising young law student and, later, into a sorrowful-seeming Ralph Fiennes. Daldry, working from a superior script by David Hare, has crafted a film about guilt, love, and history and how the three skins create human beings or, alternately, human monsters. (12/26/2008) – *Marc Savlov*
★★★ Arbor, Southpark Meadows

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD D: Sam

Mendes; with Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kathy Bates, Michael Shannon, Kathryn Hahn, David Harbour, Dylan Baker, Zoe Kazan, Richard Easton. (R, 119 min.)

I suppose you could call *Revolutionary Road* a movie about the killing effects of the suburbs – something director Mendes previously explored in his debut film, *American Beauty* – but that would be a facile reduction of a film that aims, far more cuttingly, to sandblast the myth of "specialness" – that very American idea that we are all destined for greatness. A seductive opening scene introduces Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet), before they've married and moved to Revolutionary Road. The film then cuts to a half-decade later: The Wheelers are expert brawlers by now, both of them chafing at the expectations of their gender roles. There's an airlessness to Mendes' picture that doesn't leave much room for error. One slight bobble from the (admittedly very good) leads, and the illusion crumbles. Not a bobble in sight, though, from bit player Shannon, who steals the whole picture in two short, shattering scenes. (01/09/2009) – *Kimberley Jones*
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



New in Town

Sword of the Stranger

Sword of the Stranger (2007) D: Masahiro Andô; with the voices of Yûki Chinen, Tomoya Nagase, Akio Ôtsuka. (NR, 125 min.) **NCM Fathom.** In this animated epic, a samurai with no name befriends a boy and his dog, who are hunted by the Mings of China. @Tinseltown North, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Thursday (2/5), 7:30pm; \$12.50.



SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE D: Danny Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

Slumdog Millionaire is a mad, thrilling, and pervasively luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. (12/12/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK

D: Charlie Kaufman; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Samantha Morton, Catherine Keener, Michelle Williams, Emily Watson, Dianne Wiest, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Hope Davis, Tom Noonan. (R, 124 min.)

Screenwriter Kaufman's first venture as a director is audacious, ambitious, amazing. It's also intricate, self-referencing, and all-encompassing. Kaufman creates an alternate reality, a reality as elaborate and purposeful as any fantasy film yet as grounded, detailed, and recognizable as life as we know it to be. *Synecdoche, New York* is anchored by the always remarkable Hoffman as theatre director Caden Cotard, whose marriage, relationships, home, and health are all seemingly crumbling. Cotard wants to create a great work of art, something that will outlast him and quell his anxieties about separation, inadequacy, decay, and mortality. Time is both concentrated and elongated in the movie; continuity becomes confused; chronology goes haywire, caught between stasis and anti-stasis. All the while, Cotard is trapped by disappointment and an inability to move beyond this rehearsal of his life. The absurdity grows, and so does the film's humor. It is, ultimately, a modern masterpiece. (11/14/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★★ Dobie

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

D: Sam Fell, Rob Stevenhagen; with the voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, William H. Macy, Stanley Tucci, Ciarán Hinds, Robbie Coltrane, Tony Hale, Frances Conroy, Frank Langella, Richard Jenkins, Christopher Lloyd, Bronson Pinchot. (G, 93 min.)

The lesson learned from *The Tale of Despereaux* is that an overabundance of vocal talent does not a good cartoon make. Adapted for the screen by *Pleasantville* and *Seabiscuit* director Gary Ross from the 2004 Newberry Medal-winning novel by Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux* adds up to much less than the sum of its parts. The animation looks decent enough, but the narrative is a choppy story that bobs among human characters in the human kingdom of Dor, where soup seems to be its inhabit-

ants' main preoccupation, and the rodent residents of the separate municipalities of Mouseworld and Ratworld. The movie becomes so intent on introducing characters and revealing the dark chambers of the Ratworld dungeon (enough so that the "G" rating should be called into question) that it loses many of the book's messages about individuality and valor. Most crippling is the narration by Weaver, which lades out platitudes by the heaping spoonful. (12/19/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Movies 8, Tinseltown South

TIMECRIMES D: Nacho Vigalondo; with Nacho Vigalondo, Karra Elejalde, Candela Fernández, Bárbara Goenaga, Juan Inciarte. (R, 89 min., subtitled)

Timecrimes is a tremendously entertaining bit of Kafka that whirlpools down into *The Twilight Zone*. Spanish director Vigalondo's first feature film is an enigmatic, interlocked series of increasingly inevitable torments for its protagonist and one helluva blast to watch. Predicated on the same sort of trippy, circular logic beloved by conspiracy theorists and collegiate stoners alike, it's a time-travel head-trip of a film, and it succeeds in messing with your mind almost as much as it does with those of its own characters. Fair warning, hippie: Do not drop acid before seeing this film. *Timecrimes* has nabbed a spate of awards, among them the Next Wave award at 2007's Fantastic Fest. It's easy to see why: Vigalondo's triple command of surreal compositions, nerve-raping suspense, and the ability to draw out scarily emotional performances from a cast that includes, in a major role, himself is unassailable. (01/16/2009) - Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

THE UNBORN D: David S. Goyer; with Odette Yustman, Gary Oldman, Cam Gigandet, Idris Elba, Meagan Good, Jane Alexander, Atticus Shaffer, James Remar, Carla Gugino. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Nearly all the dread in this otherwise dreadfully dull film stems from visual effects - some CGI but some better ones, including something ghastly with way too many teeth that comes courtesy of the always-alarming effects creator Greg Nicotero. Goyer, who's better liked for his screenplays (*Batman Begins*, *Blade II*) than his directorial forays (*Blade: Trinity*, *The Invisible*), has the seed of a great horror film lodged somewhere in here, but it never makes it past the fetal stage. *The Unborn* ends with Oldman, as a rabbi, performing an exorcism of such stupefying ridiculousness that it qualifies, two weeks into the new year, as the best extended comedy bit of 2009. Prior to this conclusion, the film tells the story of Yustman's Casey Beldon, a willow college student haunted by the suicide of her mother and the specter of a hollow-eyed little boy who turns up, uninvited, in her dreams, her mirrors, and, strangely, her medicine cabinet. (01/16/2009) - Marc Savlov

★ CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

VALKYRIE D: Bryan Singer; with Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Eddie Izzard. (PG-13, 110 min.)

We all know how it ends, and that foreknowledge dooms Singer's hotly anticipated and much troubled account of the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life by his own officers in July 1944. It's always good to see Hitler threatened or Nazis getting what's coming to them - just ask Indiana Jones - but Cruise, strident, glaring, and positively burbling over with blood and honor and love of Germany's

perverted promise, makes for a problematic closet hero. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, one of a handful of officers who together plan a suitcase-bomb attack to be carried out at the Wolf's Lair retreat, is fitfully dour. There's more honest suspense in waiting for him to crack a smile (he doesn't, or at least not the famous Cruise version) during all the scheming than there is in anything having to do with the actual assassination attempt. Director Singer, however, pays scrupulous attention to period detail and the mechanics of desperation. (12/26/2008) - Marc Savlov

★★ Gateway, Tinseltown South

THE WRESTLER D: Darren Aronofsky; with Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood, Mark Margolis, Todd Barry, Wass Stevens, Judah Friedlander, Ernest Miller. (R, 109 min.)

In the latest from Aronofsky, Rourke rips his tattered name out from the dustbin of history with his portrayal of Randy "the Ram" Robinson, an aging professional wrestler (and fellow dustbin inhabitant). Those looking for a grand discourse on the suffering nobility of the aging pseudo-athlete in modern, youth-obsessed America will probably go away disappointed. Aronofsky and screenwriter Robert Siegel are less interested in tragedy than they are the intimacy that develops between men engaged in close-contact battle and the contrivances needed to make that contact look as "real" as possible. Together they create innumerable fascinating moments that have the air of documentary truth. But let's be honest: The story of the waning athlete, the stripper he loves, and the daughter he left behind is an old one, and if *The Wrestler* is ever in danger of slipping into sentimentality, it's here. Thankfully, whenever the risk of cliché arises, Aronofsky takes us back into the ring. (01/09/2009) - Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

also playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

AUSTRALIA ★★ Movies 8

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

★★ Movies 8

FOUR CHRISTMASSES ★ Movies 8

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA

★★★ Movies 8

QUANTUM OF SOLACE ★★★★★ Movies 8

TRANSPORTER 3 ★★ Movies 8

TWILIGHT ★ CM Round Rock, Metropolitan

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

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TAKEN

Liam Neeson is an unstoppable force in this adrenaline-fueled thriller from director Pierre Morel

Opens Friday at the Village



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Sun, Feb 1 at the Ritz



CINEMA COCKTAILS BARFLY

Join us for drinks and watch Rourke as the Bukowski-esque, Henry Chinaski. Keep up if you can!

Mon-Wed (Feb 2-4) at the Ritz



THE MOULIN ROUGE SING-ALONG

This is the first year ever that we'll be able to serve absinthe during the movie. The green fairy will get us all!

Thurs, Feb 5 at the Ritz

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SAT, JAN 31	THE WRESTLER MASTER PANCAKE: THE MATRIX	130	230	400	500
SUN, FEB 1	THE WRESTLER PUPPY BOWL 2009!!! THE BIG GAME SUPER HAPPY FUN MONKEY BASH	130	400	700	940
MON, FEB 2	THE WRESTLER CINEMA COCKTAILS: BARFLY MUSIC MON: SUCH HAWKS, SUCH HOUNDS	415	515	700	940
TUES, FEB 3	THE WRESTLER CINEMA COCKTAILS: BARFLY TERROR TUES: MAUSOLEUM	415	515	700	940
WEDS, FEB 4	THE WRESTLER CINEMA COCKTAILS: BARFLY ANCHORMAN QUOTE-ALONG WEIRD WEDS: THE BLACK SIX	415	700	940	1020
THU, FEB 5	THE WRESTLER MOULIN ROUGE SING-ALONG THE POP PRINCESS SING-ALONG	415	700	940	1025

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REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	1100*	135*	420	710	1005
CHE: PART ONE	1100*	435*	735		
CHE: PART TWO	140*	700*	1035		
DEFIANCE	1245*	345	705	1000	
DOUBT	1210*	400*			
CURIOUS CASE B. BUTTON		255	700	1030	
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN				1030	
AFS: PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE		700			(Tues)
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KIDS CLUB: ADV OF BARON MUNCH			NOON		(Sat)

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THE WRESTLER	110*	405	705	950		
MARLEY AND ME	145	430				
TIME CRIMES		720*				
LET THE RIGHT ONE IN						945*
TV PARTY: BATTLESTAR						MIDNIGHT (Fri)
ROCKY HORROR						MIDNIGHT (Sat)
TV PARTY: GOSSIP GIRL						715 (Mon)
TV PARTY: HEROES						930 (Mon)
SUPER MONKEY BASH						1000 (Tue)
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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



Barfly

THURSDAY 29

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004) D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell. (PG-13, 91 min.) @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 10pm; Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (2005) D: Shane Black; with Robert Downey Jr., Val Kilmer, Michelle Monaghan, Corbin Bernsen, Dash Mihok, Larry Miller, Angela Lindvall. (R, 103 min.) **Austin Film Festival: Conversations in Film.** Black's directorial debut is a trippy tribute to L.A. noir and a genre-busting attack on Hollywood pretensions. Following the film, writer/director Black, one of the AFF's most popular panelists, will discuss the film. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 7pm; \$12, \$10 for AFF members; tickets available at www.austinfilmfestival.myshopify.com.

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm.

SPACES

Tulia, Texas (2008) See p.71.

FRIDAY 30

Battlestar Galactica TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 12mid; Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 9pm.

The Matrix (1999) D: Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski; with Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving, Joe Pantoliano. (R, 139 min.) **Master Pancake Theater.** The Pancake funsters should have plenty to mock in this movie's blend of pop psychology, cyberpunk lore, and eye-popping visuals. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7:40, 10:35pm.

SPACES

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) D: Milos Forman; with Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher. (R, 133 min.) **Celebrating Oscar: The Best of the Best Pictures of the Year.** Oscar-sweeper, from the Ken Kesey novel. Discussion will follow. @Wells Branch Community Library, 7pm; free.

offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' 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, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Career-Building Classes From Austin School of Film An excellent slate of adult classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film. Also, you can become an **Apple Pro Certified Final Cut Pro** user. Tech up, cineastes. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; and the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (\$20 fee): Jan. 30. Deadline (\$40 fee): Feb. 12. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Latinasfest: Cinema 101 is an all-day media conference where girls (ages 8-14) can engage in script-writing, casting, production, and set design. Girls will be invited to write a contemporary piece on a Latina icon from history. See website for details and registration. Sat., Jan. 31, noon-5pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 322-9947. www.latinasmagazine.org.

Make Watch Love Movies: Austin Studios Re-Opening The Austin Film Society celebrates the re-opening of Austin Studios (now upgraded with full soundproofing and air-conditioning for two stages, improved security and safety, and state-of-the-art digital infrastructure) with a party and job fair, starting off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (just like in the movies!) and remarks by Brewster McCracken, Richard Linklater, and Rebecca Campbell. Fri., Jan. 30, 6-10pm. Austin Studios, 1901 E. 51st. 322-0145. www.austinfilm.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Registration All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. **Screenwriting Fundamentals Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, through Feb. 24. Screenwriting Master Class Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, through March 31.** \$450. Also, private instruction and story consultation packages, 7 hours of instruction, \$390. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 13 issue is Monday, Feb. 2.** 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 31

The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1989) D: Terry Gilliam; with John Neville, Eric Idle, Sarah Polley, Oliver Reed, Jonathan Pryce, Uma Thurman, Robin Williams, Sting. (PG, 126 min.) **Kids Club.** This visual extravaganza is spun from the wild-eyed visions of Terry Gilliam, with the help of a wonderfully comic cast. @Alamo Draffhouse South, noon; free.

Hotel for Dogs (sensory friendly) (2009) D: Thor Freudenthal; with Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Don Cheadle, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon. (PG, 100 min.) **Autism Society of America.** At these screenings, families affected by autism have a special opportunity to enjoy films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. The auditorium will have its lights brought up and the sound turned down. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and move about during the screening and to bring along special-diet snacks. For more details, see www.austinautismsociety.org. @Barton Creek Square, 10am; \$5.

The Matrix (1999) @Alamo Ritz, 7:40, 10:35pm. (See Fri., 1/30.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Amadeus: Director's Cut (2002) See p.71.

SUNDAY 01

Puppy Bowl TV at the Alamo. An Animal Planet favorite. @Alamo Ritz, 3pm; free.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009 (NR) A new volume of the Alamo's annual compilation of mind-boggling insanity and weirdness from Japanese television. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

MONDAY 02

Barfly (1987) D: Barbet Schroeder; with Mickey Rourke, Faye Dunaway, Alice Krige, Jack Nance. (R, 97 min.) **Cinema Cocktails.** Rourke and Dunaway deliver Charles Bukowski straight up and falling down. Rare 35mm screening. @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 7:45pm.

Gossip Girl TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 7:15pm.

Heroes TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 8pm; Alamo Draffhouse Village, 9:30pm.

Such Hawks, Such Hounds (2007) D: John Srebalus and Jessica Hundley. (NR, 81 min.) **Music Monday.** Rock documentary explores the music and musicians of the American hard rock underground from 1970 to 2007, emphasizing psychedelic and Seventies proto-metal styles. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

24 TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 8pm.

SPACES

Groundhog Day (1993) D: Harold Ramis; with Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott, Stephen Tobolowsky. (PG, 103 min.) **Spirituality in Movies.** Pastor Michael Coffey leads a discussion afterward on the film's themes. Free admission and popcorn. (*) @First English Lutheran Church, 6:30pm.

Man on Wire (2008) D: James Marsh. (PG-13, 90 min.) Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

Tell 'Em Who You Are: In Defense of Land and Family D: Michelle Garcia. **Senior Fellows of the UT College of Communication and the Center for Mexican American Studies.** Director Garcia, a 1996 graduate of the UT journalism program, will screen clips from her film in development about the embattled Tejano borderlands of South Texas. @Thompson Conference Center, 7pm; free.

TUESDAY 03

Barfly (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm. (See Mon., 2/2.)

Mausoleum (1983) D: Michael Dugan; with Bobbie Bresee, Marjoe Gortner, Norman Burton, Maurice Sherbanee, LaWanda Page. (R, 96 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** A girl inherits her mother's demons. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

Phantom of the Paradise (1974) D: Brian De Palma; with Paul Williams, William Finley, Gerrit Graham, Jessica Harper. (PG, 92 min.) **Austin Film Society: First Blood – The Early Films of Brian De Palma.** This cult favorite is a rock & roll retelling of *The Phantom of the Opera*. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse South, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free; reserve tickets online at www.austinfilm.org.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009 @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 10pm. (See Sun., 2/1.)

imax

All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live! (2001) D: Martyn Atkins. (NR, 65 min.) This behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of putting on a megaconcert combines candid moments backstage with musical performances by multi-Grammy-winning rock stars such as Santana, Sting, Sheryl Crow, the Dave Matthews Band, and appearances by Al Green, George Clinton, B.B. King, Moby, Rob Thomas, Mary J. Blige, Kid Rock, Macy Gray, the Roots, Trey Anastasio, and Cheb Mami. Thu. (1/29), 6pm; Fri., 5pm; Sat.-Sun., 3, 5pm; Mon.-Thu. (2/5), 6pm.

Beowulf: The IMAX Experience (2007) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, 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*. Fri.-Sat., 9:15pm.

Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk (2008) D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Robert Redford. (NR, 40 min.) The river at risk is the Colorado. Water-conservation advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. joins ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis and their 18-year-old daughters for a rafting trip down the river to the parched Colorado delta. Thu. (1/29)-Fri., noon, 3pm; Sat., 3pm; Mon.-Thu. (2/5), noon, 3pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (1/29), 10am, 1, 3pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am, 1pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (2/5), 10am, 1, 3pm.

The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (2008) D: Christopher Nolan; with Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Gary Oldman, Aaron Eckhardt, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman. (PG-13, 152 min.) Batman soars back onto the big screen, no doubt hoping to catch a tailwind to the Oscars. Thu. (1/29), 7:30pm; Fri.-Sun., 6:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (2/5), 7:30pm.

Wild Ocean 3D (2008) D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Thu. (1/29)-Fri., 11am, 2, 4pm; Sat., 11am, 2pm; Sun., 2pm; Mon.-Thu. (2/5), 11am, 2, 4pm.

WEDNESDAY **04**

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004)

@Alamo Ritz, 9:25pm. (See Thu., 1/29.)

Barfly (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 4:30, 7pm. (See Mon., 2/2.)

The Black Six (1974) D: Matt Cimber; with Gene Washington, Robert Howard, Carl Eller, Cynthia Daly, Mikel Angel, Lem Barney, Mercury Morris, Willie Lanier, Joe Greene. (R, 94 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A black biker gang avenges the beat down of a black boy who dates a white girl. The bikers are all played by real football jocks. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 9:30pm; Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Orfeo ed Euridice (2009) (NR, 91 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Encore Presentation.** With choreography by Mark Morris and costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, this Gluck opera features the artistry of Stephanie Blythe in the male title role and Danielle de Niese as Orfeo's adored wife, Euridice. Music Director James Levine conducts. @Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, 7pm.

SPACES

The Grocer's Son (2007) See p.72.

THURSDAY **05**

Moulin Rouge Sing-Along (2001)

D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. (PG-13, 127 min.) If Nicole can do it, so can you. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 10:25pm. (See Thu., 1/29.)

The Spanish Prisoner (1997) See p.72.

Sword of the Stranger (2007) See p.73.

festivals

Austin Jewish Film Festival The seventh annual festival offers an international selection of 28 films from 12 countries, many of which will screen with the directors in attendance. For more on the festival, see "Secular Cinema in the Holy Land," Jan. 23, and for a complete schedule and film descriptions, see www.austinjff.org. (*) Thu. (1/29)-Fri. @Arbor, City Lights Theatre (Georgetown), Texas Hillel, Garrison Hall (on the UT campus).

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UNDERWORLD

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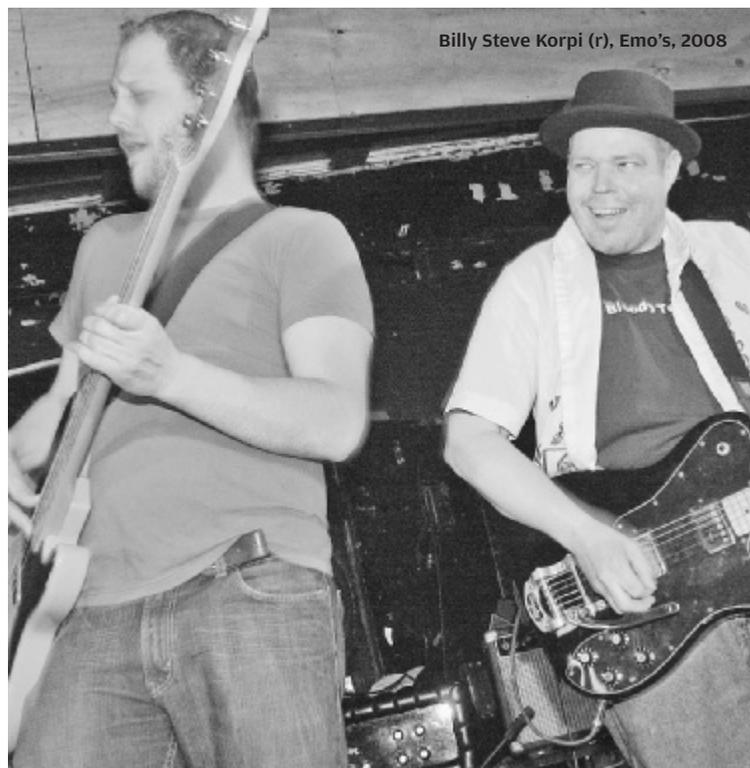
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music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings

What else is on? Tune in to austinchronicle.com/earacheBilly Steve Korpi (r), *Emo's*, 2008

JOHN ANDERSON

LOS CAMPESINOS!, TITUS ANDRONICUS

The Parish, Friday 30

There are few things more precious than sweater-clad Welsh youngsters singing spastic pop songs about the demise of the future. The prolific Los Campesinos! surprised all with the joyful call and response of second LP *We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed* (Arts & Crafts). All seven pseudo-siblings pluck heart and guitar strings to the tune of pure optimism. Jersey's Shakespeare-loving indie punks Titus Andronicus open with anthems from debut *The Airing of Grievances* (XL). — Darcie Stevens

M.O.D.

Room 710, Friday 30

Despite Method of Destruction's MySpace graphics recycling the Michael Schenker Group logo to perfect effect, Stormtroopers of Death (S.O.D.) local Billy Milano eschews 1980s artifice for a hardcore world-view executed with metallic muscle. Paired with 710 mainstays Superheavygoatass, whose new Arclight disc, *Nemesis*, pounds 1970s menace, M.O.D.'s mosh-pit bump and grind also bangs heads. Barry Whitesnake opens. — Raoul Hernandez

FUCKED UP

Emo's, Saturday 31

This could get uglier than lead throat Pink Eyes' hairy back. Never mind that Torontoan experimental hardcore sixpiece Fucked Up is playing *inside* Emo's. The small room sets up fat lips, but that taste of blood makes Fucked Up's political rants on second LP and 2008 Top 10 *The Chemistry of Common Life* (Matador) sound even more righteous. Oakland's Annihilation Time, hometown thrashers Iron Age, and Denton punks A.N.S. open. Outside, the Ape-Shits, Elvis, Red Leaves, and Dead Space stoke their own chemistry. — Darcie Stevens

TSOL

Red 7, Saturday 31

1980s Long Beach melodi-punk legends True Sounds of Liberty arrive in town just as the weathered Statue of Liberty herself returns from the shadows. Thirty years on, the charismatic core of duo Jack Grisham and Ron Emory remains the Damned's Dave Vanian and Captain Sensible of U.S. punk, blisteringly tight with style to burn. L.A.'s Black President and local hooligans Krum Bums open. — Marc Savlov

MV & EE WITH THE GOLDEN ROAD

Mohawk, Sunday 1

Who knows what Matt Valentine and Erika Elder ingested in their *Drone Trailer*, but the North Carolina duo's latest LP certainly levitates. The last half of album centerpiece "Weatherhead Hollow" channels Crazy Horse via reverbed waves of grain, Southern-spun and high as a giraffe's toupee. Local psych trio Woven Bones and King Coffey/Gerard Cosloy jet noise duo Air Traffic Controllers open. — Audra Schroeder

RUTHIE FOSTER CD RELEASE

Antone's, Tuesday 3

The Truth According to Ruthie Foster is the title of Foster's latest, a collection of soulful honesty, bluesy authenticity, and a style all her own. The truth, according to her, is just that: unvarnished and unadulterated music springing from deep within and bursting forth in a blaze of bang-up vocals and powerhouse performance. It comes naturally to Foster, and that's the truth, the whole *Truth*, and nothing but. — Margaret Moser

BEN MALLOTT

Continental Club, Wednesday 4

Since releasing his stellar 2008 country-soul debut, *Look Good, Feel Good*, Ben Mallott has been taking center stage around town. He steps up to the plate at the Continental Club with the soon-to-be-departed Dedringers tonight, and you can also check the LaMontagne-like crooner at the Cactus Cafe Saturday, Jan. 31, opening for Eliza Gilkyson, who also graces his album. Take your pick, but catch the local up-and-comer while you can. — Doug Freeman

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER **soundcheck**

WOOZYHELMET, RECORD HOP Club 1808, Friday 30

Snuggle up to the Eastside dive with local spaz pop and Denton's noise peddlers.

THE GOURDS CD RELEASE

Antone's, Friday 30

Haymaker! puts the Austin seed-spitters on the top of the stack.

SLACKERS DVD RELEASE

Flamingo Cantina, Friday 30 & Saturday 31

Live ska, on film and onstage.

CARNAVAL BRASILEIRO

Palmer Events Center, Saturday 31

Beleza Brazil and Acadêmicos da Ópera topple headdresses.

GOBLIN COCK

Red 7, Monday 2

Rob Crow's heavy shredders channel Spinal Tap's "Stonehenge."

DR. JOHN

One World Theatre, Wednesday 4

The good doctor brings Mardi Gras to Texas.

LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS

Emo's, Wednesday 4

Nashvillian gutbucket, with Duane Denison on guitar.

KEVIN COSTNER & THE MODERN WEST

Antone's, Thursday 5

Waterworld the musical.

live music venues p.78 ● roadshows + club listings p.80

The Crack Pipes CD Release

Beerland, Saturday 31

Gritty, get-down sounds abound Saturday as the Crack Pipes get the rare opportunity to headline a release party for their own tribute album.

Tia Carrera, Golden Arm Trio, Faceless Werewolves, and 10 more Austin acts reinterpreted the soul-powered garage rock quartet's catalog on *13 Crack Tracks* (Chicken Ranch), and the CD benefits Pipes guitarist Billy Steve Korpi, who has been battling acute lymphocytic leukemia without health insurance since 2007.

"Billy Steve is doing great and feeling great, but he isn't out of the woods yet," reports vocalist

Ray Pride, who also celebrates his birthday Saturday. "He still visits clinics on a regular basis to have blood work conducted and is monitored by physicians who are tracking the progress of his treatment." Adventurous spaghetti Western rockers the Transgressors, thwack-back punk primitives the Teeners, and psychedelic mind-candy merchants the Tunnels band together with the Pipes to help defray Korpi's medical bills. — Greg Beets

in-stores

Friday: **For Hours and Ours, Fashion Show,**the **Bubbles**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6:30pmSaturday: **T Bird & the Breaks**, Antone's RecordShop, 3pm; **Matt Devine**, End of an Ear, 6pmTuesday: **Ruthie Foster**, Waterloo Records, 5pmWednesday: **Ben Kweller**, Waterloo Records, 5pmThursday: **Ikkillcars**, Cheapo Discs, 5pm

L - R: FUCKED UP (SAT., 1/31) | MV & EE (SUN., 2/1) | RUTHIE FOSTER (TUE., 2/3) | BEN MALLOTT (WED., 2/4)

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12AM

12AM

ELEVEN HUNDRED
SPRINGS

SATURDAY JAN 31
MATINEE 3-7PM

12AM

T-BIRD
AND THE
BREAKS

10PM

10PM

HEYBALE W/ **REDD VOLKAERT**
AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

MONDAY
FEB 2
HAPPY HOUR

Continental
Graffiti

DALE
WATSON

10PM

AND HIS LONESTARS

TUESDAY FEB 3

HAPPY HOUR 6:30
WITH **WARREN HOOD** AND **DAVID GRISSOM**

PLANET GASPER

10PM

FROGLEG WITH
GARY CLARK JR., SCOTT NELSON, CHRIS
"WHIPPER" LAYTON AND **ANTHONY FARRELL**

WEDNESDAY FEB 4

H. H. **GUY FORSYTH**

THE HAPPENINGS

12:30AM

JOHNNY BURKE

11:15PM

BEN
MALLOT

10PM

WOODSBOSS

THURSDAY FEB 5

HAPPY HOUR

12:30AM

CLAY
NIGHTINGALE
LONESOME
HEROES

11PM

Leo Rondeau

10PM

FRIDAY FEB 6

HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS

BARFIELD

12:30AM

THE TYRANT OF TX FUNK

11:30PM

THE JADE IDOL
JUNGLE ROCKERS

SATURDAY FEB 7

10PM

THE GREYHOUNDS

MATINEE 3-7PM

REDD VOLKAERT

12AM

MARIO MATTEOLI

10PM

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SETH WALKER
9:00 SHOW \$10 COVER
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TOMMY ELSKES, JOHN REY REED & CAM KING - IN THE ROUND 7:00 \$10
DOG AT LARGE 3-5 pm No Cover

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DAVID NEWBOULD 12:30 \$5

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AUSTIN COLLINS & THE RAINBIRDS 10:00 \$5
BETH LEE 12:00 \$5
JONNY BURKE 8:00 \$5
5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

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JAMES HYLAND
FROM THE JUG BAND - 10:00 \$7
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SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS

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- 2) LUCINDA WILLIAMS Little Honey
- 3) JOE ELY Live Chicago 1987
- 4) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO Real Animal
- 5) VARIOUS ARTISTS Robert Earl Keen Tribute
- 6) T BIRD AND THE BREAKS Learn About It
- 7) GRUPO FANTASMA Sonidos Gold
- 8) BOB SCHNEIDER When the Sun Breaks Down on the Moon
- 9) CAROLYN WONDERLAND Miss Understood
- 10) OKKERVIL RIVER Stand Ins

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FRIDAY 1/30



10PM-2AM
TIN CAN PHONE

SATURDAY 1/31

10PM-2AM
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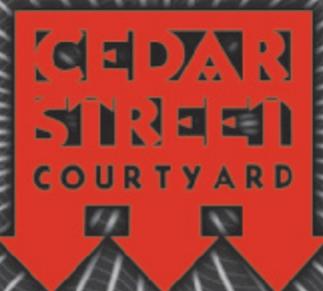
LC ROCKS

FRIDAY 9:30

Turning Trixie

Saturday 9:30

	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINERS 9:30
THU 29	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	suede
FRI 30	JOSH & JASON	LC ROCKS
SAT 31		TURNING TRIXIE
SUN 1		TIN CAN PHONE
MON 2	IN THESE SHOES	MEGAN TUBB
TUE 3	LIZ MORPHIS	THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
WED 4	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS



208 W.4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

club listings

THU 29

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)
THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Rick Busby, Jackie Bristow (9:00)
ANTONE'S Uncle Bruno, Flyjack, Mingo Fishtrap (9:00)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 American Wildlife (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Contact High Fives (9:00)
THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)
BOTTICELLI'S Leeann Atherton, Kevin Carroll (8:00)
BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL Austin Symphony Orchestra (2:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau
CACTUS CAFE Carrie Elkin, Greg Brown (8:30)

CANNOLI JOE'S Rich Harney & Alex Coke (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Bicycle Sighs, Context Clues, Luxuriator, You Make Engine (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Shinyribs (6:30)

CHEAPO DISCS Ikillcars (5:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brett Crenshaw

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), Topaz & Mudphonic w/ Gary Clark Jr., Ephraim Owens, Anthony Farrell (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Pictures

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Isms-Jisms, the Swill, the Earthtone Players, the Little Morts

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson

ELEPHANT ROOM Sarah Temple, Butch Miles

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

roadshows

January

THU 29

Greg Brown, Cactus Cafe
Bicycle Sighs, Carousel Lounge
Isms-Jisms, Creekside Lounge
Oddika, Elysium
Blood Royale, Pickled Punks, Combat Shock, Emo's
Harry Bodine, Evangeline Cafe
MSG Crew, Flamingo Cantina
House of Orange, Headhunters
Monument to No One, Mohawk
Tapes 'n Tapes, Wild Light, the Parish
Esmerelda Strange, the Parlor
Cattle Decapitation, Red 7
Greg Garing, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
Griffin House, Charlie Mars Band, Stubb's
Focus Group, Triple Crown

FRI 30

Greg Brown, Cactus Cafe
Record Hop, Club 1808
Eleven Hundred Springs, Continental Club
Stir the Silence, Emo's
The Slackers, Flamingo Cantina
Flaming Hellcats, Headhunters
Cross Canadian Ragweed, La Zona Rosa
Joseph Campbell, the Cartographers, Lamberts
Magic Bullets, Mohawk
Spyro Gyra, One World Theatre
Los Campesinos!, Titus Andronicus, the Parish

Shurman, Saxon Pub

For Hours & Ours, Snake Eyes Vinyl

SAT 31

Mofro, J.J. Grey, Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, Antone's
Broken Social Scene, Bass Concert Hall
Hercules & Love Affair, Beauty Bar
Noggin, Club 1808
Henry Brun & the Latin Players, Elephant Room
Dead Space, Fucked Up, Annihilation Time, A.N.S., Emo's
The Slackers, Flamingo Cantina
Full Contact Fighter, Screaming Red, Headhunters
Duo Erato, Martha Masters, Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
Beleza Brazil, Palmer Events Center
Jeff Strahan, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill
Andrew McKnight, Rattan Creek Community Center
True Sounds of Liberty, Black President, Red 7
Bexar County Bastards, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
The Ars Supernova, Stubb's
Katsuk, Triple Crown
El Paso Heist, Trophy's

February

SUN 1

MV & EE, Mohawk
Telepath, Stubb's

MON 2

Rooftop Vigilantes, Club de Ville
Contrabandits, Long Shadows, Matt Read, Brave Citizens, Headhunters
Goblin Cock, Red 7

TUE 3

Carley Wolf, Botticelli's
Rodney Hayden, Carousel Lounge
Passafire, Emo's
The Killers, M83, Frank Erwin Center
The Submarines, the Morning Benders, Stubb's

WED 4

Mutant Press, Legendary Shack Shakers, Emo's
The Leviathan, Headhunters
Matt Wilson, Key Bar
White Rhino, Mohawk
Dr. John, One World Theatre
LA Guns, Red Eyed Fly
Tomorrows Bad Seeds, Stubb's
Smiling Knights, Trophy's
Ben Kweller, Waterloo Records

THU 5

Kevin Costner & the Modern West, Antone's
Espantapajaros, Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735
O.A.R., Eric Hutchison, Austin Music Hall
Las Brujas, Emo's
Fresh Air Show, Stro, Flamingo Cantina
Cory Branan, Mohawk
The Lash Outs, the Wrong Ones, the Parlor
Fulton Read, Triple Crown

for your benefit

FRI 30

Kidsave Fundraiser w/ Java Jazz, Caswell House
Green Corn Project, Colorado River Foundation, Environment Texas Benefit w/ Austin Homegrown, Patagonia

SAT 31

Equality Texas Merry Martini Mixer w/ DJ Seth Cooper, Mercury Hall

Soundwave Benefit w/ Scotland Yard Sale, Goodnight Goddess, the Ars Supernova, Stubb's

TUE 02

Ragblogapalooza w/ Melancholy Ramblers, Scholz Garten

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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Antone's



Ey

MON 02 FEB
SUPER SOUL BLUES MONDAY
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ERIC TESSMER

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SATURDAY FEB. 7 • 10PM
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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 05
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WITH **PAULA NELSON**
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 08
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CASEY MCPHEARSON
LUCKY TUBB
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TUESDAY FEB 10
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THURSDAY JANUARY 29
NAKIA
& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10
LZ LOVE 11:45
ROBIN SMITH 8:45
GINA CHAVEZ 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR **CHELLE MURRAY** 5:15
FRIDAY JANUARY 30 / \$12

PATRICE PIKE 11:30
CAROLYN WONDERLAND 9:30
SECOND DAY RED 8
SATURDAY JANUARY 31

SKYROCKET 10
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1
WARREN HOOD 9:30
& HIS HOODLUMS
MILKDRIVE 8
JOHELL & THE RED ROOSTERS 12:30
MONDAY FEBRUARY 2

FREEDY JOHNSTON 8:30
BROTHER MAGNUM 12
INFINITE PARTIALS 10:30
JESSE SUBLETT 7
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3
EARLE BROWN 12
WISE BIRD 10:30
GOLDCURE 9:30
THE LENNINGS 8:15
JENNY REYNOLDS W/ KACY CROWLEY 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR **SOFIA ECHEGARAY** 5:15
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4

DAN DYER 10
ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS 8
ALLEN DANIELL 1
AMY ATCHLEY 11:45

UPCOMING SHOWS
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

ELYSIUM Bound, Tombstone Union, Oddika

EMO'S Outside: Combat Shock, Exile, Naw Dude, Summer of Blood, Pickled Punks; Inside: Seven Black Tornadoes, Me vs. Everybody, You People, Blood Royale, the Golden Boys

EVANGELINE CAFE Harry Bodine (7:00)

THE FIFTH GALLERY DJ John Gomi & Beatimprint (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Hops Kotch, MSG Crew, Haps (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Gougers, Jade Day

FRIENDS Black Bone Child (11:00)

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow & the Rogues (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (6:00)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Kings Fall, Allen Daniels Band, House of Orange; Outside: Exstus

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee & Andy Hardin (6:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS DJ Mel, Prince Klassen (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Phil Brown (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Twin Blades, Monument to No One, Super Lite Bike, War Against Sleep

MOMO'S Chelle Murray, Gina Chavez, Robin Smith, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, LZ Love (5:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NEWORDELHI Joanna Ramirez (7:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Dallas Seely

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Crying Out Loud

ONE 2 ONE BAR Ray Primm, Alex Henley (8:00)

THE PARISH Harlem, Wild Light, Tapes 'n Tapes

THE PARLOR Esmerelda Strange, Wino Vino (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Open Mic (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Paul Logan, Thrillbillies

RAINBOW CATTLE CO. Dad's Happy Hour w/ DJ Bobbie & Mary (3:00)

RED 7 Cattle Decapitation

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Our Favorite Colors

RUTA MAYA Benny Peters & the Fly by Nighters, Nick Curran, King Oster & the Boneshakers, Sonny & the Starfires, the Biscuit Rollers (8:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Uncle Lucius, Dustin Welch (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, Greg Garing (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Strippers Lie

SPEAKEASY J.J. Usher (9:30)

STUBB'S Charlie Mars Band, Griffin House

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS Baker Hotel (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Focus Group, Falcon Buddies

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler, Tumbleweed Racer

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Drawing Back w/ Daniel Conti (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Lucky Strikes

FRI 30

ACES LOUNGE Black Joe Lewis (9:00)

THE AMSTERDAM Driftwood Moon (9:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Bo Porter

ANTONE'S The Archibalds, Flatcar Rattlers, the Gourds CD Release (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BASS CONCERT HALL World of Sound w/ UT Symphony Orchestra, UT Wind Ensemble, Ghostland Observatory (8:00)

BEERLAND The No No No Hopes, Modern Fuckers, Black Panda

BOOMERZ Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

912 RED RIVER **Mohawk**

THU 1/29 @ 10PM
War Against Sleep w/ SuperLite Bike, Monument to No One, Twin Blades

FRI 1/30 @ 9PM
SHEARWATER w/ Brazos, Black Before Red (9PM, out) // PopNoir Soundsystem (late, out) // **BEAUTIFUL SUPERMACHINES** w/ Magic Bullets, Murdocks (11:30PM, in)

SAT 1/31 @ 10PM
SHANDON SHAM w/ The Sideshow Tragedy, Salesman, Ian Richardson

SUN 2/1 @ 10PM
MV & EE w/ Air Traffic Controllers, Woven Bones

WED 2/4 @ 10PM
WHITE RHINO w/ Smoke and Feathers

THU 2/5 @ 10PM
WILL JOHNSON (Centro-matic), Monahans, Cory Branan

FRI 2/6 @ 9PM
FASHION FREAKOUT w/ HACIENDA (out) // AU w/ Silver Pines (12AM, in)

SAT 2/7 @ 9PM
APPLESEED CAST w/ True Widow, Calm Blue Sea // MoTel Aviv, Rescue Mission (12AM, in)

TUE 2/10 @ 8PM
MUSIC TAPES (members of Neutral Milk Hotel) w/ Nana Grizol, Brian Dewan

611 E. 7TH **RED 7**

THU 1/29 @ 9PM
CATTLE DECAPITATION w/ Psyopus, Black Earth, Gigan + more! // +FREE in the lounge: Rock of Ages Tattoo DJ Night

FRI 1/30 @ 9PM
PACK OF WOLVES w/ Curse the Heavens, Fire From the Gods, Second2Last, Dying to Death // +FREE in the lounge: DJ Ross Ott from the Bled & friends

SAT 1/31 @ 9PM
TSOL w/ Black President, KrumBurns, Summer of Blood // +FREE in the lounge: Sambo Complete Control

SUN 2/1
SUPER BOWL PARTY - FREE pizza & pool!

MON 2/2 @ 9PM
GOBLIN COCK (rob crow of PINBACK), Warship, Eagle Claw

WED 2/4 @ 9PM
SET AFLAME w/ Novista, Kid Liberty // +FREE in the lounge: DJs Mike Weibe & Jeremy THU 2/5
FREE in the lounge: DJ's Ben Blackout & Stevie Sparks

FRI 2/6 @ 9PM
MONOTONIX w/ Strange Boys, Total Abuse // +FREE in the lounge: DJ Mike Hooker

401 WEST 2ND **LAMBERTS**

THU 1/29
LOW CASH THURSDAYS with DJ Mel & Prince Klassen @ 10:30PM

FRI 1/30
ONE HUNDRED FLOWERS w/ Monarchs, The Cartographers, Joseph Campbell @ 10:30PM

SAT 1/31
Marshall Ford Swing Band @ 7PM

POMPEII w/ Stereo is a Lie, Old Coyote @ 10:30PM

SUN 2/1
SUPER BOWL XLIII PARTY @ 5PM

TUE 2/3
Jitterbug Vipers @ 7PM

WED 2/4
Moonhangers @ 7:30PM

THU 2/5
LOW CASH THURSDAYS with DJ Mel @ 10:30PM

FRI 2/6
JAMES KINNEY @ 10:30PM

SAT 2/7
AFROFREQUE @ 10:30PM

900 RED RIVER **CLUB DEVILLE**

FRI 1/30
THE FRONTIER BROTHERS
CD RELEASE w/ Black Tie Dynasty

MON 2/2 @ 10PM
ROOFTOP VIGILANTES (member of Blood on the Wall), Radar Radar

FRI 2/6
SPIN ALLEY

SAT 2/7
TEAM FAB DJs
FRI 2/13 @ 9PM
GOLDEN BEAR CD RELEASE w/ Pink Nasty, Great Nostalgic

SAT 2/14
KISSES CAUSE CRASHES w/ Beta Valentine

FRI 2/20
THE TUNNELS w/ Bosso, The Only's

SAT 2/21
L'I' CAP'N TRAVIS w/ The Lennings, Blaise Faire

upcoming shows

2/6 - AU (Red 7), 2/8 - Don Caballero/DD/MM/YYY (Red 7), 2/13 - DJ Spooky (Mohawk), 2/13 - Agnostic Front (Red 7), 2/14 - White Ghost Shivers (Mohawk), 2/16 - Broken Spindles (Mohawk), 2/16 - Greg Ginn (Red 7), 2/27 - Wednesday 13 (Red 7), 3/3 - Thank You/Mi Ami (Mohawk), 3/3 - Arms and Steepers (Red 7), 3/5 - Kool Keith (Mohawk), 4/10 - Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti (Mohawk), 4/16 - Howling Hex (Red 7), 6/2 - Mr. Lif

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Falcon Buddies, Focus Group, Education 9pm

Fr 30 Ricky Lugo 6pm
Clay Nightingale, Gleason, Bankrupt & the Borrowers 9pm

Sa 31 Muchos Backflips, I.S.S., Dying For More, Katsük 9pm

Su 1 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 2 Gerry's Kids 6pm

Tu 3 Scott Wood 6pm
The Anchovies, Mankind & Me, Collin Crume 9pm

We 4 RG Stark 6pm The Thrillbillies 9pm

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WED, JAN 28 8-9PM
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DANCE LESSONS
DALE WATSON

THU, JAN 29 8-9PM
DANCE LESSONS
JESSE DAYTON

FRI, JAN 30 9PM
GARY P. NUNN

SAT, JAN 31 8-9PM
DANCE LESSONS
ALVIN CROW

TUE, FEB 3
HARDCORE COUNTRY WITH ALVIN CROW & JAMES .M WHITE
NO COVER

Poodie's Hilltop ROADHOUSE No Bad Days

Thursday, Jan. 29
PAUL LOGAN 6-8PM
THE THRILL BILLIES 8-10PM

Friday, Jan. 30
JITTER BUG VIPERS FEAT KATY HOLMES
RICK LORICK OPENER

Saturday, Jan. 31
JEFF STRAHAN
JACK HIGGINBOTHAM OPENER

Thursday, Feb. 5
SOL SURFERS 6PM
MARK ALLEN ATWOOD 8PM

Friday, Feb. 6
JAMES RICHARDS BAND
DOUG KENT OPENER

Saturday, Feb. 7
LARRY BUTLER FEAT. KEITH MCCOY
BROOKS OPENER

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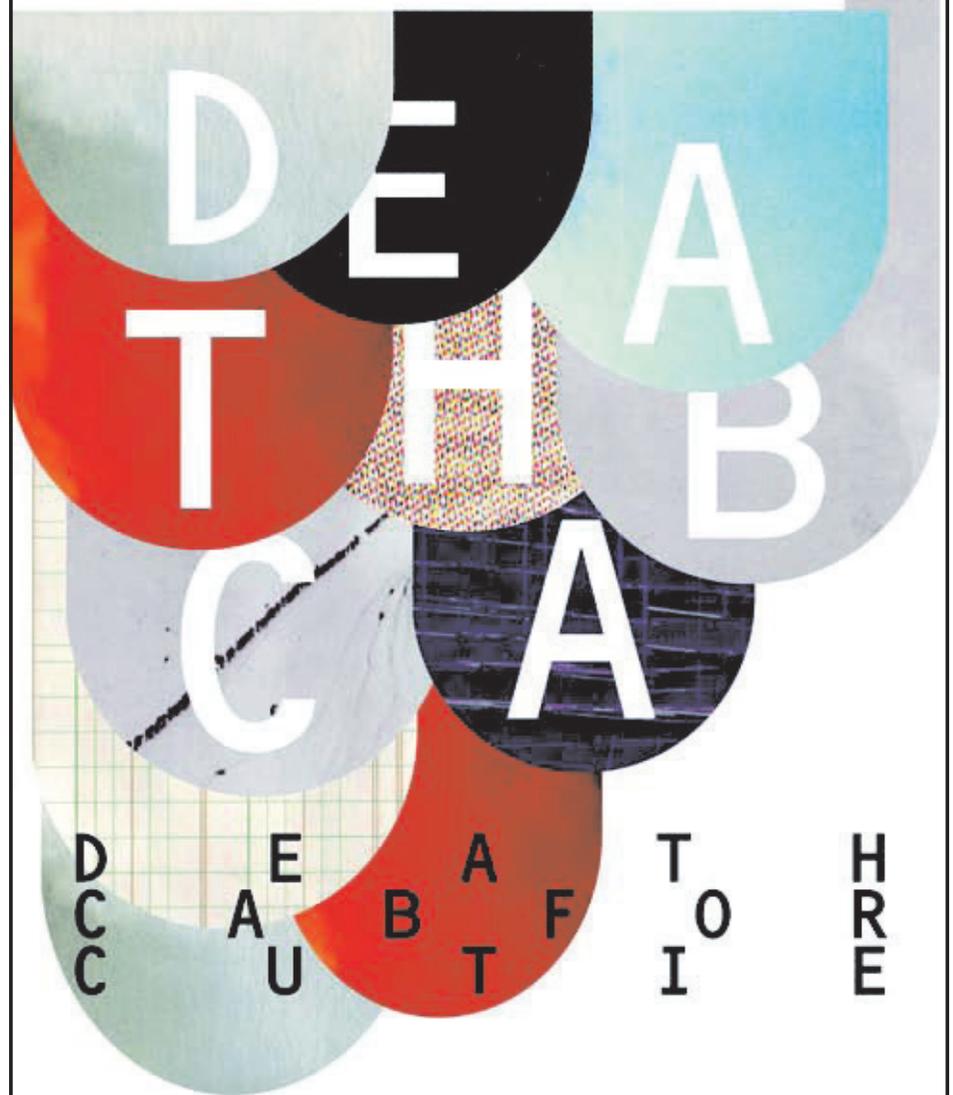
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APRIL 24TH
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WATERLOO

Ice House

☆ ☆ THIS WEEK ☆ ☆

6TH & LAMAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 7PM
THE HUDSONS

FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 7PM
MIRAGE

SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 7PM
THE JEMS

38TH & MEDICAL

SUNDAY, FEB. 1, 11AM
**JAZZ BRUNCH W/
THE JEFF LOFTON QUARTET**
JIMS COUNTRY JAM 7PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 3, 7PM
WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 7PM
PTARMIGAN

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 7PM
DRAWING BACK

FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 7PM
SIX SONS OF A GUN

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28
KARAOKE!!!

FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 10PM
WYNN TAYLOR

SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 10PM
BOBBY KENNEDY

SUNDAY, FEB. 1, 10PM
SOUTHPARK MEADOWS SERVICE INDUSTRY
SUNDAYS W/ **THE JUKEBOX HEROES**

WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

BOTTICELLI'S Condiment Sandwich
'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Gary P Nunn

CACTUS CAFE Graham Wilkinson,
Greg Brown (8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/
Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Unfortunate
Heads, Greatest American
Heroes (7:00)

CASWELL HOUSE Kidsave Fundraiser
w/ Java Jazz (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Porterdavis
(6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Bill Rice
CLUB 1808 David Israel, Record Hop,
Woozyhelmet

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues
Specialists (6:30), Eleven
Hundred Springs, Woodsboss
(10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Pictures
COTTON CLUB 3 X Texas

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Dance-a-Thon w/
DJ Chicken George, DJ Hobo D.
(10:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Trent Turner & the
Moontowers (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station
Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Rigel Thurston,
Jackie Bristow (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris
Kimura Quartet (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM George Carver, Kat
Edmonson

EMO'S Outside: Dead Earth Politics,
Stir the Silence, Bangladesh,
Course of Ruin, Ignitor; Inside:
The Always Already, Low Red
Center, Hello Lovers

EVANGELINE CAFE Greezy Wheels
(10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Spies Like Us,
Channel One, the Slackers (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lee
Simmons, Ryan Parker (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Scott Wayne (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The
Cornell Hurd Band (9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Jamie
Thomas, Slothcrashroom,
Flaming Hellcats, Lowdown
Shaky Chill, Year of the Kid,
Hoodrats; Outside: Miguel
Briones, Kari K.

HOUSE WINE McKay Bros.

SHE CRAVES
shecraves.com

all ages
FRIDAY, JAN. 30
STUBB'S
ONE EYED DOLL
SHE CRAVES
6 PACK DEEP & DENTED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH

**AUSTIN'S BEST HEAD BANGING
X-RATED SHOW FEATURING**

BANG

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SHOW STARTS AT 10PM
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FRI FEB 6

GOV'T MULE AND THE DISCO BISCUITS
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SAT FEB 14

101X

Citizen Cope

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myspace.com/citizencope

VALENTINE'S DAY

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FRI FEB 27

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WWW.MYSPACE.COM/GLOVESPECIALSAUCE

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SAT FEB 28

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FLOGGING MOLLY
GREEN 17 TOUR

WITH THE AGGROLITES AND THE MIGHTY STEF

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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 29 — DOORS 9PM
GRIFFINHOUSE
WITH **CHARLIE MARS**

FRI JAN 30 — DOORS 9PM
ONEEYED DOLL
WITH **SHE CRAVES**
6PACK DEEP AND DENTED

SAT JAN 31 — DOORS 9PM
SOUNDWAVE BENEFIT CONCERT FEAT.
THE ARS SUPERNOVA
WITH **THE GOODNIGHT GODDESS**
AND **THE SCOTLAND YARD SALE**

SUN FEB 1 —

SAT MAR 1

101X

PRETENDERS
BLACK ST. COOL GIRL FE

WITH AMERICAN BANG

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WED MAR 4

MODEST MOUSE

PLUS SPECIAL GUEST MIMICKING BIRDS

TIX ON SALE TUE 2/3 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI MAR 6

101X

CUT // COPY

WITH MATT & KIM AND DJ KNIGHTLIFE

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT MAR 7

FREE DOWNLOAD OF THE NEW BIG HEAD YOUR RECORD
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WITH JOAN JONES FROM SUN 60'

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GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH THE BELLS OF JOY

SUN FEB 1 — DOORS 9PM
TELEPATH

TUE FEB 3 — DOORS 9PM
101X CHILLVILLE PRESENTS:
THE SUBMARINES
AND **THE MORNING BENDERS**

THU FEB 5 — DOORS 9PM
MAGNET SCHOOL
WITH **NAKED EMPIRE**
AND **LANGUAGE ROOM**

FRI FEB 6 — DOORS 11:30PM
JOHNNY GOUDIE
CD RELEASE PARTY
WITH **SUZANNA CHOFFEL**

SAT FEB 7 — DOORS 9PM
THE BRIDGE

SAT FEB 8 — DOORS 9PM
DAVE BARNES
WITH **DREW HOLCOMB**
AND **THE ORBANS**

WED FEB 11 — DOORS 9PM
SEAN MCCONNELL

FRI FEB 13 — DOORS 9PM
ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
HOUSEHOLD NAMES
WITH **DRAWING BOARD**
AND **WIRE TREE**

SAT FEB 14 — DOORS 11:30PM
THE BLUE HIT
FREE WITH WRISTBAND FROM CITIZEN COPE

WED FEB 18 — DOORS 9PM
JONATHAN TYLER
& **THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**
WITH **THE STEPS**

TUE MAR 31

NEKO CASE
MIDDLE Cyclone

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SAT APR 4

Slightly Stoopid

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FRI APR 10 & SAT APR 11

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2 NIGHTS!

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Black Label Society
SEVENDUST
dope
Live to Hell

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

IGUANA GRILL Tommy Elskis & Stephen Doster (5:30)
JOVITA'S Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Stephanie Briggs, the Gougers, Cross Canadian Ragweed
LAMBERTS 100 Flowers, the Monarchs, the Cartographers, Joseph Campbell (10:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Haydn Vitera, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (6:00)
MIDNIGHT RODEO Bart Crow
MOHAWK Outside: Popnoir Soundsystem, Black Before Red, Brazos, Shearwater; Inside: The Murdocks, Magic Bullets, Beautiful Supermachines
MOMO'S Second Day Red, Carolyn Wonderland, Patrice Pike (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)
NEWORLEDELI PK. Sax (7:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Jaime Thomas
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke
ONE 2 ONE BAR Sarah Temple, Blaze (8:30)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Spyro Gyra (7:00, 9:30)
THE PARISH Titus Andronicus, Los Campesinos!
THE PARLOR Jim & the Toms (9:00)

PATAGONIA Green Corn Project, Colorado River Foundation, Environment Texas Benefit w/ Austin Homegrown (4:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mark Jungers (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Rip Lorick, the Jitterbug Vipers
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Darryl Lee Rush
ROOM 710 Barry Whitesnake, M.O.D.
RUTA MAYA Paul Green School of Rock Music All-Stars (7:00), Leroi Brothers, Sweet Bandana (9:30)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Seth Walker, Shurman (10:00)
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN \$24,000 Band, Corrine Rose, the Hot Pentecostals (9:00)
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Strippers Lie
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS The Reddies (10:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL Hill Ma, the Bubbles, Fashion Show, For Hours & Ours (6:30)
SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
STUBB'S Dented, 6 Pack Deep, She Craves, One-Eyed Doll
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bitu Blue
TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS Karl Morgan
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Lucky Strikes (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Bankrupt & the Borrowers, Gleeson, Clay Nightingale

TROPHY'S Heartsexplode, Ichi Ni San Chi, David Lazaroff CD Release, Daylight Titans
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Wynn Taylor (10:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Mirage (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Six Sons of a Gun

SAT 31

ACES LOUNGE Back in Black
THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew (9:00)
ANTONE'S Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, J.J. Grey, Mofro (9:00)
ANTONE'S RECORDS T Bird & the Breaks (6:00)
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Blacktop Bend (10:00am)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Charlie Crane Band
BASS CONCERT HALL Broken Social Scene (8:00)
BEAUTY BAR Learning Secrets Anniversary w/ Andrew Butler, Pat Mahoney, Hercules & Love Affair
BEERLAND The Tunnels, Teeners, Transgressors, the Crack Pipes
BOOMERZ The Little Morts
BOTTICELLI'S Kris Dennison Trio
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau
CACTUS CAFE Ben Mallot, Eliza Gilkyson (8:30)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Eastern Sea, Pajamas

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TUESDAY, FEB. 3 PAUL K
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4 LATIN WEDNESDAY THE BREW SALSA LESSONS @ 9PM
THURSDAY, FEB. 5 SUBROSA UNION SAUCE
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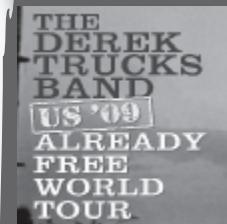
**FEB
08**



**LUCINDA
WILLIAMS**
with Buick 6



**FEB
20**



**THE DEREK
TRUCKS BAND**
with Gary Clark Jr.



**MAR
04**

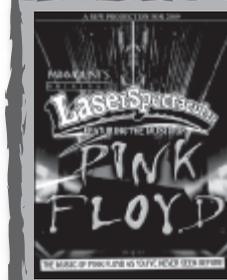


**MATES OF
STATE**
with Black Kids



**APR
28**

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL



**PINK FLOYD
LASER
SPECTACULAR**

**FEB
13**

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DOCTOR G & THE MUDCATS
SA BRUCE ROBISON
MO BATTLE OF THE BANDS WITH
SOUTHSIDE UNION
TU MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR AND
JORDAN MINOR
WE KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

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THE Parish

AUSTINIST & 101X NEXT BIG THING PRESENT:
TAPES N TAPES
THU 29 JAN
WILD LIGHT, HARLEM

AUSTINIST & 101X PRESENT:
LOS CAMPESINOS!
FRI 30 JAN
TITUS ANDRONICUS

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY
(FREE FOR 21+) **W/ DJ MEL!** SAT 30 JAN

TUE 03 FEB WAKARUSA WINTER CLASSIC
THE LOST PINES, GOBI
UNCLE LUCIUS, RAMZ
THE 2 DOLLAR SOUND

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BARTENDER CONTEST!
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FRI 06 FEB EMBER
DEEJER, CRIMSON ENVY

SAT 07 FEB RING THE ALARM
DJ BABY G, JAH MIGHTY
JR. VIBES ON THE MIC

MON 09 FEB JOSHUA RADIN
MEIKO, JESSIE HARRIS

WED 11 FEB THE BLUE HIT
SNARKY PUPPY
OSO CLOSO

UPCOMING SHOWS:
2/13: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Annuals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield & What Laura Says 2/14: D-Madness CD Release w/ Brannen Temple Quartet, DJ Rapid Ric feat. Bavu Blakes 2/17: Link Austin 2/18: 101X Home Grown Chill w/ Govinda, OHN, & Shuttle Debris 2/19: WILD LIFE w/ Richard Gear, Joshua Distance, & King Louie 2/20: Matt Wertz w/ The Alternate Routes 2/21: Rock the Casbah w/ DJ MEL 2/22: The Dry Season w/ Your Kisses Cause Crashes & The Sea 2/26: Illusionist Electric Orchestra w/ DJ Manny 2/27: Moving Matter w/ Toast, Funkotron, & Fatty Lumpkin

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Troy Campbell (6:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Stephen Doster & Bill Carter
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Bruce Robison
CLUB 1808 Noggin
CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), Greyhounds, T Bird & the Breaks (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Vertigo
COTTON CLUB Dave Jorgenson
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Selenese, Vitamins, the Alright Tonight, Red X Red M
DONN'S DEPOT Hot Cakes
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Grand Hotel, Patricia G. (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Henry Brun & the Latin Players (9:30)
EMO'S Inside: A.N.S., Iron Age, Annihilation Time, Fucked Up; Outside: Dead Space, Red Leaves, Elvis, the Ape Shits
END OF AN EAR Matt Devine (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Spies Like Us, Channel One, the Slackers (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Will T. Massey (9:00)
GIDDY UPS Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Miss Leslie & Her Juke Jointers (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Gary Claxton, Erik Hokkanen (1:00)
HEADHUNTERS Inside: Nocturnal Sun, Screaming Red, Killia Dilla; Outside: Full Contact Fighter, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings
HOUSE WINE Havilah
JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Charlie Terrell, Nakia & His Southern Cousins
LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found (3:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00), Pompeii, Stereo Is a Lie (10:30)
LATITUDE 30 Jabarvy (9:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Uncle Bruno, DJ Protege (9:00)
MERCURY HALL Equality Texas Merry Martini Mixer w/ DJ Seth Cooper (8:00)
MOHAWK Salesman, Sideshow Tragedy, Shandon Sahn (10:00)
MOMO'S Skyrocket! (9:00)
MONARCH EVENT CENTER Black Expo O' School Jam (6:30)
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)
NEWORLEDELI Fredy Argir (7:00)
NORTHWEST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Martha Masters, Duo Erato (8:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Dr. G. & the Mudcats

ONE 2 ONE BAR Eric Tessmer (10:00)
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Academicos da Opera, Beleza Brazil
THE PARISH Dance Party w/ DJ Mel
THE PARLOR Triplewide, Blanco, A Crack in the Wall
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chrissy Flatt (8:00)
THE PEACOCK Paige Lewis, Tribella CD Release
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Jack Higginbotham, Jeff Strahan
RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues (9:00)
RATTAN CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER Andrew McKnight (7:30)
RED 7 Krum Bums, Black President, True Sounds of Liberty
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann Band
ROADHOUSE RAGS The Doolins, Brennen Leigh, Doug Warriner & His Only Band (5:00)
RUTA MAYA Paul Green School of Rock Music All-Stars (7:00), Benny vs. the Beast, Tribal Nation (9:30)
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Miss Bree & Rusty (7:30)
SAXON PUB Octave Doctors, the Belleville Outfit
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Zenith Fuzzbomb, Meganaut, Bexar County Bastards (8:00)
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Bill Starrett, Suzanne Smith (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Strippers Lie
SPEAKEASY Rotel & the Hot Tomatoes (9:30)
STUBB'S Soundwave Benefit w/ Scotland Yard Sale, Goodnight Goddess, the Ars Supernova
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Katsuk, Dying for More, I.S.S., Muchos Backflips!
TROPHY'S El Paso Heist, Killing Industry, La Snacks
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bobby Kennedy (10:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Jems (7:00)

SUN 01

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)
BEERLAND The Happen-Ins, Jonathan Terrell
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH The Just Desserts (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Cienfuegos (12:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Ash Family
CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Trio (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jackie Bristow (8:00)
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)
GARRISON PARK HARBOR Patterson Barrett, Jimi Lee
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
HEADHUNTERS Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob
JOVITA'S The Brew (7:00)
LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)
LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)
MOHAWK Woven Bones, Air Traffic Controllers, MV & EE
MOMO'S Milkdrive, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open Mic w/ Chris Davis (4:00)
NUOVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
THE PARLOR Space Donkey (9:00)
THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Open Mic (4:00)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED FEZ DJ Kurrupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen
ROADHOUSE RAGS Pure Luck (6:00)
RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (11:00am), Telepath (10:00)
THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Brunch w/ the Jeff Lofton Quartet (11:00am)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Jukebox Heroes
Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 02

ANTONE'S Super Soul Blue Monday (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase
BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke
BOTTICELLI'S Bobby LaRoche & David Perales

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CHARLES THIBODEAUX

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 6PM

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

CUT'S REVENGE PARTY
2 STAGES, 1 COVER
CASINO EL CAMINO DINNER TABLE RAFFLE

OUTFLOOR: **PICKLED PUNKS**
SUMMER OF BLOOD

BRANCH DAVIDIAN • EXILE • COMBAT SHOCK

INSIDE:
THE GOLDEN BOYS • BLOOD ROYALE
YOU PEOPLE • ME VS. EVERYBODY
7 BLACK TORNADOES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

OUTSIDE:
THE RETURN OF IGNITOR AND COURSE OF RUIN
IGNITOR • COURSE OF RUIN
BANGLADESH • STIR THE SILENCE
DEAD EARTH POLITICS

INSIDE: **HELLO LOVERS**
LOW RED CENTER • THE ALWAYS ALREADY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

INSIDE: **FUCKED UP**
ANNIHILATION TIME • IRON AGE • A.N.S.

OUTFLOOR: **THE APESHITS**
ELVIS • RED LEAVES • THE DEAD SPACE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

INSIDE: **PASSAFIRE**
ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE • TANDORIFINGER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

INSIDE: **THE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS**
(FEATURING DUANE DENISON
OF THE JESUS LIZARD)
CARTRIGHT • IZZY COX

OUTFLOOR: **MUTANT PRESS**
SUEDE UPPERS • EASY PILLS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

INSIDE: **FREE SHOW**
JOEL'S B-DAY CELEBRATION
OH NO OH MY • CORTO MALTESE
LOXSIY • LAS BRUIJAS

OUTFLOOR: **SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS**
AL SHIRE & THE HENCHMEN • THIRTY YARD STARE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

INSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
CAVEDWELLER (SPLIT 7" RELEASE PARTY)
DIAGONALS • PILLOW QUEENS

OUTSIDE:
THE PRETTY THINGS
PEEPSHOW
A VINTAGE BURLESQUE SIDESHOW
7PM & 10:30PM

BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE* SHOWS ARE SELLING OUT!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

OUTSIDE:
Z-RO KING OF THE GHETTO
PLUS K-RINO • POINT BLANK
KRIMINALS • C.O.D. • PIMPIN PEN

INSIDE:
NEILIYO • DJ JAUNTY & GAL PAL
HYPE HEADZ DJ MARKUS IN BETWEEN SETS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

INSIDE:
STRAIGHT LINE STITCH • OCCAM'S RAZOR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

INSIDE: **PRAYER FOR ANIMALS**
THE ARCHIBALDS
THE SOUR NOTES • THE BUBBLES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

OUTSIDE:
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
AWS • THE SWELLERS • THE STITCH UP

INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:
VALENCIA • HOUSTON CALLS
ARTIST VS. POET • CHANDELIERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

INSIDE:
HILLGRASS BLUEBILLY PRESENTS
REVEREND PEYTONS
BIG DAMN BAND
POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES • TOM VANDENAVOND

OUTFLOOR:
SILVER PINES • JC & CO
DJ REMY MAC (RAMESH FROM VOXTROT)
INTERNATIONAL WATERS
DANS LA LUNE • WINE & REVOLUTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

OUTFLOOR:
HIGH TENSION WIRES
THE GOLDEN BOYS
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • THE GOSPEL TRUTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

INSIDE:
SPEED DEALER • BUZZCRUSHER
SHIT CITY HIGH • BLOWER

OUTFLOOR:
BABY DICK • THE FLOOD • THE DIKINS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

INSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM:


MILLIONAIRES
CASH CASH
I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE
WATCH OUT! THERE'S GHOSTS

*3/5 KISS FM PRESENTS THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR W/ FURTHEST FROM THE STAR & GO ACTION TEAM (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)
*3/7 TAKE ACTION TOUR: CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR, MEG & DIA, BREATHE CAROLINA, EVERY AVENUE, & ANARBOR (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW)
*3/8 LUDO, SING IT LOUD, THIS PROVIDENCE, THE MORNING LIGHT (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/7 101X PRESENTS NEW FOUND GLORY W/BAYSIDE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/12 A SKYLIT DRIVE, DANCE GAVIN DANCE, ATTACK ATTACK!, IN FEAR AND FAITH AND LOWER DEFINITION (ON SALE NOW)
*4/14 101X PRESENTS BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/17 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)
*4/25 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE W/ SONIC SUICIDE SQUAD (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

INSIDE, DOORS AT 6PM:
MYCHILDREN MYBRIDE
THE GHOST INSIDE • FOR TODAY
BROADCAST THE NIGHTMARE • NEWLYWED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

INSIDE, DOORS @ 6PM:
FIGHT FAIR (TRIPLE CROWN)
SCHOOL BOY HUMOR • THE FACTORY PARTY
THE DIVING CAPTAIN • HEY, ZEUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

OUTSIDE:
HANK III & ASSJACK
THOSE POOR BASTARDS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

INSIDE: **ALL THE SAINTS**
W/ MANY BIRTHDAYS & PILLOW QUEENS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

INSIDE:
 **GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM**
W/ THE LAUGHING & NEILIYO

OUTFLOOR:
DISTANT SECONDS • MIDGETMEN
DEAF EARS • SAD ACCORDIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

INSIDE:
A.A. BONDY
BOOHER & THE TURKEYZ

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

INSIDE:
BUILT BY SNOW WITH THE AUTHORS
THE DIVING CAPTAIN

OUTFLOOR: **RINGO DEATHSTARR**
TOUR KICK-OFF SHOW
CRY BLOOD APACHE
RED LEAVES • TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

INSIDE: **ATX ELLE ACOUSTIQUE**
KRISTY LEE (MOBILE, ALA.) AND MORE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

INSIDE: **FUJIYA & MIYAGI**
PROJECT JENNY, PROJECT JAN

OUTFLOOR:
CRUISERWEIGHT • SCHATZI

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

INSIDE: **101X PRESENTS:**
DELTA SPIRIT • OTHER LIVES • DAWES

OUTSIDE:
INVISIBLE CHILDREN BENEFIT
CORTO MALTESE • THE DIVING CAPTAIN
ZLAM DUNK • THE BLOWING TREES

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EVERY THURSDAY!

NO COVER!
CORNELL HURD BAND 8-10pm



FRIDAY, 1/30

\$8 COVER

OUCH!

6-7pm

THE EGGMEN

7-10pm



SATURDAY, 1/31

\$8 COVER

GIRL GUITAR

6-7:30pm

CHARLIE TERRELL

8-9:30pm

NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS

10pm-12am



EVERY SUNDAY!

\$5 COVER

THE BREW

7-10pm



MONDAY, 2/2

CLOSED

EVERY TUESDAY!

NO COVER!

GERON HOY

6:30-7:30pm

MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND

8-10pm



WEDNESDAY, 2/4

NO COVER!

MJ TORRANCE 6-7:30p

KARL MORGAN BAND

8-10PM



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VALLEJO
THURS FEB 12

DEL CASTILLO
THURS FEB 19



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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Battle of the Bands w/ Southside Union

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Rooftop Vigilantes (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Olivier Giraud (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

CORK & CO. Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Brave Citizens, Matt Read, Long Shadows, Contrabandits

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE The Other Dudes, the Spoiled (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MOMO'S Jesse Sublett, Freedy Johnston, Infinite Partials, Brother Magnum (7:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers

MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

THE PARLOR Eric Hisaw (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED 7 Goblin Cock

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Tim Bruton, Forest Wayne Allen

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Dub Transistor w/ Dreadbeard & Gypsyzen (7:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)

SCHOLZ GARTEN Ragblogapalooza w/ Melancholy Ramblers (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids (6:00)

TUE 03

ACES LOUNGE Two Tons of Steel (7:00)

ANTONE'S Ruthie Foster CD Release (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BOTTICELLI'S Carley Wolf

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White

CACTUS CAFE Molly Ventor, Raina Rose CD Release (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Rodney Hayden (6:00), the Coffee Sergeants, Big Chris Gates & Gatesville (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor, Midnight River Choir

CONTINENTAL CLUB Planet Casper (6:30), Frogleg (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Paul Minor & Chip Dolan; Carter, Sexton & Doster (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Tony Campise (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Tandoorifinger, 11-Fingered Charlie, Passafire

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRANK ERWIN CENTER M83, the Killers (8:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes Band (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Chris Toast, the Bad Notes; Outside: Bill Davis Singer-Songwriter Stage

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

JOVITA'S Marshall Ford Swing Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00)

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WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
6:30 - 9 PM

SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
PORTERDAVIS
bluesy songs

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
TROY CAMPBELL
americana

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
JUST DESSERTS
with LAUREN CHECCHIO
world fusion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS
blues

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29
KEVIN RUSSELL'S **SHINYRIBS**
americana

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
CIENFUEGOS
cuban

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
fiddle, folk, americana

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
LUCKY STRIKES
swing

upcoming at central park:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
6:30 - 9pm

Central Market &
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SPACE IS LIMITED. TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS, FOR MENU AND OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL CENTRAL MARKET CATERING AT 512.206.1024

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LIMITED SEATING • NO HASSLES
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Wine & Food pairings by Executive Chef Larry Guilbeau and Wine Expert Seth Pollard.

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HAPS & MSG CREW
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+ SO MUCH MORE!

FRIDAY JAN 30 *SOUL/SKA/REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
SATURDAY JAN 31 *2 NIGHTS* TIX AT END OF AN EAR

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- with SPIES LIKE US on Friday -
- and CHANNEL ONE on Saturday -

WEDNESDAY FEB 04 *ROCK/JAZZ* DOORS 9:00
LIES A BLOOM
ToasT & PERFECT PANTS
UPCOMING SHOWS

02:05: NOTES FLOATS, AUTOMATIC FRIENDS, BROKEBREAD, & DJ CYBORG
02:06: BOB MARLEY BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE WITH THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS DON CHANI & THE REDDIES
02:07: DJRICKS & JUDGE
02:11: TRIGGERMEN WITH AUTOMUSIK
02:12: MAD PROFESSOR WITH MACKA B & DR. DUBBIST
02:13: LEROY SHAKESPEARE & SHIP OF VIBES, IRIE JANE
02:18: MCCONTICCA, ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS
02:27: FIVECREST YACHT CLUB, KIRBY DOMINANT, MSG
02:28: VIC FUGGHERO, THE BANDULLUS, PROPER VILLAIN
03:06: MILES OKAZAKI

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DALE SPALDING 6P
ZEE ROCK 8P

FRI 1/30, 8P
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ROUNDTABLE

SAT 1/31, 8P
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THR JAN 29
9:30PM **The Little Morts**
The EarthTone Players, The Swill, Isms-Jisms

FRI JAN 30
10PM **The DanceaThon!!!**

SAT JAN 31
10PM **Red X Red M**
Alright Tonight, The Vitamins, The Selenese

WED FEB 4
10PM **101 X night with...**
Built by Snow, Harlem, Hollywood Gossip

UPCOMING SHOWS
2/5 Scary Mondellos, 2/6 The Van Buren Boys
2/7 Karaoke Apocalypse, Lost Soul Revue

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Beauty BAR

JANUARY
1/30 **PRINCE KLASSEN / AVIATION BLONDE / JEREMY NAIL & THE INCIDENTS**
1/31 **LEARNING SECRETS 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY W/HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR/ PAT MAHONEY(LCD SOUNDSYSTEM)**

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2/5 **BLACK JOE LEWIS PERFORMING LIVE 10" EP RELEASE PARTY**
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1/29(T): HOUSE OF ORANGE, ALLEN DANIEL, KINGSFALL • 1/30(F): HOODRATS, YEAR OF THE KID, LOWDOWN SHAKY CHILL, THE FLAMING HELLCATS, SLOTHCRASHROOM 9, JAMIE THOMAS(HH)
1/31(S): THE KILLA DILLA, SCREAMING RED NOCTURNAL SUN • 2/1(S): ATOMIC HONKY TONK: THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA, 3PM-SUPERBOWL PARTY! • 2/2(M): CONTRABANDITS, LONG SHADOWS, MATT READ, BRAVE CITIZENS • 2/3(T): THE BAD NOTES, CHRIS TOAST • 2/4(W): KOVEN THE LEVIATHAN

CANNIBAL CLUB STAGE 1/29(T): ARARAT BAZAR: D.J. EXSTUS & VIAJERO & HOOKAH LOUNGE
1/30(F): 12-KARI-K BAND, 11-ELR, 10-MIGUEL BRIONESS • 1/31(S): 12-CHAD THOMAS & THE CRAZY KINGS, FULL CONTACT FIGHTING (9-11:30) • 2/1(S): 3PM-SUPERBOWL PARTY CHILI COOK-OFF & POT-LUCK • 2/2(M): CHAD HOLTS OFF PROBATION BASH! • 2/3(T): BILL DAVIS SINGER SONGWRITERS OPEN-MIC • 2/4(W): MATTS OPEN MIC

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Thu 1.29
KEEFER
SCRAPS OF LIFE
STONE DAKOTA
INOVO 9pm: Lug
Friends of Houston

Fri 1.30
M.O.D.
SUPERHEAVY GOATASS
BARRY WHITESNAKE
THE LITTLE MORTS
UNDER THE GUN

Sat 1.31
THE JUNGLE ROCKERS
LOS SKARNALES
ZYDEPUNKS From New Orleans
LOS DESCONOCIDOS
8pm: Heart & Soul Sound System

Sun 2.1
OPEN
TOTALLY SUPER DUPER

Mon 2.2
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 2.3
FEATHERS FAHRENHEIT
THE FIREBALL SHOW

Wed 2.4
FATE DEFY
THE JOY BUS
WAR AGAINST SLEEP

UPCOMING SHOWS
2.5 Muchos Backflips, Quartershackle 2.6 Pleasant Valley, World Burns
To Death, Blood Revolve 2.7 Residents, Napalm Division, Whorehound

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th 29 Contact High Fives, Capitalist Kids, The Mysterious H, Cockvandyke

fr 30 Black Panda, The Modern Fuckers, No No No Hopes, Bottle Service

sa 31 Rev. Ray Pride's Birthday Crack Pipes Tribute Record Release! Crack Pipes, Transgressors, Teeners, Tunnels

su 1 Cory Branan, Jonathan Terrell, The Happen Inns

mo 2 ROCK N ROLL KARAOKE!

tu 3 Nathan Black presents an evening of Rock Band II play it on the big screen

we 4 safety in numbers-Ted Hadji, John Vinyard, Ryan Lentell, Nalleyanna, Adam Hilton, Smile Says Hello, Jack Smith

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THURSDAY - JANUARY 29
ISLAND NATION
THE CANNIS WAITING
THE GOOD TRY
ACH CRA CHAY

FRIDAY - JANUARY 30
EVOLENO
SNAKESKIN PRISON
VULCAN'S ANVIL
SEDIUM
JOE'S ROCKET SHOPPE
LEFT & THE ASSUMPTIVE
TRUCKS FROM TEXAS

SATURDAY - JANUARY 31
SOUNDFIELD
MOSTLY DEAD
FIVE DOLLAR FRIEND
LITTLE TRIGGERS
365 COLOURS

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 1
MUSIC LAB
BATTLE OF THE BANDS XI
FIRST ROUND - DAY ONE
COMPANY OF STRANGERS

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2
FREE SHOW
PURE LUCK MONDAYS
MUSIC STARTS AT 9PM
\$2 LONE STAR \$3 JIM BEAM

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 3
THE ORGANIGS
MELODY MURDER
ALL BUT EMBERS
TUEN
VENSON'S FIXINS

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 4
LA GUNS
FEATURING PAUL LEWIS & STEVE BAILEY
NEW DISASTER
VELVET BRICK
MATTHEWS IPOD NIGHT

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 5
AMBERGLOW SYMPHONY
BEYOND GODS & EMPIRES
DEAD EARTH POLITICS
KAOS CALLING

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 6
OAK IS KEEPING
RUDE RACHEL
BASE
MANSFIELD
ITEM 84

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 7
DEREK'S BIRTHDAY BASH
SAD WINGS
SABBATH CROW
MARSHALL DYLAN

UPCOMING SHOWS
02/11 - 49 42 TO FREEDOM - SUBLINE TRIBUTE BAND
02/13 - FILTRON READ, DRIVER E, ZLAM DUNK, EASTERN SEA
02/14 - ST. VALENTINES DAY METAL MASSAGE
02/20 - BIG BALLS, YA-YO
02-21 - 2ND ANNUAL MATTHEW CHAMPINE BIRTHDAY BASH
04-10 - RUBBERNEED REGION SHOW

for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

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Thursday • Jan 29 LIVE MUSIC!
Oddika 12 AM
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Friday • Jan 30 SPECIAL EVENT!
Have a Nice Day
60's & 70's Funk, R&B, Soul & Disco
with DJ SETH

Saturday • Jan 31 HAVEN
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER
w/ SPECIAL GUEST DJ ASURA SUNIL

Sunday • Feb 1 REGRESSION
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday • Feb 3 90'S NIGHT
So LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJs BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday • Feb 4 MID-WAVE
UNDERGROUND tetro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu. Feb 5 • STOCKHOLM SYNDROME
Swedish Synth, Dance, Indie, Retro & Pop
Fri. Feb 6 • P.D.A. - Indie, Electro, Britpop, New Wave, & Postpunk
Thu. Feb 12 • DUB YA BASS NIGHT
DJs Cal Cutta & Siracha & MC Willy Wobble
Fri. Feb 13 • KINGS N THINGS - Valentine's Day Show!
Sat. Feb 14 • Haven presents a special ST. VALENTINE'S DAY CORSET BALL

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... THURSDAY January 29 ...

Ricky Stein and more
 10pm
 Happy Hour: Eve Mones 6:30pm
 Outside: Sick's Pack 8pm
NEEDLES and PINS Record Party
 hosted by Angel Von Ripper 11pm

... FRIDAY January 30 ...

Sheboygan
Real Heroes
Household Names
Snafu Kitties \$3 cover
 Happy Hour: The Spooly Show 6pm
 outside: Slowtrain's Friday Waltz

... SATURDAY January 31 ...

Pataphysics
Preston Dukes
Gayle Gold 10pm \$3 cover
 ... SUNDAY February 1 ...
CAPITAL ZEN SHOWCASE:
Dash Kitten
Basement Tapes
Alewife
 10pm

... MONDAY February 2 ...

Leo Rondeau
Mario Matteoli
 9pm
 Happy Hour: The McKay Brothers
 6-9pm
 outside: Dave Insley's Careless
 Smokers 8-11

... TUESDAY February 3 ...

Clyde and Clem's Whiskey
Business
Maria Mabra Show
Megafauna
 9pm
 Happy Hour: The Nortons 6pm
 Outside: Mike and the Moonpies
 8pm

... WEDNESDAY February 4 ...

Chad Thomas and the Crazy
Kings
 10pm
 Happy Hour: Colin Gilmore 6pm
 Outside: Rob Jewett Trio 8pm

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 \$1 CORONAS (CORONITAS)
 \$2 FROZEN MARGARITAS
 \$1 JELLO SHOTS

THURSDAY SPECIALS:
 \$3 DOMESTIC LITERS 7-11P
 \$5 DOMESTIC LITERS 11P-CLOSE
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 MON-SAT 4PM-2AM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MOMO'S Sofia Echegaray, Kacy Crowley, the Lennings, Goldcure, Wisebird, Earle Brown (5:00)

THE PARISH \$2 Sound, Ramz, Uncle Lucius, Gobi, the Lost Pines

THE PARLOR McMercy Family Gospel Band (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chicken Dog (6:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Crushes, Gayle Gold, Douglas Ferguson, Bright Duplex (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues (5:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Leeann Atherton (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

STUBB'S The Morning Benders, the Submarines

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Paul

TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood, Colin Crume, Mankind & Me, the Anchovies

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Ruthie Foster (5:00)

WED 04

THE AMSTERDAM Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)

ANTONE'S Dance Party w/ DJ Mel (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BEERLAND Safety in Numbers

BOTTICELLI'S PJ. Herrington

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dale Watson

CACTUS CAFE David Garza (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Saltworth Sundries

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Lost & Nameless Orchestra (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Guy Forsyth (6:30), the Happen-Ins, Jonny Burke, Ben Mallott (10:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Hollywood Gossip, Harlem, Built by Snow

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (8:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Phoebe Hunt, Anthony Farrell (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:30), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Inside: Izzy Cox, Legendary Shack Shakers; Outside: Easy Pills, Suede Uppers, Mutant Press

FLAMINGO CANTINA Perfect Pants, Toast, Lies A. Bloom (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS The Leviathan, Koven

JOVITA'S M.J. Torrance, Karl Morgan

KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:30)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Lucky Jam Session w/ the Colour Wheel, Phoenix Saga, Haydn Vitera (10:00)

LUCKY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MOHAWK Smoke & Feathers, White Rhino (10:00)

MOMO'S Asylum Street Spankers, Dan Dyer, Amy Atchley, Allen Daniels Band (8:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H Project (10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Dr. John (7:00, 9:30)

THE PARLOR World Racketeering Squad (9:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY LA Guns

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Jessie Lee Miller (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (10:30)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

STUBB'S Tomorrows Bad Seeds

T.C.'S LOUNGE Soul Track Mind (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN R.G. Stark, Thrillbillies

TROPHY'S Bee Sting Sessions, Sinner's Repent, Smiling Knights

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

WATERLOO RECORDS Ben Kweller (5:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

THE AMSTERDAM Jackie Bristow, Noelle Hampton (9:00)

ANTONE'S Paula Nelson, Kevin Costner & Modern West

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Espantapajaros, the Ramifications

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Eric Hutchison, O.A.R. (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEERLAND Hex Dispensers, Jail, the Golden Boys

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Jimmy LaFave (8:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Lucky Strikes (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Honeybrowne

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), Leo Rondeau, the Lonesome Heroes, Clay Nightingale (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Scary Mondelos

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet

ELEPHANT ROOM Silvie Rider (6:00), Justin Vasquez Project (9:30)

ELYSIUM Stockholm Syndrome

EMO'S Outside: 30-Yard Stare, Al Shire & the Henchmen, Sunglasses & Mushrooms; Inside: Las Brujas, Loxlys, Corto Maltese, Oh No Oh My

THE FIFTH GALLERY DJ John Gomi & Beatimprint (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Automatic Friends, Stro, Notes Floats, Fresh Air Show (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (8:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Phil Brown (6:00)

MOHAWK Cory Branan, Monahans, Will Johnson (10:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Jim Bryant

PANGAEA LIVE Grupo Fantasma Grammy Send-Off

THE PARLOR The Wrong Ones, the Lash Outs, Flash Boys, Twangzilla (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Open Mic (7:30), Nathan Hamilton (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Sol Surfers, Mark Allen Atwood (6:00)

RAINBOW CATTLE CO. Dad's Happy Hour w/ DJ Bobbie & Mary (3:00)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

STUBB'S Language Room, Naked Empire, Magnet School

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TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler, Dave Sprauer Power Hour

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow

THU 05

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

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FRI 1/30 SCHOOL OF ROCK "PROGRESSIVE ROCK" PRESENTS JOHN RATH'S AQUARIAN PARTY
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SATURDAY Live Music (2/7)
NO COVER OMG COMMONWEALTH

FRIDAY Live Music (2/13) NO COVER
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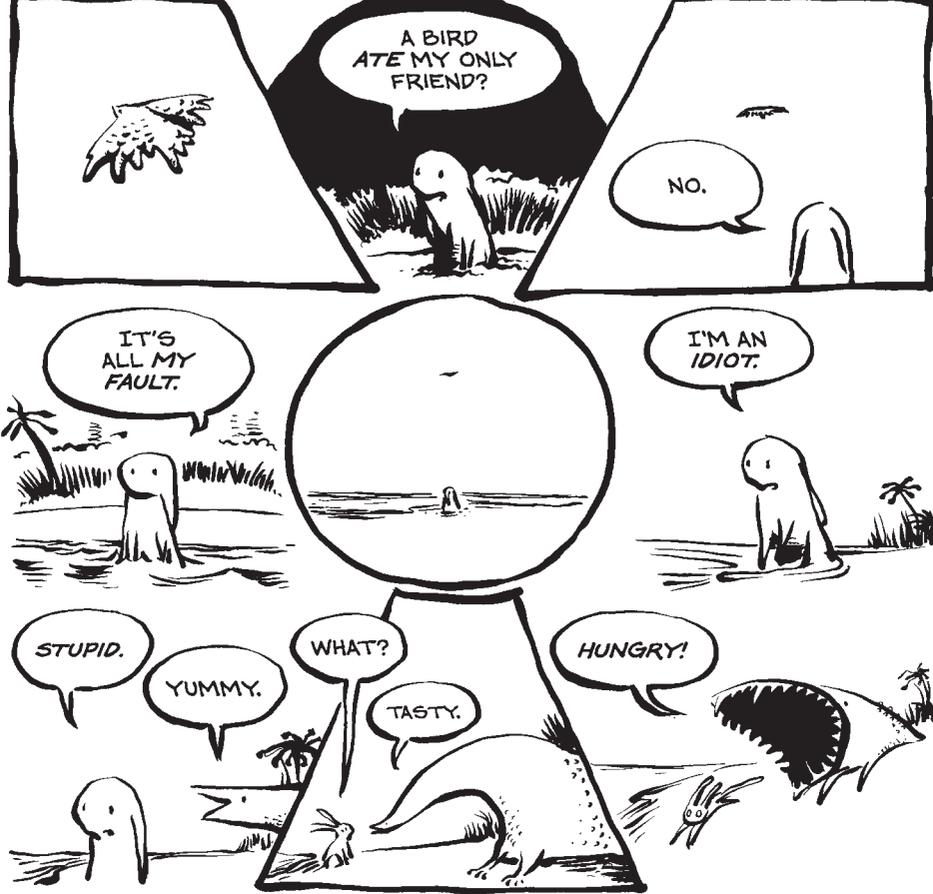
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How to Be Happy UGLY ISLAND 5 of 8 by Shannon Wheeler



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TROUBLETOWN

By Lloyd Dangle

PRESIDENT OBAMA IS SO BRILLIANT, NOT ONLY DOES HE APPOINT PEOPLE WHO CAN GET THE JOB DONE...



FOR EXAMPLE, HILLARY CLINTON REFUSED TO APOLOGIZE FOR HER VOTE SUPPORTING THE IRAQ WAR — SO NOW SHE HAS TO BE DIPLOMAT TO THE WORLD!



TIMOTHY GEITHNER RAN THE NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE WHILE THE NY BANKS SUCKED THE US ECONOMY INTO A BLACK HOLE. NOW HE GETS TO MANAGE THE "TREASURY."



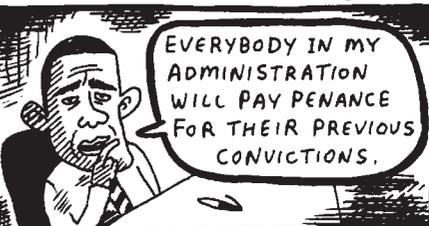
TOM DASCHLE SHILLED FOR THE HEALTHCARE-PHARMA INDUSTRY FOR YEARS — NOW HE GETS TO BE THE ONE TO TELL THEM.



SANJAY GUPTA WAS A TV DOCTOR — NOW HE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC.



THIS IS JUST ANOTHER WAY THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA IS AWESOME.



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EYEBEAM: LIVE SHOTS

by Sam Hone



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Harpo Marx (born Adolph Arthur Marx) got his nickname in a poker game. Although he never really spoke in the talkies, he did have a line in the 1925 silent movie *Too Many Kisses*.

Need a lobotomy? Your doctor may call it a "leucotomy."

The plantaris muscle is the one used by animals to grip and manipulate objects with their feet. Humans have this muscle, too.

According to LoveGodsWay.org, the Jonas Brothers, Bob Dylan, P-Diddy, Frank Sinatra, and Toby Keith are among several "gateway" bands that will lead children down the path to homosexuality.

Ötzi the Iceman, a 5,300-year-old mummy who has some of the world's oldest tattoos, died from an arrow wound.

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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research study

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MIGRAINE

ARE MIGRAINES MAKING YOUR LIFE A PAIN?

If so, consider joining our research study. If you suffer from 2 to 8 migraine attacks per month, and have a history of migraines for at least the last six months, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of a medication for migraines.

Eligible participants must be 18 to 65 years of age. Office visits, study procedures, and study medication will be provided at no cost. **Compensation up to \$300 will be paid to eligible participants** for their time and effort completing the study.

For more information about this study, please call
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www.benchmarkresearch.net



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.

SEXUAL HEALTH

WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH PAID STUDY

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a study to examine factors that may impact sexual function in women. Women over the age of 25 are invited to participate. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. You will receive \$25 at the completion of the appointment and your parking will be paid. For more info, please call

(512) 232-4805
All calls are confidential.

SLEEPING DISORDER

FutureSearch Trials is seeking individuals, who are 18 or over and are having problems sleeping through the night, to participate in a research trial for insomnia. Study related care is provided at no charge to participants. This includes physical exams, sleep exams, lab services and study medication. Qualified participants will also receive time and travel compensation. Contact us Today!

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Do you suffer from CHRONIC SINUS INFECTIONS? Have you tried medications but found their effectiveness to be limited?

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To learn more contact:
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writing/ editing

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 21 - Aug. 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in all-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://altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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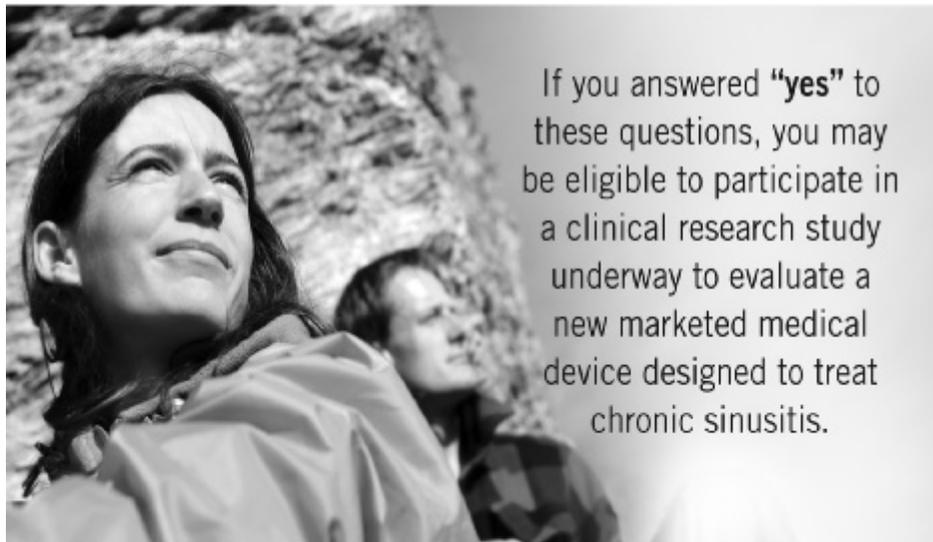
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- Have you tried medications but found their effectiveness to be limited?



If you answered "yes" to these questions, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study underway to evaluate a new marketed medical device designed to treat chronic sinusitis.

To learn more please contact:
Austin ENT Clinic, Research at 512.323.2432

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAID RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S

sexual health

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a study to examine factors that may impact sexual function in women. Women over the age of 25 are invited to participate. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. **You will receive \$25 at the completion of the appointment and your parking will be paid.** For more information, please call **512-232-4805**. All calls are confidential.

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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 you may qualify.

For more information, please call

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All calls are confidential.



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TROUBLE STAYING ASLEEP?

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A research study is currently being conducted by **FutureSearch Trials** for individuals who are experiencing sleep problems throughout the night. If you are at least 18 years old, you can be considered to participate in a clinical research trial for insomnia.

Study related care is provided at no charge to participants. This includes physical exams, sleep exams, laboratory services, and study medication. Qualified participants will also receive compensation for their time and travel.

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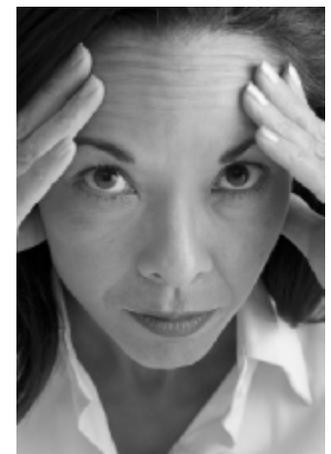
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If you suffer from 2 to 8 migraine attacks per month, and have a history of migraines for at least the last six months, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of a medication for migraines.

Eligible participants must be 18 to 65 years of age. Office visits, study procedures, and study medication will be provided at no cost.

Compensation up to \$300 will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort completing the study.



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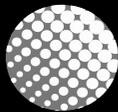
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CENTRAL Almost new, open 3/2 dplx. Stone flrs, fenced yd, master has own entrance. 3313B Pecan Springs. \$1050 O/A. 933-1311

CENTRAL Brykerwoods house, 2-1 w/ bonus, gorgeous renovation, formal dining, hardwoods, tile, large fenced backyard, skylights, w/d conn. \$1,750. 3100 Oakmont. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL 9424 Hunters Trace, 3/2, tile and carpet floors, 2 car garage w/ laundry room, spacious covered back porch, \$1,000. Beck & Co.(512) 474-1470 brad@beckandco.com

CENTRAL Crestview, 2-1 charmer, hrdwd floors, w/d, lawn care provided, garage. \$1250/MO. Call 453-3038.

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CENTRAL Off Enfield - Unique 2/1 4-plex built around private courtyards, clay tile throughout, fireplace, CA/CH, gas/water paid, quiet neighbors, pet friendly! NO W/D connections. \$1025 w/ \$100 move in special. 1603 Woodlawn. Matthews Properties 454-0099, 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Northcross area - 3/2 House w/ Garage, CACH, Fireplace, W/D conn, Fenced yard. \$1,200. 451-0414.

CENTRAL Tarrytown - gigantic 1 1/2 in 4-plex, hardwoods, large common yard area for gardens or just relaxing under the trees, windows everywhere, large kitchen, NO W/D connections, window a/c's. Cats welcome - NO dogs! \$875 w/ \$100 move in special. 2304 Enfield. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Off South Lamar and Bluebonnet Road, 2/1 duplex snuggled into great south Austin area, near Alamo South, Barton Springs, SOCO and everything funky and weird, \$895. Beck & Co.(512) 474-1470 brad@beckandco.com

EAST CENTRAL Nice remodeled 3/2. Sattilo tile, fenced yard, next to woods. Convenient to UT, near Mueller. 4703 Creekwood. \$1100/mo. O/A. 933-1311.

SOUTH South Austin 3 BR with back studio. Front house with 3 BR, new carpet, tile kitchen and bath. Includes a back studio unit. Large yard with storage. \$1850 512-322-0512.

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SOUTH CENTRAL Travis Heights, 1013 Bonham Terrace, lower 1/2 of Duplex. Hardwood Floors, CA/CH, 2-1 with w/d conn. \$1100, Available mid January. Call Cindy, Lanier Realty at 825-4663.

SOUTHWEST 2 Bedroom 1.5 bath. 1 car garage. Upstairs balcony patio. W/D connections. Fridge with icemaker. Fenced backyard. Pets negotiable. Dishwasher. On cul-de-sac near Manchaca and Slaughter. \$850 plus deposit. Available Feb 1st. Call 335-6999.

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NORTHWEST Nice House, Good Neighborhood. Housemate wanted: \$450/mo. Master Bed w/ Private Bath or \$350 for smaller rooms. (707) 478-0372

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CENTRAL Central Austin opportunity 1.3 acres on quiet street just north of Hyde Park. Ripe for development. What can you envision? 975K owner/agent Patricia, SPACES Real Estate Services, 453-MOVE

CENTRAL Near Congress & Oltorf. 12 remodeled 2/2's available at \$179,700. Granite, stainless. 3% FHA financing available. Hip gated community right off the SoCo action. Call Condo Joe for access 203-4100 or CondoJoe@re-al.com for flyer.

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CENTRAL Delwood Delight! 1309 Bentwood Rd. 3/1/1. Walk to new Mueller development. Updated to today's standards. Hardwood flooring in living area. Fireplace, neutral paint colors throughout. New landscaping package. Call BrokerBrad.com @ 512-750-4099. Asking \$279,750.

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5406 Roosevelt
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Pet of the Week JAMIE

I'm Jamie, a 5-year-old Great Pyrenees/Border Collie mix. I'll be a terrific friend to you, whether you're hiking or just lazing in front of the TV. I have a strong preference for human attention and don't really feel the need to share it with other four-legged housemates. If you're willing to let me be your one and only, then let's make a match!



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PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of the property to satisfy landlord's lien. Public auction will be held at 11:00am on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at 2220 East Riverside Drive in Austin, Texas 78741. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal is required. Seller reserved the right to remove property from sale. Property includes contents of space of the following tenants: Truan, Carlos: two televisions, table set, wooden rocking horse, dolly, water stand, desk, leather chair, tires, rims. Truan, Carlos: mattresses, couches, furniture, boxes, misc. Sanchez, Marco Antonio: television, computer monitor and hard drive, keyboard, speakers. Thomas, Laquindra Lemmett: baby clothes car stereo, baby stroller, car seat, Michael, Blankenship Aaron: muffler, misc. boxes, stool, large clothing storage bag. Reese, Jerry Dwaine: red car. Lewis II, Connally: tires, clothing, speakers, rims, totes. Gallardo, Petra Guadalupe: household items. Jack, Gonzales Jeffrey: tires. Olivares, Joey: table set, mattresses, microwave, bed frame, kitchen appliances. Brown, Constance Deanna: household items. Sattiewhite, Virginia: television, baby stroller, shelf, toys. Please contact Corina Zepeda at 512-326-3188 American Mini Storage 2220 East Riverside Drive Austin, Texas 78741

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LLC - Manager; by
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VanDercook -
President, Kristina
Kay Herbig - CFO
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS TO
ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF MARK
HILTON SHULAR, Deceased,
No. 89899 in Probate Court
Number One of Travis
County, Texas.**

JESSICA SANDOVAL and
RACHEL SHULAR and all
legated heir(s) at law in the
above numbered and entitled
estate, filed on the 15th day
of January, 2009, an Appli-

cation for Letters of Adminis-
tration and to Determine Heir-
ship in the said estate and
request(s) that the said Court
determine who are the heirs
and only heirs of the said
MARK HILTON SHULAR, De-
ceased, 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 ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing 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 re-
turned unserved.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT** at office in Travis
County, Texas, this the 15th
day of January, 2009.

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-08-
005015 To: JOHNTA ELAINE
FIELDS** and to all who it may
concern, Respondent(s);
**GREETINGS: YOU HAVE
BEEN SUED.** You may em-
ploy 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 peti-
tion, a default judgment may
be taken against you.

**YOU ARE HEREBY COM-
MANDED** to appear and an-
swer before the Honorable
District Court, 201ST JUDI-
CIAL DISTRICT COURT, Tra-
vis County, Texas, at the
Courtroom 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 ORIGI-
NAL PETITION IN SUIT AF-
FFECTING THE PARENT-
CHILD RELATIONSHIP OF
DAMITA P. HOUSTON
Petitioner(s), filed in said
court on OCTOBER 1, 2008,
against JOHNTA ELAINE
FIELDS Respondent(s), and
said suit being entitled "IN
THE INTEREST OF ANAISHA
ELAINE BYRD, A CHILD", the
nature of which suit is a re-
quest ORIGINAL PETITION
IN SUIT AFFECTING THE
PARENT CHILD RELATION-
SHIP.

The Name, Birth date, and
Place of Birth of said is as
follows:

ANAISHA ELAINE BYRD
JULY 08, 2004
UNKNOWN PLACE OF
BIRTH

The Court has authority in
this suit to enter any judg-
ment or decree in the child's
interest which will be binding
on you, including the termi-
nation of the parent-child re-
lationship, the determination
of paternity, and the appoint-
ment 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, Janu-
ary 16, 2009.

**AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-
MENDOZA**

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box
679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ IRENE SILVA, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
DAMITA HOUSTON
6407 SPRINGDALE ROAD
#1201
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-08-
001546 TO: JOHNNY**

GUTIERREZ and to all who it
may concern, Respondent(s);
**GREETINGS: YOU HAVE
BEEN SUED.** You may em-
ploy 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 peti-
tion, a default judgment may
be taken against you. **YOU ARE HEREBY
COMMANDED** to appear and
answer before the Honorable
District Court, 95TH 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 ADOPTION
OF A CHILD OF SUZANNE
RAMIREZ ALEMAN Petitioner(s),
filed in said court on MARCH
24, 2008, against JOHNNY
GUTIERREZ Respondent(s),
and said suit being entitled "IN
THE INTEREST OF NATALIE
IRENE ALEMAN, A CHILD", the
nature of which suit is a request
to terminate the parent-child
relationship and for adoption.

The Name, Birth date, and
Place of Birth of said is as
follows:

NATALIE IRENE ALEMAN
MAY 5, 2001
AUSTIN, TX

The Court has authority in
this suit to enter any judg-
ment or decree in the child's
interest which will be binding
on you, including the termi-
nation of the parent-child re-
lationship, the determination
of paternity and the appoint-
ment 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, Janu-
ary 16, 2009.

**AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MEN-
DOZA**

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box
679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By: /s/ SCOTT WOODWARD,
Deputy

REQUESTED BY:
RICHARD I MICHAEL
1714 FORTVIEW ROAD,
SUITE 106
AUSTIN, TX 78704
BUSINESS PHONE: (512)
442-4151
FAX: (512) 442-4308

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS**

**CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-
000295 To: GEORGINA AL-
MAZAN ESCALANTE** 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 peti-
tion, a default judgment may
be taken against you.

**YOU ARE HEREBY COM-
MANDED** to appear and an-
swer before the Honorable
District Court, 53RD JUDI-
CIAL DISTRICT COURT, Tra-
vis County, Texas, at the
Courtroom 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 ORIGI-
NAL PETITION FOR DI-
VORCE AND TRAVIS
COUNTY STANDING ORDER
filed in said court on JANU-
ARY 16, 2009, and said suit
being number D-1-FM-09-
000295 on the docket of said
Court, and entitled "IN THE
MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE
OF FERNANDO GOMEZ, JR.
and GEORGINA ALMAZAN
ESCALANTE, ET AL, and IN
the Interest of EVELYN GO-
MEZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a
request to DISSOLVE the
marriage of the parties, ap-

point 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, January 16, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-

MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse

1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ ARMANDA MARTINEZ,

Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

MICHAEL MARBUT

919 CONGRESS AVE., STE.

720

AUSTIN, TX 78701

BUSINESS PHONE: (512)

499-8061

FAX: (512) 499-0103

Name: Shuyi Gao Ward

Address: 2240 East 3300

South #18

Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Phone: (512)769-6762

Pro Se

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF SALT LAKE COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH 450 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84114

SUMMONS

SHUYI GAO WARD, Petitioner, vs. JAMES V. WARD, Respondent.

Case No. 084903780

Commissioner: Casey

Judge: Trease

THE STATE OF UTAH TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PETITIONER/RESPONDENT: You are hereby summoned and required to file an Answer in writing to the attached Petition with the Clerk of: The Third Judicial District Court of Salt Lake County, State of Utah a copy of said answer, within 20 days if you are served in the State of Utah, or within 30 days if you are served outside the State of Utah, after service of this Summons upon you. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in said Petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. You can obtain a copy of the Verified Petition by writing to the clerk of the court at 450 S. State St., Salt Lake City, UT 84114. READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY. These papers mean that you are being sued for Divorce.

DATED the 2nd day of January, 2009.

/s/ Shuyi Gao Ward

Petitioner Signature

NOTICE OF ABANDONED

VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction if not claimed within 30 days.

Garagekeeper:

Jay's Towing

10607 Circle Drive

Austin, Texas 78736

(512)288-0694

1. Dodge Shadow, Lic# QBH 524 Oklahoma, VIN# 1B3AP24D2RN247787

2. 1995 Volvo 960, Lic# 129 HFO Mississippi, VIN# VY1KS961S71071789

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 herein after 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

91717 U.S. HWY 290 E

Austin, TX 78724

(512)278-1220

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 9:00 AM

214 Penny McAlister: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

508 Stephanie Kerley: household goods, furniture, appliances, other (clothes)

630 Pedro Alvarez: household goods, furniture, boxes

803 Terrie Alexander: furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

805 Conley Penn: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

813 Mark Nitkin: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools

814 Verliisa Bryant: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip

825 Chris Sanchez: household goods, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances

6609 Dorothy Burton: furniture, boxes, clothing

8814 Verda Robinson: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

Uncle Bob's #231

8227 North Lamar

Austin, TX 78753

(512) 833-0855

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 10:00 AM

1020 Justin Harrison: household goods, tv or stereo equip, furniture, boxes, appliances, sporting goods, tools, office equip., office machines, construction equip

704 Romon Smith: household goods, boxes, tools, account records

7734 Timothy Patrick: furn., household goods

961 Danielle Dadani: household goods, furn., boxes, tools

745 Rose Brown: household goods, furn., boxes

742 Rondrick White: boxes, household goods, tv or stereo equip., office equip., other, tires and rims

730 Chris Brumback: household goods, boxes, appliances

1208 Charell Lemuel: household goods, appliances

1010 Samuel J. Jones Jr.: household goods, boxes, tools, tv or stereo equip.

812 Paul Ruiz: household goods, furn., boxes, appliances, tv or stereo equip

1414 Melinda Castillo: household goods, furn., boxes, appliances, tv or stereo equip., account records

1510 Pamela Cage: household goods

901 Dianna Potter: household goods and furn.

1111 Herbert John Boleyn: household goods, boxes, tools, landscaping equip.

Uncle Bob's #276

2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664

(512)310-0279

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 11:00 AM

224 Tarin Marshall: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office machines

520 Jeremiah Cargill: furniture, boxes, landscaping equip.

2234 Reuban Hernandez: household goods

2324 Chris Zurovetz: household goods, sporting goods, tools

3124 Greater Austin Moving: household goods

3126 Greater Austin Moving: household goods

3136 Arthur Johnson: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, TV's or stereo equip., office furniture, account records

3426 Sandra Saucedo: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

4122 Eric Jackson: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip.

4217 Leighann Eckard: household goods, furniture, boxes

4311 Joyce Thompson: household goods

5111 Robert Cleaver: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

5114 Marcus Nickerson: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

5127 Pam Jones (Zenos): household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., office furniture, office machines/equip.

6208 Janice Davis: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip.

6209 Patrick Daly, Sr.: household goods, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

6210 Tom Blodgett: household goods, furniture, boxes

6334 Gail Watson: household goods, furniture, boxes

7417 Venita Williams: household goods, furniture, TV's or stereo equip.

9125 Maria Andrade: household goods, furniture, boxes

9616 Anasley Judie: household goods, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., account records

Uncle Bob's #197

5547 McNeil Dr.

Austin, TX 78729

(512)336-8390

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 12 noon

205 La Toya West: hshld goods, furn., boxes

206 Austin Watson: hshld goods

211 Mary Cunningham: hshld goods

402 Kim Temple: hshld goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, construction equip., acct. records, sales samples

424 Holly Garrison: hshld goods, furn., boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

504 Daniel Crouser: hshld goods, furn., boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, acct. records, sales samples, contracts

1503 Wendy Johnson: hshld goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods

1707 Jason Franklin: furn., boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

1738 Shannon Lucio: hshld goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods, toys

1907 Tamara Stephens: hshld goods, furn., boxes, appliances

Uncle Bob's #287

6509 South First Street

Austin, TX 78745

(512)326-9696

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 1:30 PM

104 Galvan April: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip

125 Samuel Ybarra: household goods, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

256 Melissa Rosales: furniture

339 Tiffany Sharp: household goods, furniture, boxes

360 Paul Gonzalez: furniture, tools, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

3113 Pamela Beck: household goods, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3338 Aaron Pace: furniture, boxes

3424 Deborah Ervin: furniture, boxes, appliances

3417 Tara Roberson: household goods, furniture, boxes

3502 Rosa Castelan: household goods

3520 Kirsten Collins: household goods, boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 18th of February 2009 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Wednesday, February 18th 2009.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0443 ERNEST QADIMASIL, BED, BOXES RIMS

0458 ISIDRO CISNEROS, CHAIR, BED, BOXES

0521 LILLIE ANN ALCALA, ARMOIRE, TABLE, DRESSER

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

A006 LEENAYVIA MARTINEZ, DRESSER, TABLE, CRIB

B028 CORRIN SLATER, ARMOIRE, TRUCK TOOL BOX

B031 CYNTHIA LOPEZ, HAND DOLLY, TOOLS, LADDER

K288 ERIC REYNA, HAND DOLLY, SOFA, CHAIR

V698 RAMON AQUINO, ENTERTAINMENT CTR, BOXES, TOTES

V727 JESUS CAZARES, TABLE, TOTES, TOYS

W819 CYNTHIA KERR, BED, TABLE, CHAIR

10:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

A4 NEDRA JOHNSON, TV, DRESSER, TABLE

B4E STEFANIE MIRELES, CHAIR, BOXES, TV

C15 VICKY LOURO-ANGELEZ, TABLE, BOXES, FILING CABINET

D1 SESAR MARTINEZ, BOX SPRING, MATTRESS

E23 CHALEO GAMBOA, TOOLS, WASHER, DRYER

F3 DIANA GUZMAN, TRUNK, BAGS, TOTES

F4 ROBERT RENTERIA, COMPUTER, LAMP, BOXES

G14 CHRISTIAN SABON, HAND DOLLY, YARD TOOLS, SOFA

G20 ROXANNE BARKER, DRESSER, WASHER, DRYER

J19 DELMA AGUIRRE, TOOL BOX, LAWN EQUIPMENT, TABLE

K36 RAUL GARZA, BOOKCASE, BAGS, CHAIR

L55 LINDA CHANDLER, BED, STOVE, BOXES

L81 ANN HARTMAN, WHEELBARROW, TABLE, DRESSER

L82 LORENZO BANKS, COMPUTER, CHAIR, FISH TANK

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

331 VANESSA STANDBERRY, DRESSER, TABLE, BOXES

351 CLINT BAKER, BOXES, SUITCASE, TOTES

548 CHRIS DESANTIAGO, TABLE, DRESSER, BOXES

724 DALIA RAMOS, STEREO, TABLE, CHAIR

769 ARLENE GALVAN, BBO, LAWN FURNITURE, CHAIR

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

2030 OLIVIA ARCHBOLD, SOFA, HAND DOLLY, BOXES

2138 APRIL KING, TABLE, BOXES, CLOTHING

3037 TERRY TAYLOR, DESK, CHAIR, BOXES

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B14 DORETHA KING, BEDS, BOXES, MONITOR

C54 REBECCA COLEMAN, COMPUTER, BOXES, AIR COMPRESSOR

C115 RICHARD SANCHEZ, DRESSER, TABLE, BED

C122 THOMAS LOERA, BED, BOXES, TRUCK SEAT

C229 BRANDON GREEN, BAGS, TOTES

C241 SAMANTAH LOVATO, BAGS, CLOTHING

C279 IVAN ALVAREZ, TABLE, TOTES, BOXES

C285 NICOLAS GUERRA, SPEAKERS, SOFA, TABLE

C311 SANDRA COTTON, CHAIR, BOOKCASE, BOXES

C314 MARK MORENO, TABLE, BOXES, TOTES

C328 BONITA BOTELLO, CHAIR, BOXES, WEIGHTS

12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1008 SHAWN LLOYD, BOXES, FISH TANK, SUITCASE

2046 BRANDON KING, BED, BOXES, TABLE

2089 YVONNE LAFUENTE, STEREO, DRESSER, TABLE

2120 KALI GRIFFIN, TABLE, CHAIR, DRESSER

3099 DENNIS COX, CHAIR, BOXES, LOVE SEAT

3121 AIR QUALITY SOLUTIONS, LAWNMOWER, SHELIVING, LADDER

3124 RICHARD SMITH, WASHER, DRYER, DESK

4080 TALIA BOCANEGRA, TV, WASHER, DRYER

4109 DANA LIMON, STEREO, BOXES, BAGS

1:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US 290W, Austin, TX 78735

2148 THE CHURCH AT THE WELL, TABLE, SPEAKERS, CHAIRS

2172 SHELBY CHARLES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

3110 DUSTIN JONES, DRESSER, SOFA, STEREO

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Delinquent Tenants

PS Orangeco, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the 19th & 20th of February 2009 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Thursday February 19th 2009

AV0212 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDED 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;

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

1.	090091533	1989	LINC 4DR	538NBT TX	1LNBM9M93EY688595
2.	090121316A	1994	BUIC 4DR	X16NGB TX	1G4NV5530RC251440
3.	095002288	1999	FORD4DR	B35LRD TX	1FAFP6634XK137442
4.	095002292	1998	DODGPK	53MTF3 TX	1B7HC16X0WK5560912
5.	095002293	1999	NISS 4DR	N17SZS TX	1N4DL01D1XC192375
6.	095002457	1996	GEO 2DR	531BXX TX	2C1MR2290T6737691
7.	095003553	1989	DODGPK	93V7D1 TX	1B7GL26X5K033444
8.	095003556	1997	CHEV2DR	M14RWLTX	1G1JC1249V7101235
9.	095003558	1982	CHEVPK	FY3138 TX	1GDCD14H2CF351654
10.	095003577	1988	ISUZ 2DR	554TCC TX	1JABBR07F4J7302444
11.	095003580	1994	NISS 4DR	Z05GLM TX	1N4BU31D9RC212963
12.	095003592	1989	DODGPK	18YMY4TX	1B7FL16G5K068748
13.	095003593	1990	BUIC 4DR	404DXM TX	1G4CW54C4L1614511
14.	095003594	2001	MIITS 2DR	Z45YZS TX	4A3AC44611E171223
15.	095003600	1990	GMC PK	84VZJ1 TX	1GTD1C1420LZ551990
16.	095003606	1989	GMC LL	47HML2TX	1GTER16K8KF535149
17.	095003615	1980	VOLK4DR	613JDZ TX	17A0910372
18.	095003778				

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

IN COLD CLIMATES, BLOCK HEATERS HAVE MANY BENEFITS

Dear Tom and Ray:

Help! I have an '04 Chevy Trailblazer, and I live in the far north of Canada. It's minus 24 degrees as I write this. Can you tell me what the benefit is to my engine of using a block heater?

– Emily

TOM: Well, the primary benefit is that your car will start, Emily.

RAY: For those of you lucky enough not to live in the great frozen north, a block heater is an electric heating element that's installed in your engine block. You plug it in overnight with an extension cord, and it keeps the engine block and the coolant inside of it warm. And that, in turn, keeps the oil from thickening up.

TOM: When an engine gets bitterly cold, the oil gets thick like molasses. If the moving parts of your engine have to push through this thick oil just to get started in the morning, they may not be able to do it. So the block heater keeps the coolant warm, and that, in turn, keeps the oil just warm enough so that it moves easily.

RAY: That has benefits for your engine as well. Most significantly, since the oil moves more easily, it circulates faster and gets to moving parts of the engine faster. So there's less time just after the engine starts when key metal parts are unprotected – or underprotected – by oil. That means your engine lasts longer.

TOM: The prewarmed coolant and oil also allow your engine to warm up faster and reach operating temperature sooner. That means you get less oil dilution from cold, unvaporized gasoline and better fuel efficiency.

RAY: And it means you get heat to your feet faster. When it's minus 24 degrees, don't tell me that the benefit of a warm passenger compartment isn't as important as any benefits to your engine, Emily!

Don't get stuck with a lemon. Be an informed shopper. Read Tom and Ray's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on



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Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767 (512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

The Public is Invited to Participate

Travis County is eligible to receive an estimated \$833,133 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit Travis County low- to moderate-income residents who live outside any city limit.

HUD awards these grants to communities to carry out a wide range of community development activities aimed at revitalizing neighborhoods, improving affordable housing options, and providing improved community facilities and services.

In accordance with federal guidelines and to best serve the community, Travis County officials and staff are seeking input from residents and service providers of the unincorporated areas of Travis County during a series of public meetings. During these forums, the public will have an opportunity to present community needs and recommend uses for CDBG funds. This information will ultimately be incorporated into the County's Program Year 2009 Annual Action Plan.

The public forums will be held according to the following schedule:

Location	Date and Time
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St. Austin, TX 78701	Tuesday, February 17, 2009 @ 9:00am
Travis County Community Center 15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D Pflugerville, Texas	Wednesday, February 18, 2009 @ 6:30pm
West Rural Community Center 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A Oak Hill, Texas	Thursday, February 19, 2009 @ 6:30pm
TNR Satellite Office 1 9301 Johnnie Morris Road Austin, Texas 78724	Thursday, February 26, 2009 @ 6:30pm
South Rural Community Center 3518 FM 973 Del Valle, Texas	Thursday, February 26, 2009 @ 6:30pm

If you can not attend a public hearing, you can participate by filling out a Citizen Participation Form found at the Travis County Website at www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG/, at one of the seven Travis County Community Centers or by requesting that it be mailed to you at 512-854-3460.

For additional information contact Christy Moffett, at christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us or call 512-854-3460. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at any of the public hearings, please contact staff at least five business days in advance.



Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767 (512) 854-4100 Fax (512) 854-4115

Invitamos al Público a Participar

El Condado de Travis está calificado para recibir aproximadamente \$ 833,133 en fondos del Programa de Subsidios Globales para el Desarrollo Comunitario (conocido como CDBG por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD). Este programa beneficia a residentes de ingresos bajos y medianos que viven en las áreas no incorporadas del condado, fuera de los límites de las ciudades.

HUD otorga estos subsidios a comunidades para que lleven a cabo una amplia gama de actividades de desarrollo comunitario, con el fin de revitalizar los vecindarios, mejorar las opciones de viviendas a precios asequibles y brindar mejores instalaciones y servicios comunitarios.

Conforme a los lineamientos federales y para brindar un mejor servicio a la comunidad, los funcionarios y el personal del Condado de Travis están solicitando durante una serie de reuniones públicas, las opiniones y sugerencias de los residentes de las áreas no incorporadas del Condado de Travis. Durante estos foros, el público tendrá la oportunidad de identificar necesidades comunitarias y recomendar en que proyectos usar los fondos CDBG. Esta información se incorporará en el Plan de Acción Anual del 2009 del Condado.

Estos foros públicos se llevarán a cabo de acuerdo con el siguiente horario:

Lugar	Fecha y hora
Travis County Granger Building Commissioners Courtroom 314 W. 11th St. Austin, TX 78701	Martes, 17 de febrero de 2009 a las 9:00a.m.
Travis County Community Center 15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D Pflugerville, Texas	Miercoles, 18 de febrero de 2009 a las 6:30p.m.
West Rural Community Center 8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A Oak Hill, Texas	Jueves, 19 de febrero de 2009 a las 6:30p.m.
TNR Satellite Office 1 9301 Johnnie Morris Road Austin, Texas 78724	Jueves, 26 de febrero de 2009 a las 6:30p.m.
South Rural Community Center 3518 FM 973 Del Valle, Texas	Jueves, 26 de febrero de 2009 a las 6:30p.m.

Aquellos que no puedan asistir a los foros públicos, podrán participar llenando la Planilla de Participación Ciudadana. La planilla se puede descargar de la página web del Condado de Travis www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG/, puede recogerse en uno de los siete centros comunitarios del condado, o puede solicitarse para ser enviado por correo postal llamando al (512) 854-3460.

Para mayor información, comuníquese con Christy Moffett, a través del e-mail christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us o llamando al (512) 854-3460. Para solicitar que haya un intérprete en español o de lenguaje americano de señas en alguna de estas reuniones, favor contactar al personal CDBG por lo menos con cinco días hábiles de anterioridad.

continued

legal notices

1341 Nicholas Luna, All items in unit
1416 McArthur Small, All items in unit
3160 Michael Smith, All items in unit
N1225 Todd Readoux, Bags, bed, boxes
N1285 Mailing Williams-Davis, All items in unit
N2315 Tanya Walker, Boxes, clothing, suitcase
N2383 Annette Brooks, boxes, chair, couch
N3360 Stevin Woody, Desk, chair, stereo

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A059 Tommy Thompson, Boxes, Dryer, washer
A100 Deryl Bunton, Bed, boxes, table
B019 Owen Summers, Couch, Table, chair
C011 Yvonne Carmean, All items in unit
C018 William Voges, All items in unit
D025 Albert Camacho, Boxes, Dresser, dryer
F001 Harold James Hopkins, Bags, boxes, toys
F025 Brian Dennis, Bicycle, bed, boxes
H010 Kimberly Glassford, Baby stroller, bed, desk
H050 Peter An Nguyen, Arcade console, casino table
J026 Roman Torres, Computer, refrigerator, stereo
J029 Terrance Isaac, Bed, dryer, washer

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

C054 Francis T. James, Books, boxes, chest of drawers
E091 Marvin Calhoun, Cabinet, chair stereo
E122 Anna Daniels, Bags, boxes, totes
E131 Zenda River, Bags, bed, boxes
G005 John Doud, boxes, ladder, shelving
G012 Johnathan Jones, Baby playpen, boxes, clothing
G024 Leon Curtis, Bags, bed chair

Friday February 20th 2009

9:30am Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave. Round Rock, TX 78681

4130 Robert Garcia, Bags, clothing, desk
5121 Nicole Kenney, Bed, boxes, clothing
5136 I Magnetic Resonance Services, Bed, boxes, computer equipment
6117 Sharon Jones, Boxes, bags, totes
7110 Lisa Green, Boxes, bags, totes
8121 Alicia Komorowski, All items in unit.
8122 Virginia Rosalez, All items in unit
9105 Belinda Reese, Boxes, bags, totes

10:00am Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0106 Jeri Baylor, Bags, boxes, couch
0206 Christella Lozano-Rodriguez, Bar, bicycle, boxes
0332 Shirley Townes, Bags, boxes, chair
0601 Mike Calvert, Boxes, dryer, refrigerator
1202 Shirley Townes, bed, couch, love seat

10:30am Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

4033 Maria Margaret Valdez, Bed, chair, dryer
4067 Dana Gonzalez, Bags, beds, chair
C009 Al Thompson, Boxes, lawn equipment, sports equipment

11:00am Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2072 James Perry, 40 cases of soda
2226 Ron Isaacs, Boxes, bags, totes

2253 William Roddn, Computer
B017 Bonner Bankston, Bed, chair, couch
11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

A020 Joseph L Sutherland, bags, boxes, chair
A092 Craig English, Chair, couch, pictures
C318 Henry Rountree, Bed, table, tv

D482 Adam Garner, Boxes, chair, couch
D514 Grace Castro, Bed, couch, table
D517 Angela Pocaroba, boxes, desk, dryer

12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

E067 Alfredo Bernal, Bed, couch, desk

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 **10:00 am on February 10, 2009**.

Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Deposit for removal and clean-up 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.

B003 Jose M Martinez: plastic tubs, EZ UP gazebo, table, chairs, fax machine

B044 Stacy R Rodgers: flower pots, outdoor garden items, chairs, camping items

C011 James Vavra: mattress, sofa, loveseat, clothes, TV, boxes

D004 David K Marbury: chest/trunk, drum, boxes, ice chest, printer

D007 Tim Kenner: boxes, chest, bookshelves

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas
County of Travis

Cause: C1CV08010026-1 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the County Court 2 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, December 16, 2008, in cause numbered C1CV08010026-1, styled Lori L. Fritz versus **Melvin L. Kirk** on a judgment rendered against **Melvin L. Kirk**; I did on January 12, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of **Melvin L. Kirk** the following described real property:

Lots Twenty-Seven (27) and Twenty-Eight (28) of the Pecan Hollow Ranches, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, According to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 78, Page 107...of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On March 03, 2009, 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 **Melvin L. Kirk** in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, January 21, 2009

Bruce Elfant,
Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas

/s/ 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 ESPERANZA LOERA, DECEASED

The administration of the estate of ESPERANZA LOERA, Deceased has been commenced by the issuance of original Letters Testamentary to PETRA BESA, whose address is 6030 Thom Road, Humble, Texas 77346 on January 20, 2009 by the Travis County Probate Court No. 1 acting in Cause No. 86550, styled IN RE: ESTATE OF ESPERANZA LOERA, DECEASED, in which Court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them within the time prescribed by law, addressed to the representative of the estate at the address shown above.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF JOHN F. CAMPBELL, P.C.
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 405
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 476-6036
(512) 478-8919 (Fax)

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF F.E. HARWI, JR., DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that

original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of F.E. Harwi, Jr. were issued to Frank E. Harwi, III, on January 22, 2009, in Cause No. 89,778 now pending in Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, Sitting in Mat- terns Probate.

The residence of the Independent Executor is 751 Sweetbrush, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas 78258. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED December 30, 2008. WALKER ARENSON, Attorney for Frank E. Harwi, III
512.327.4422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Olive W. Huffman, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2009, in Cause No. 89845, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to Calvin Wayne Huffman, Richard Ellsworth Huffman, and Gregory Scott Combust Huffman, Independent Co-Executors. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time specified by law to C. Wayne Huffman, Representative of the Estate of Olive W. Huffman, 603 W. 9th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration of the Estate of Elvis Jay Shoaf, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2009 in Cause No. 89700, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Lisa Hamilton, Dependent Administrator. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Rose Cohen, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that

original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lois C.

Standifer, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2009 in Docket No. 89845, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Patti Standifer Zinsmeyer. Claims may be addressed in care of the Executor's attorney, as follows:

Patti Standifer Zinsmeyer, Independent Executor
c/o Jennifer J. Mattingly
Attorney at Law
11782 Jollyville Rd.
Austin, Texas 78759
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 26th day of January, 2009.
Jennifer J. Mattingly
11782 Jollyville Rd.
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 219-4090
Attorney for the Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Zella A. Ives, Deceased, were issued on December 16, 2008, in Cause No. 08-0601-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law No. Four, Williamson County, Texas, to: Laurel Morgan Ives and Floyd L. Ives.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: James L. Arth
700 Lavaca Street,
Suite 1150
Austin, Texas 78701
DATED January 23, 2009.
/s/ James L. Arth
Attorney for Laurel Morgan Ives and Floyd L. Ives
State Bar No.: 01362900
700 Lavaca Street,
Suite 1150
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 479-8989
Facsimile: (512) 479-7910

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of SARA JEAN GREER, Deceased, were issued on January 13, 2009 in Cause No. 08-0492-CP4, pending in the Probate Court of Williamson County, Texas, to: LINDA GREER HIGDON.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Terry L. Belt
Attorney at Law
3355 Bee Caves Road #605
Austin, Texas 78746
DATED the 23rd day of January, 2009.
/s/ Terry L. Belt, Attorney for Linda Greer Higdon
State Bar No.: 02109500
Telephone: (512) 327-7360

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Billy Perry Denham, aka Bill Denham, aka B.P. Denham, Deceased, were issued on January 27, 2009, in Cause No. 89791, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Valerie Jean Denham.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 27th day of January, 2009.
/s/ Candice H. Bocock,
Attorney for Valerie Jean Denham

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rex Mercer Medcalf, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2009, in

Cause No. 89,796, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Greta S. Rymal.

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.
c/o: John A. Crane
Attorney at Law
700 Lavaca, Suite 1010
Austin, Texas 78701
DATED the 20th day of January, 2009.
John A. Crane
State Bar No.: 05006490
700 Lavaca, Suite 1010
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 469-9444
Facsimile: (512) 469-9060
Attorney for Greta S. Rymal

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Francisco X. Trevino, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2008, in Cause No. 89557, pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: Jerry Dan Jensen.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: W. Michael Murray
Attorney at Law
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750
DATED the 16th day of January, 2009.
/s/ W. Michael Murray, Attorney for Jerry Dan Jensen
State Bar No.: 14729600
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750
Telephone: (512) 336-9994
Facsimile: (512) 336-9996

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gabriele Pitcher, Deceased, were is-

sued on November 18, 2008, in Cause No. 89,464, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: Henriette Wilke.

The residence of the Independent Executrix is 2936 Orange Cemetery Road, Morgantown, KY 42261.
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 the 17th day of December, 2008.
DANIELS LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 6219
Austin, TX 78762
By: /s/ Duane L. Daniels
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Preasley Jackson Rutledge, aka Preasley Jackson Rutledge, Jr., aka Jack Rutledge, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2009, in Cause No. 89810, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Keith H. Rutledge.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Brad Wiewel
Attorney at Law
1601 Rio Grande St., Ste. 550
Austin, TX 78701
DATED the 22nd day of January, 2009.
/s/ Candice H. Bocock,
Attorney

NOTICE TO PRESENT CLAIMS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sue McGaha Black, Deceased, were issued on January 22, 2009, in Cause No. 89,849, in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Charles Miles Frost, as Independent Executor. All persons having claims against this estate are

required to present them to the Executor c/o Rodney Sheppard, Attorney at Law, 1505 West 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Park Concession Operations, 5090158-RG
Opens: February 9, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE FEBRUARY 3, 2009 @ 2:00 PM

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.USGA Golf Sand and Assorted Sands, B090076-NB
Opens: **BID OPENING HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 12, 2009 @ 2:00 PM**

2.OEM Parts and Labor (Heavy Duty Road Machinery, Grounds Machinery, Motorcycles), B090157-NB

Opens: February 9, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.
3.Medical Gases, B090155-RG
Opens: February 17, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

4.Asphalt Based Pavement Crack Sealant, B090163-LD
Opens: February 17, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Edgar Clayton Brantly, III were issued on January 22, 2009 in Docket Number 89583, pending in the Probate Court, Travis County, Texas to ANN GABRIELLE BRANTLY (LANN), Independent Executor. The address of record for this estate is Susanna Bond, Resident Agent 1411 West Avenue, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

S/ ANN GABRIELLE BRANTLY (LANN)

Independent Executor of the Estate of Edgar Clayton Brantly, III

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- New!!! 1997 Toyota 4Runner Limited, 96,000 miles, amazingly clean. \$5,500. Warranty.
- New!!! 1995 Mercedes SL-320, two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a "10". We can take your car in trade. \$10,950.
- New!!! 2003 Civic 2 door, 5 sp, 74K, really nice, \$7,500.
- New!!! 1997 Ford Ranger. Only 75,000 miles. Runs great. \$7,950.
- New!!! 1998 Toyota 4Runner. 4 cylinder, clean, nice, warranty. \$4,450.
- New!!! 2006 Ford F-150 Quad door, 35K, very very clean. Can

trade, \$13,450.

New!!! 2002 Civic, four-door, auto 87K.. one year warranty. Clean, nice, \$6,750.

New!!! 2002 Corolla, very clean, nice, one year warranty. 66K. \$6,500.

New!!! 2008 Civic 4 door LX, 4,100 miles, factory warranty, can trade. \$14,950.



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1995 CAMRY 4 cylinder, great, reliable car with full warranty. \$3950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

1995 MERCEDES SL-320, two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a '10', and we can take your car in a trade. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

1995 SENTRA Two-door, auto, good mechanical transportation, with a warranty! \$1,950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

1996 CAMRY V-6 wagon. Had minor cosmetic issues, but runs like a champ. 97k. Clean with a full warranty. \$4500 Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

1998 CIVIC Four door, auto, 150k., in process of 65 point check. Auto., \$4450. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2002 CIVIC four-door, auto 87k, one year warranty. Clean, nice, \$7750. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2002 COROLLA Very clean, nic, one year warranty. 66k. \$7650. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2003 COROLLA Four door, with auto, all power, leather! \$8250, can trade, one year warranty, Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2004 HONDA Civic 2dr., EX Coupe, 5 speed, clean as a pin. Warranty. Can trade. \$8950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2007 NISSAN Versa four door, 25,000 miles. Very very clean. Can trade. \$12950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

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trucks

1997 FORD Ranger. Only 75,000 miles. Runs great. \$4250. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2000 TACOMA V-6, X-tra cab, great work truck. Warranty. \$4500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2006 FORD F-150 Quad door, 35,000 miles, very very clean. Can trade. \$13950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

FORD F-100 1978 Rare Sport Package \$7500 Complete Restoration Please Call Monty at 979-732-0751 for more information.

SUVs

1998 TOYOTA 4Runner, 4 cylinder. Clean, nice, warranty. \$5500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

2003 TOYOTA Highlander, Limited, very nice, can trade, warranty. 82k. \$11950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotastustin.com

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GUITAR Lead Guitar/Vocalist Needed ASAP for Hays County Classic Rock and Roll Band. We play Biker bars and rallies. We are all mature adults and we expect the same. No heavy drinking. No drugs, No Flakes. LilaMG@aol.com

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LUSCIOUS LUSTY MISTRESS

Not looking for anything in real life, just some online naughty fun. I'm into male/female subs, as long as you're sexy, intelligent & creative. NOT into submitting or switching. **FemmeDomme72**, 36, #129046

SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION
 Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. **burlyqgirl**, 24, #128939

OPEN-MINDED GAL
 Looking for a casual, fun, new experience. **Aqua32**, 32, #128883

U MAN ENOUGH
 I've played rebound, Cougar, I've been on my own. I am happy and content with myself and my life. Open to a LTR if the right guy comes along. **Ms-Spontaneous**, 37, #128825

MISTRESS 4 YOU
 Mistress seeking submissives, pain sluts, sissyboys, and such. Think you can handle it? **crystalrose**, 37, #128824

MAYBE SOMETHING MORE
 I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type, but I have big tits and a firm ass. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litred**, 31, #128782

FUN LOVING
 Looking to have a good time...FUN!! **jccc**, 34, #127045

INTELLECTUAL SUBMISSIVE
 If you have a decent vocabulary, a dry sense of humor, and an I.Q. in the triple digits, in addition to a dominating flair in the bedroom then write me. **Bella34**, 35, #126130

JUST PEAKING
 Wow didn't know this was out there. I am single and would love to meet my "match". Tend to be attracted to that tall mr. all american type but with a devil inside. **bettyboo**, 36, #124984

MALE BODY LOVER
 Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. **rockett2222**, 35, #124473

HOT MAMA
 Looking for fun in Austin. **curves44**, 46, #122575

WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS
 Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transsexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. **pleime**, 43, #122521

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**, 23, #119045

DISCRETE FUN
 SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. **Funtimes01**, 30, #117862

3'S BETTER
 we are a sexy young couple looking for a woman to add to our spicy sex life. **menageatrois69**, 25, #128976

DP INTEREST
 She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wanting to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 32, #128950

SENSUAL AND SEXUAL
 We are a married couple that is looking to play with others. We like to spice it up a bit. **green**, 38, #128660

COUPLE SEEKS WOMEN
 I would like to find a woman that would join us in our bedroom. I would love to find someone that could be a fwb thing, if not that's ok. **Bunny1604**, 23, #128851

HOT MARRIED CHICK
 Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 33, #128804

OUR FIRST THREESOME
 We've never had a threesome before but dying to have one, any girls wanna show us the ropes? NO GUYS. **EndZoneDance304**, 24, #128614

HOT CPL4LADY
 Depending on the chemistry we are open to anything from friends with benefits to serious relationship. In special instances would we be open to one-time casual encounters. **jezebella83**, 25, #128442

CLASSY COUPLE FOREPLAY
 Attractive couple in 30s looking for Woman/Couple. Attracted to you & you to us. For fun drama free erotic pleasure. Should be Open-minded, discreet, playful not pushy. I'm bi, he's straight. **TexasSugar**, 34, #128373

BROADENING HORIZONS
 We are a couple looking to spice up our love life. We have decided to try a threesome with another woman to see if it is something we're interested in. **gandf**, 27, #128323

CUTE COUPLE DATEING
 Hi! poly couple seeking third. cute and curvy /lean and muscular seeking fun energetic girl to date. **CultLeader**, 21, #128309

FUN NIGHT
 Black couple seeking interested female for a night of fun! My first time so seeking a female who is interested in making this experience one i will not forget! **muffinberries**, 24, #128156

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL
 We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. **srcn4fun**, 32, #128004

NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!
 Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! **ATX-Couple4you**, 32, #127995

BI-CURIOS FEMALE
 I am a very sexy, very fit female looking to explore my bi-sexual fantasies with another woman/women in front of my boyfriend. He is fit, hung, & fun. **looking4fun**, 30, #127762

B OUR PLAYMATE
 Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex, and more sex. **newbies**, 36, #127079

SEXY ADVENTUROUS COUPLE
 We're a couple in love but looking for erotic experiences with beautiful women. We're relatively new to this, but are up for a delicious sexual experience if you are interested... **foxyloxyn-grizzlybear**, 22, #127025

NEW TO AUSTIN
 Couple interesting in having a female companion to help spice things up in the bedroom. We are pretty easygoing people and willing to try anything! **Usagistar182**, 24, #126862

NAUGHTY GIRLY-GIRLS?
 Like shame and humiliation? Want to be walked on a leash? We are your couple... **goodgirlkitty**, 27, #126722

AWESOME COUPLE LOOKING
 We are a happy couple that have been together 8 years. We are looking for female playmates. You won't be disappointed. **delvallefun**, 38, #126459

BEAUTIFUL DOMINATE REDHEAD
 Dominate red head, who is bi, attractive and LOTS of fun. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, blue eyes, perky boobs, nice ass and VERY KINKY. I have male partner to join. **MistressDarlan**, 37, #127653

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER
 You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US: Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 32, #121712

GOOD KARMA GIRL
 I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art from. **vron**, 42, #128575

GIRL PLAYMATES
 Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 31, #119900

RAINMAKING TRUTHSEEKER
 I am an attractive nineteen-year-old bisexual female. I consider creativity, health, and honesty to be the most relevant traits in a person. I'm looking to be friends first. Be real. **sweet-eighteen**, 19, #128243

SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER
 My master will control and teach me. He should be successful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean-42DDD**, 37, #127400

WETLIPS
 im a wild sex kitten with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for sexy e-mails, ill talk dirty! **highheels23**, 22, #126858

HORNY NEED RELEASE
 im always horny looking to get off with the right person you must be a btm. **jdog47**, 20, #127469

MMMM?
 Looking for women or couples for erotic fun. im easy going, Love masturbation, Like water sports and transsexuals. **roosta40**, 44, #128241

CURIOS FUNSEEKER
 I am looking for someone who is also curious and willing to try different things to have discreet encounters or exchange e-mails; no strings attached. **Pugio**, 29, #128472

NO STRINGS ATTACHED!!!
 My requests are simple... Discreet, sex, no relationships!!! I am looking for a good one-on-one with the right lady, or a lil company(couple). Whatever the case maybe, I love sex :) **Scatter**, 31, #128434

HORNDOG, DEVIANT, DORK
 just here looking for some discreet fun open to try new things never say never I always say! **church700**, 26, #128258

SOMETIMES A SISSY
 5'10", long blonde, babyblues, love lingerie, makeup and heels. Looking to explore my feminine feelings and desires with one caring woman, must respect limits. Help me be me, pretty, please. **billypilgrim4montana**, 43, #127369

HOT, CLOSET CD
 looking for a good looking, 30 to 40's y.o. woman who would like to dominate me sexually, be (snuggle after sex!) friends. I'm reasonably intelligent, sensitive, artistic person. **shelley**, 55, #124543

HOT AND HORNY
 Toned hard body cross dresser and exhibitionist. Do you have somewhere I can perform for you? xoxo, Call Me Jackie. **jackie69**, 44, #101254

KULCPL

HOT, HORNY, FUN

We are an experienced couple that loves to play with a variety of healthy and adventurous couples. We will consider select single males, females or groups. We both love to watch each other in action. The more action the better!!!

read the rest of KULCPL's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

FronteraFest Long Fringe's 'The Dick Monologues'
 Blue Theater • 916 Springdale Rd. • Sat., Jan. 31, 1:30pm • www.dickmonologues.com

Consider the possibility that you don't know dick. You might think you do ... rather intimately even. Some people might have mistaken you for a dick once or twice. In fact, you might have actually been one at some point or another. Even if you haven't been a dick, there's a small chance that your name is Dick. No shame there. Richard sounds a little pretentious anyway ... especially if you're French and put all the emphasis on the back end. If you're not a dick, there is a (roughly) 50% chance you're at least attached to one - not necessarily by marriage, but by arteries, erectile tissue, epididymis, and the like. Being attached to a dick doesn't mean you have to write it love letters. In fact, writing love letters to your pecker is kind of dickish, really. That doesn't mean you can't possess some affinity toward it however. After all, if you have a dick, you know that your dick leads you around on some rather exciting escapades. Such adventures are bound to engender a sense of bonding. You might even feel a certain camaraderie with your little downstairs neighbor. After all, you seem to share so much in common. You have the same taste in women ... or men. When he's overworked, you both get really tired. Sometimes he's awake when you're asleep. Sometimes he's asleep when you're awake. Sometimes he might need a pill to stay peppy. Sometimes he's so ... out there ... it's downright embarrassing. On occasion your dick needs correcting. Like a wayward child, at times he needs to be pointed in the right direction. Some dicks need constant adjustment - not just the dicks on major league pitchers and gangsta rappers but also dicks on big-bellied rednecks in Bermuda shorts and overly curious toddlers. After all, you're never too young to learn that even though your dick might not always live up to your expectations, he's always an available and willing playmate. If you're like most people attached to a dick, you probably feel like you know it pretty well. You've spent a questionable amount of quality time exploring its ins and outs. You might even feel like you're something of an expert on the dick. Well, get over yourself. It turns out that nearly everyone is a specialist on the dick, whether they have one or not. Take FronteraFest's *Dick Monologues*, for instance. You might think a show so named would be a veritable sausage fest. Not so. A full nine of the 11 members onstage lack a member themselves (unless, perhaps, there's an incredible *Crying Game* plot twist). Can they make up for their dicklessness with oral acumen? Very likely. Members include writers Spike Gillespie, Sarah Bird, Diane Fleming, Robin Chotzinoff, Sarah Barnes, and Marrit Ingman, plus performers and bons vivants Laura Lane, Kristine Kovach, and Jaycee Wilemon. If you feel like you're missing the meat, don't worry. *Dick Monologues* throws you a couple of bones with songwriter Southpaw Jones and actor/performer Rudy Ramirez. How can hilarity not ensue?

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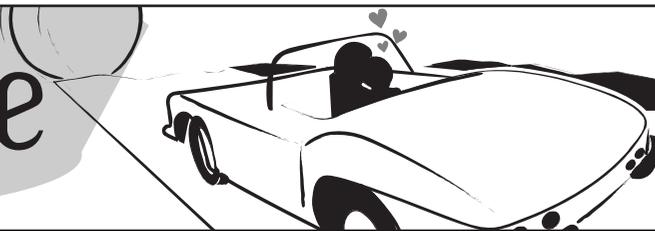
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Women SEEKING men

STRAIGHT EDGE ME

I'm straight edge, true story. I color like no other and love to bake. I just moved here and would love to meet some rad folks. **nicoleedge**, 21, [#129157](#)

COOKY REDHEAD

vegetarian that fully embraces the goofy Austin lifestyle. love to dance, time with family & friends, enjoying the live music scene around Austin. **SarahKM**, 27, [#129129](#)

TEXAS VERVE

Funny, extroverted, pretty, intelligent female who likes to be outside seeks friend to get to know and see where it goes... Let's walk town lake! **Chanel5**, 46, [#129147](#)

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ISOLTR

Traditionalist-hippy Honest, Happy, Healthy, sometimes Shy Single, Sane, Loyal, Patient Forgiving, Loving, Committed to the right man I believe opposites attract Spiritual, Earthy, Outdoorsy Hispanic descent Young-looking, Beautiful, and Sexy. **VestaTaurus**, 44, [#129143](#)

LITERATURE, MUSIC, OUTDOORS

I am ambitious; equally devoted to writing, family, free time. Want to meet man who is passionate, ambitious, can teach me something. **AynVedder**, 29, [#129132](#)

ALLITERATION'S ALWAYS AWFUL

Me: twentysomething writer, academic and comedian. Kinda hip, kinda nerdy. Wanting more than just a good time. You: well traveled, accomplished. Tall. Funny. Not old enough to be my father. **diffuseglow**, 25, [#129131](#)

HONEST,SWEAT BLK FEMALE

Austinite 27yr. five-three 120 long black hair mid-way my back brown eyes looking for intelligent,fun,drama free male Love to stay active and enjoy life with someone a cup of passion. **London4u**, 27, [#129127](#)

FUN SIMPLE GIRL

simple girl looking for fun. great food, company and music. Cooking, watching a movie or playing a game of phase 10 is always a fun night. **ForLoveofCAKE1**, 23, [#129124](#)

JUST LOVE ME

I love life, love to laugh and make people laugh. Partying is fun but so is staying in and watching a movie. But I take drunk pictures like nobody's business. **yovzas321**, 19, [#129123](#)

LOOKING FOR ...

I'm open-minded, tolerant and somewhat eclectic liberal leaning child of the 70's. Looking for a friend to laugh, talk, and snuggle with, 5'10" or taller,educated casual drinker and non-smoker. **TerriRedux**, 49, [#124937](#)

PECAN WAFFLES

looking for someone with an interest in anything artistic and who can laugh when its most inappropriate. **tanknee**, 24, [#128845](#)

CAN READ MAPS

Seeking fun companion who is honest and dependable, loves dogs, makes me laugh, and is tolerant of a woman who has a busy schedule and limited time. **Twetiebird**, 53, [#119067](#)

LETS GO EXPLORE!

We could drive up to the lake, explore a small town festival or winery then watch a movie at home with the wine and goodies we found along the way. **siena**, 56, [#128985](#)

COUNT ME IN

I have an interesting sense of humor.i love to dance. I just love to have fun, very outdoorsy, camping, fishing, hiking. **justasweetiepie**, 50, [#116439](#)

HEADLINES ARE SILLY

I am a long time Austinite (got here before before they dropped a bank on the Armadillo) making a transition from corporate America to something I love doing - Photography! **Photog68**, 53, [#129145](#)

ENERGETIC TRANSPLANT

I'm pretty well rounded. I enjoy physical activity and intellectual discussion over politics, religion, film, etc. I'm seeking an attractive, active, athletic and intellectual woman. Someone I can learn from. **Newbie2009**, 46, [#129133](#)

ONE OFA KIND

I'm honest one man womman.I'll stand by you no matter what you chose to do.I don't have a problem expressing my feelings or showing.A crowd I'll through you a wink. **129120**, 50, [#129120](#)

LEGEN-,WAITFOR IT, -DARY

I'm full of jokes, enjoy creating/listening to music, watching movies and playing video games. I love to quote random things at random times. And hopefully you do too. **ducttape-gamer**, 18, [#129116](#)

TELEPATHIC, RADICAL, NOT-RETARDED

Good looking honest, genuine, yet still totally rad guy looking for an honest and genuine girl who is also totally rad. **AndyTexman**, 22, [#129102](#)

SEARCH

Looking for a woman to be friends and spend time and money together, I don't want to spend my money by myself, se abla Espanol and se abla broken English. **naustex**, 34, [#129097](#)

FISH IN SEA

I'm a cool nerd. I love to learn new things, and have a passion for parrots, traveling, nature, fair trade and video games. Wanna go out or play rock band? **FeministSweepstake**, 24, [#129090](#)

2LEGIT2QUIT

A winner, a sinner, non conforming conformist, sports addict, party like a rock star, **** like a porn star. DO WORK! **Justin1354**, 24, [#125025](#)

SEXY BOY

well, I looking for friends if they speak espanol i do.i like to work out every day write to me and i will answer you. **friendlover**, 24, [#129071](#)

LAUGH AT YOURSELF

You meet a friend of a friend at the bar. Don't just keep talking to your friend as if the friend of your friend were not now your friend too. **Next-Door**, 27, [#126403](#)

REALLY?

Very well, where do I begin? My father was a relentlessly self-improving accountant from El Paso with low grade juvenile delinquency and a penchant for travel. **MyCallKane**, 28, [#129055](#)

men SEEKING women

STRANGE, FUNNY, SHYISH

there's not enough room in 30 words to do this. look online if you wanna know. **catslothloaf**, 22, [#129167](#)

GOT OUTSIDE!

I am an active Austinite who enjoys the great weather and outdoor activities. I spend most of my free time biking, hiking, and staying in shape. Wanna join? **penguinswim**, 23, [#129165](#)

LIFE'S A RISK!

Down to Earth, funny, creative, and very passionate in anything I do. Looking for someone who shares my interests in life! **Risk2daG**, 24, [#129164](#)

I'MA LOSER BABY

Looking for responsible people to grow with. I prefer an outdoorsy type person, whom cycles perhaps. I am fairly open minded. **CJHolmes**, 40, [#124107](#)

BETTER THAN YESTERDAY

24-year-old aspiring filmmaker whose sense of self has finally started to form. Want someone in the same boat. Someone who will sometimes steer, sometimes sit, but always tolerate bad metaphors. **antirick**, 24, [#129153](#)

I'M READY..ARE YOU??

I'm a successful, fun loving, honest, generous, upscale guy. You: Tall, thin, sexy, intelligent, upscale, spontaneous, who can take me places I didn't think my mind could go. **steelstrings**, 55, [#115528](#)

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CLASSY, SMART, ENGAGING

Attractive,intelligent, down to earth woman ready for fun, adventure, romance. I'm open-minded, uninhibited and flexible. Seeking a truly good guy with sense of humor, smarts,financial security, accomplished, loyal and compassionate. **CharmingOneWon**, 56, [#129098](#)

HONEST, SWEET, REAL

I'm divorced and would like to find someone special to spend time with - someone who is honest and who approaches life with integrity and truth. **swtpeaintx**, 37, [#129068](#)

CREATIVEPLAYFULBOHEMI-ANCRITTER

I'm an entertaining, dog loving, smart, attractive woman. You: hiding in the cracks of Jo's, the dust of the Continental, maybe behind a tree on my own street? Call me! **creative1**, 49, [#129053](#)

LOOKING FOR REAL-MAN

I'm an Austin born videogame playing girl who loves to try new things. I'm looking for a man who can handle all of my quirks and spontaneous outbursts. **blondegamerchick**, 20, [#129048](#)

NO SENSE4 NONSENSE

I love stinky dogs.sunny days.coors light.egg rolls.the river.honesty. mostly anything with fun people. I crack myself up, sometimes I'm the only one laughing, but clearly it's hilarious! **katiepaige**, 23, [#128844](#)

DiffuseGlow

**SAUCY. SPUNKY. CREDULOUS.
NON-ALLITERATIVE.**

Me: 25-year-old writer, academic and comedian dedicated to the eternal pursuit of rockness in all its myriad forms. I'm kinda hip, kinda nerdy, and probably sitting across from you at the bar.

read the rest of DIFFUSEGLOW's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/loverslane

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CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

women SEEKING men

JUST ME.

Born and raised Austinite 24yr. Looking for an ambitious, intelligent, athletic lady just to hang out with and get to know... **Lbay**, 24, [#129160](#)

SHY, ENERGETIC, VIVACIOUS

I just moved from out of state. Need to meet outgoing people curb my shyness. I love brilliant exchanges of ideas, and someone who makes me think. **errrrrca**, 30, [#129118](#)

MOUSE/KEYS

Austinite 24yr. looking for attractive, intelligent lady to spend time with around town. No butchies need respond. **July3**, 24, [#129016](#)

DELICIOUS JAMS OHYEAH

I love tattoos, reggae, live music, boardshorts, outdoorsyness, lips, mr. chen, adventure, laughing, reading, writing, biology, random trivia, and rockband. I want your body. **Natisfaction**, 22, [#128909](#)

SARCASM GALORE

I'm new to the Austin area, and looking to meet some cool new people to show me around this lovely place.I love traveling, cooking, dancing, electronic music, & watching movies. **erinlagrif**, 26, [#128758](#)

BROWN BUTCH SEEKS

Hello, my name is Chris. I'm 30 years old. I would like to find some cool people with whom I can break bread, exchange music and ideas, thoughts, vibes....saliva eventually. **chrisg2369**, 30, [#128732](#)

ADORABLE, DREADLOCKED, SEXINESS

i'm all about meeting new people and having fun.i like to dance, jog, bike rides, watch movies, travel, go to concerts,and check out new restaurants.let's hang out! **E137071**, 27, [#128500](#)

SMARTASSCHICK

Laid-back, 33 year-old professional,soft-butch (whatever the hell that means??!!). I would like to meet an attractive, chill woman who has a brain and can have a stimulating convo, good kisser. **cooshrockets**, 33, [#128395](#)

SHY CARING ROMANTIC

Im a very laid back easy going type guy I like the outdoors reading going out etc I love meeting new people & traveling Like guys that are in shape. **mgf2005**, 45, [#101030](#)

MR.SQUIRREL AND I

I'm in Austin till the 19th. I go to college in NY. I'm like one of those enigmatic fortune cookie messages. I'm not entirely sure how to describe myself. **nelson**, 18, [#128894](#)

LAID BACK GUY

Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. **AustinRomance**, 31, [#128768](#)

NOT HIBERNATING YET

People accuse me of having a huge heart. 50s bearish male seeks younger bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff, kissing and making out. **ronintex**, 58, [#115402](#)

HONEST AND LOVING

I'm honest and loving looking for the same,i will take care of you and will be ready for you as i am a bot-tom looking for top clean ddf. **chcito**, 63, [#128299](#)

AUSTIN BORN

I'm emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I'm looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. **jmnnzptrck**, 41, [#127798](#)

HOPE DIES LAST

haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! **Blue**, 23, [#101322](#)

LOOK HERE, PLEASE!

Looking for friendship, dating. Interests include camping, biking, theater, movies, reading, canoeing, traveling. Politically progressive, romantic, passionate, humorous, and do community work Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine. **AusAbogado**, 62, [#124933](#)

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YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN
I'm a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? inuyasha86, 22, ♀, ☎, #125037

PRAGMATIST SEEKING COHORT
Just cruisin for a friendship with a gal who doesn't mind odd schedules. Occasional rides on the weekend - or evenings. Workin at night alone sucks. Justin, 43, #129019

BORED...
I enjoy watching movies, music, and coffee shops. I love to laugh! Sometimes I can be shy. I want to meet people who are fun, kind, and open-minded. js1985, 23, #128786

THE APPLE EATER
just see me in action at work and you will see my true nature. i am a giver and a nurturer. i am realistic, proud, joyous, adventurous, outgoing.. brookerhymeswith, 24, ☎, #128765

FRIENDSHIP, DANCING, ROLL-ERBLADING,
Attractive, Charming, middle aged guy interested in woman, any age, who likes to dance, rollerblade, bike, listen to live music, and go to the movies. Purely friendship. south-austexman, 51, #123769

JUST friends

HELLO
I'm a good listener and enjoy conversations that go beyond superficial small talk. I enjoy talking about politics, scientific and spiritual philosophy, and film. IzuLove, 24, ☎, #129163

a Shot in the Dark

GIRL/FRI/NIGHT IHOP S.AUSTIN
We were both leaving. Me , man in longhorn shirt - you/said your/name, but/your friend didn't give us time, to give numbers . U asked me to try this. **When: Friday, January 23. Where: IHOP. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903789**

HEB BURNET, SUNDAY
You: tall, dark-haired, behind me in line. After chit-chatting some, we exchanged looks in the parking lot. My facebook status is single, nobody has murdered me yet. Wanna meet up? **When: Sunday, January 25. Where: HEB on Burnet. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #903788**

WHOLE FOODS CUTIE
You were working in the express lane wearing a great pair of Rayban eyeglasses. I'm a shy, tattooed black girl that bought jello just to talk to you. Lunch sometime? **When: Sunday, January 25. Where: Whole Foods on N. Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903787**

GEORGIA AT PACHA
Georgia- I met you at Pacha on Sunday, Jan. 25 by asking you about Facebook I'd like to get to know you. **J When: Sunday, January 25. Where: Cafe Pacha. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903785**

KM/ AZUL TEQUILA
I saw you Thursday night. Do you remember what we talked about? Give me a chance. I don't want to waste any more time being afraid of something so beautiful. **When: Thursday, January 22. Where: Azul Tequila. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #903784**

MATTHEW LILLARD LOOK-ALIKE
You:Matthew Lillard lookalike (Joe) Me:Short brunette Where:H-E-B Village Center Dr. You're a total cutie, you look especially cute with your glasses on. **When: Thursday, January 22. Where: H-E-B @ Village Center Dr. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903783**

HOTTIE RUNNING TOWNLAKE
You: athletic, unforgettable arms, white/shortsleeve shirt, black shorts, black runners hat. Tattoo across shoulders. Me: someone that admired your physique, runner, long dark hair in pony tail, femme, 5'7 **When: Wednesday, January 21. Where: Townlake. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903780**

SHAKEDOWN AT NASTY'S
You, cute barkeep at Nasty's who threatened to knock out my teeth if we played anymore 90's alt on the jukebox. Let's knock teeth sometime. Wait, what? **When: Sunday, January 4. Where: Nasty's. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #903782**

WATER CONSERVATION
You: Jeremy Cruke adorable brunette at my door on 13th St with a petition for conserving water. Me: tall blonde late for work and totally attracted to you.Are you single? **When: Tuesday, January 20. Where: 1212 W 13th St. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903781**

VULCAN SOUTH
You were still in your motorcycle gloves. How did you like Wall-E? **When: Sunday, January 25. Where: Vulcan South. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903786**

LONGBRANCH MAC DADDY
Said your name was Mac. We talked about pants, made me laugh. I wish I gave you my #. You said a girl broke your heart. Let me fix it. **When: Sunday, January 11. Where: The Longbranch Inn. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903778**

HEY BEBE!!!
You: Enticing Brunette sales girl at bebe named Makayla, said you wanted to be the female Donald Trump, I suggested female Donald Duck, help me get in style? **When: Wednesday, January 7. Where: bebe. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903777**

SUPERHOT AT SUPERCUTS
You: Cutie Brunette hair stylist named Danielle that lived close by making us neighbors, care to get a drink at Rack Daddy's after a shift? **When: Friday, January 2. Where: Supercuts. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903776**

SVEDKA JENN
You: cute in checked cap revealed a flask full of Svedka at TC's, told you I would shot in the dark you if you would reveal more about yourself... **When: Monday, January 19. Where: TC's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903775**

JIM DAVIS FAN?
You: late-night movie-goer with short, dark hair, blue skirt and NIKE HI-TOPS. I would've told you you're witty, charming, fetching, but the movie started. Will time end before you call? **When: Wednesday, January 21. Where: Alamo. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903774**

SCOTT @BRAVENEWBOOKS
You: Front row attendee Me: Across the way Thanks for the walk to my bike-let's save water by getting a pint & you can teach me a sign **When: Tuesday, January 6. Where: Brave New Books. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #903773**

YOU BOUGHT FAITHNOMORE
You were cute, I'm too shy. Uhad on brownpants, black longleeve undershirt, some tattoos, blonde. 6pm on Monday Jan 19 at Cheapos. I literally 'checked' you out. Meet again soon? **When: Monday, January 19. Where: Cheapos. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903772**

FIESTA BOWL
You: Female wearing blue jeans and shirt with mom and maybe dad. Me: Hispanic male w/brother. We exchanged eyes a few times. Section 126 **When: Monday, January 5. Where: Fiesta. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903771**

KNOXVILLE SEEKING MEMPHIS
You: cute man, serving me and friend gelato Me: playing scrabble, short, brown hair, too shy to ask for your number. Had fun talking about Tennessee, music. Drinks? **When: Sunday, January 4. Where: 360 Uno Espresso. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903770**

DOWNTOWN NEAR PARAMOUNT
Blue enigma in my rearview mirror. No matter why you were right there,professional or personal you won. Touche'? **WHEN: January 9th WHERE: East 8th st. YOU: Woman Me: Man When: Friday, January 9. Where: Eighth St.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903769**

HANCOCK HEB 1/18
Both shopping for veggies & kept ending up in the same place You:tall, scruffy/curly blonde, with a cute smile. Me:blonde wearing an orange men's shirt. Wanna go veggie shopping sometime??? **When: Sunday, January 18. Where: Hancock HEB. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903768**

YMCA TOWNLAKE BRANCH
Andrew! You are super HOT! I want to get to know you better! If you think you know who I am, please make a move! **When: Thursday, January 1. Where: Townlake YMCA. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903767**

messages

CHAPPY HEARTS CHEEKY LIFE'S A JOURNEY Let's walk another 8,760 miles together.

HB- I AM sorry. I love you and I want us to be together. -HB

SHOES WON'T DROP cuz my feet are buried in the sand of your beach. did ya bring your suit? - stingray

HEY CHEERLEADER in your skinny jeans. I sure do like your pom poms! -LJ

BUNNY! I'M GOING to do whatever it takes to get you back. I miss you already. -Bear

WHOLEFOODS MON. EVENING
You wandered around w/2 friends (guy and girl). We looked, smiled. When I left, you're w/friends at door. Was not sure how to go up. Hope you read and email. **When: Monday, January 19. Where: Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903766**

ETHAN RED-FEZ
Great dancing - you behind me for a long time at RED-FEZ 12/27/08. Let's do this again and have a drink as well? Tina long blond hair. **When: Saturday, December 27, 2008. Where: REDFEZ. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #903765**

YOU FLING POO?
You were in Thundercloud and left this sketch (see website for image). Hilarious, brilliant, scatological ... the picture. Not sure about you! See you at Thundercloud on 12th on Friday? **When: Thursday, January 15. Where: Thundercloud on 12th. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #903758**

MYSTERY MOVIE MAN
You: Handsome man in concession line at Round Rock Tinseltown. You were seeing Notorious B.I.G. Me:Woman seeing Bride Wars with her girlfriends. Spoke to you but got nervous. Movie together sometime? **When: Friday, January 16. Where: Tinseltown Round Rock. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #903763**

PRETTY WOMEN
the first time i saw you, you smiled. and after that you move to other lane, then you said good bye. wanna hang out? when: HBE, burnet **When: Friday, January 9. Where: HBE on burnet. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903762**

10TH ST PARTY
We crashed the private party on 10th street from the church - you had dark hair and glasses. Are you single? Do you like pie? **When: Saturday, January 17. Where: 10th Street party. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903761**

BSSSALOON - PHOEBE
that one night was not enough. call me. more please sweetheart? **When: Monday, January 5. Where: barton springs saloon. You: Woman. Me: Woman. ☎ #903759**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for January 30-February 5

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "The seed cannot sprout upwards without simultaneously sending roots into the ground," says an ancient Egyptian proverb. Keep that thought in mind as you head into the thick of your new phase of growth, Aquarius. What part of you needs to deepen as you rise up? What growth needs to unfold in the hidden places as you gravitate toward the light? How can you go about balancing and stabilizing your ascension with a downward penetration?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to *Harper's* Index, an Iowa farmer can generate an annual revenue of \$300 per quarter acre by growing corn to produce ethanol. If the farmer instead puts a wind turbine on that same patch of land, however, he or she could earn \$10,000 per year. I urge you to meditate on that scenario as a metaphor for your own life, Pisces. Are you underutilizing one of your resources? Are you failing to fully capitalize on your potential? Have you accepted a low-yield reward in a situation that could bring you much, much more? If so, what are you going to do about it?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't tell me you have nothing to be thankful for, Aries. Your parents could have named you "Hooligan" or "Lightsaber" or "Flu," and they didn't. There are no photos floating around the Internet that show you riding a pig in the nude. No one has ever broken up with you via text message. Now please keep going in the direction I've pointed you. Count your blessings up to at least 101. Create an ongoing list of all the things in your life that work pretty well and make you feel at home in the world. Why do this now? Because it's Massive Explosions of Gratitude Week for you - a time when you can attract even more good fortune into your life by aggressively identifying the good fortune you already enjoy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sometimes a great idea whose time has come springs up in two or more places at once. In the 1850s, for instance, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace independently happened upon some of the key concepts of evolution. And in the 1840s, mathematicians Urbain Le Verrier and John Couch Adams virtually duplicated each other's predictions of the previously unknown planet Neptune, although they knew nothing about each other's work. I suspect a similar phenomenon is about to happen in your own sphere, Taurus. Act fast if you'd like to get as much credit as you deserve, like Darwin and Le Verrier, and not suffer the fate of Wallace and Adams, whose efforts were more invisible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Before she died at the age of 101, photographer Ruth Bernhard attributed her longevity to her restlessness. "Never get used to anything," she advised. I recommend that approach to you right now, Gemini. You're in a phase of your astrological cycle when thinking big and wild and free will be rewarded. To improve your physical health and boost your mental hygiene, familiarize yourself with the people and things you've grown accustomed to. Sneak away from your habits. Disrupt and tamper with your normal responses. Find good excuses to be unpredictable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "We are all stupid," wrote Mark Twain, "just on different subjects." Ain't that the truth? Sometimes I get overwhelmed when I think about all the blanks in my education and the ignorance that pockmarks my understanding. The good news for me - and for all of you, my fellow Cancerians - is that we're now in an astrological phase that's ideal for getting a crash course in any subject we're dumb about. If you're brave and humble, you could fix several holes in your intelligence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should definitely not attempt to reroute a mighty river anytime soon. I don't recommend trying to change the location of a mountain, either, or commanding the wind to obey you or shooting a flaming arrow at the sun. On the other hand, it wouldn't be a bad idea to turn one of your so-called liabilities into an asset or use a stumbling block as a shield. And you might have pretty good luck if you try to convert an adversary into an ally or move sideways in order to advance your pet cause. In conclusion, Leo, seek modest gains that involve reversals and switcheroos.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "If you removed all of the homosexuals and homosexual influence from what is generally regarded as American culture," said author Fran Lebowitz, "you would pretty much be left with [the TV game show] *Let's Make a Deal*." That's an exaggeration, of course, but it contains a large grain of truth. I offer this as a prod for you to deepen your understanding of the complexities of gender, Virgo. Astrologically speaking, it's an excellent time to do so. If you identify yourself as a heterosexual, meditate on the qualities you express that are commonly thought of as the specialty of the opposite sex. Consider the possibility that you are actually 65% female, 25% male, and 10% neither or maybe 15% female, 70% male, and 15% transgender. If you regard yourself as gay, explore the hypothesis that a part of you is secretly kind of straight. Open your mind to the possibility that human beings come in hundreds of different genders.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Poet Jack Spicer was a native Californian who wrote most of his poetry while living in the San Francisco Bay Area. He did, however, spend a short time on the East Coast. "Like most primitive cultures," he reported after returning home, "New York has no feeling for nonsense: I don't agree with that assessment. Some of the best nonsense I ever experienced transpired during a November night in 2005 on New York's West 23rd Street. In any case, Libra, your assignment in the coming week is to avoid primitive environments that have no feeling for nonsense. You need a maximum dose of silly, goofy, loopy bursts of diversion. I promise it'll make you both smarter and wiser.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your world is going to get very wet in the coming days. At least I hope it will. There are wrong moves you could make that would keep things pretty dry or else move you away from the imminent deluge. But I hope you will go with the cosmic flow and allow yourself to get the full benefit of the replenishing flood. In my astrological opinion, you need to feel the deep moisture that's beyond language. You need to be carried along in the fertile surge and returned to the source of your emotional life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "If your actions speak louder than words," rants TV pundit Stephen Colbert, "then you're not yelling loudly enough." That's a funnier variant of the advice I have for you, Sagittarius, which is as follows: The coming week is a time for crafty talk, not impulsive deeds; a time for intense discussion, not rash exploits. Engaging in almost any kind of negotiation, even if it's heated and convoluted, is better than leaping into an adventure prematurely. It's my opinion that you and yours will have to express a lot of ideas and feelings in order to uncover the understandings that should be at the root of your next moves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Studies suggest that one out of every 10 men and one out of every 20 women carry around an excess of anger - so much so that they're capable of damaging property in an outburst. If you're one of these rage-aholics, Capricorn, you now have a window of opportunity to calm way, way down. The cosmos is conspiring to relieve you of a significant amount of your chronic aggravation. And even if you're not among the world's most furious people, I hope you will take advantage of this grace period. You have the power to purge at least 20% of the ever-simmering agitation that you accept as normal. How to begin? Meditate on what it would mean for you to love yourself better.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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