

AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE

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**FOOD** Austin's Restaurant Gardens  
**MUSIC** Honey Pot Lucinda Williams  
**SCREENS** Flip to the B-Side



The Intrepid Crew of 'Warpstar Sexysquad,' From Yellow Tape Construction Company: (l-r) Erin Molson, Tim Doyle, Abbey Fitzjarrell

defense against the dark charts

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VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 25 FEBRUARY 20, 2009

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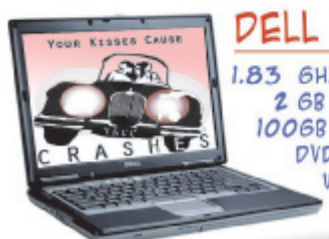
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# Tiny Tornadoes

SXSW time allows us to go soaring fearlessly into our imaginations

BY LOUIS BLACK

We are well into the final stages of South by Southwest preparation, having exited the more distanced, fog-cloaked territories (where one could fool oneself into believing there was still plenty of time). Having now emerged into the too sunny, dead-ahead, ever-shrinking final stretch, we are strapped in, helmets on, speeding toward the start, just three weeks away. The marker here is always the first weekend in February, when the all-SXSW-staff Saturday meetings begin. Time itself changes, especially the normal 24-hour structure of the day, vanishing into a kind of violently racing, white-water rapids – it exists; it just doesn't make any meaning. There were years when I would have already been writing about nothing but SXSW for a couple of weeks by now. But times change.

Last week's column was a bit of a misstep – well, maybe not exactly a misstep, but, if nothing else, it was a slide off to the side. And not a graceful slide, either, but rather an unusually clumsy one ending in an embarrassing pratfall. I pretty much had figured out what I was going to write about: the law (and the rule of law) and knew what I wanted to say. Unfortunately, I've always been one of those writers who has to write his way through points, it being not enough to just reference the bits of thinking that led to a particular conclusion. Instead, the movement forward is plodding: In trying to get to D, even if A, B, and C have already been beaten to death in previous writings, I'm still going to have to cover them again. This is the only way that where I'm going and how I am going to get there make sense to me.

What was to be a few quick sentences on the way to a different destination ended up being the column. Once again, I was stuck in the mud, my tires furiously spinning without finding any traction, just flinging mud all over the place. In this muddy stretch at a turn in the road, I have already dawdled away at too many columns, ultimately filling them with the overly familiar and too-oft-cited.

Friends who once had kind words to say about much earlier columns on the Constitution now beg me to stop. Some even go so far as to threaten violence. After last week's column, one friend became particularly vehement, seeming to relish overly her description of the physical brutality she felt should be visited upon me.

The last half-dozen or so "Page Two" columns have been not merely random outbursts but actually constitute a planned progression: I am going somewhere with all these

children's alphabet building blocks I've carved out and accumulated over a number of weeks now. Even though this movement is aimed at what seems to me a very clear goal, it's probably not apparent to the casual or even more serious reader. Regrettably, I fear that any assertions of clarity I might make are denied by the fog, haze, dust, and smoke emanating from these columns.

There is a definite point that these columns are supposed to be building toward – a very small one, high on a mountain above our lives. Arriving there does not only offer one a terrific, seemingly endless view of the landscape below but should provide the tiny seed of a revelation as well. Maybe calling it a "revelation" is to imply a grandeur that it doesn't possess; maybe better to say it's just an arrangement of thoughts – one that I hope will lend meaning to a large, expansive, extended population, one that is related in certain basic ways, though often dissimilar in many others. There are basic values shared by almost all, but they are articulated and conceived in such radically different ways that their commonality is hidden rather than apparent.

This population is one of survivors, of people who have lived their lives valuing hope over cynicism, who are street-wise but steadfastly poetic: people who live for some sense of art (with the meaning of that word not limited but ever-expanding), though they are not above politics. Privileging vision over hiding one's head in the sand, they insist on belief over despair but hold rock-steady to their determination to never be fooled again, never misled by a government, never conned nor sold a bogus bill of goods.

Gently, they should be reminded that just because life has hardened them, they shouldn't harden others. Youthful, naive beliefs and philosophical optimism led most of them to crushing disappointments later in life, when they came to the awful realization of just how doomed are the pure and holy. With the best of intentions, they now seek to spare the younger generations by dissuading them from investing too much, if anything at all, in raw hope.

The tiny seed is just to remind all that the journey from youth – when one has a strong belief in trust, purity, and faith – through aging – which leads to disillusionment and the loss of those beliefs – is not a transition between two conflicting, contradictory experiences. Rather, it is only one interrelated, organic whole, with the pain as much a part of the revelatory as the revelatory is part of the pain.

Similarly, my life as led is at best rich in contradictions, erratic and inconsistent, lacking rhythm and harmony, always

rapidly shifting from my being focused and purposeful to being dazed and confused. Often, in an attempt to clear my head, I take to bed, sleeping through a couple of days braced by dreams – some of which implode with hallucinatory surrealism, others so vivid that I walk up to people to continue conversations that were never begun in real life. The looks thus accumulated serve as markers to help my memory sort through the mix of dreams and real memories, trying to bring order to chaos, chronology to a daft personal impressionism.

Sleep is the reality and the metaphor. The oppressive but illusory weight of serious contemplation and consideration must sometimes be abandoned just to allow for breath.

SXSW fills days, rends nights, and consumes weekends. The main SXSW offices, just across a volleyball court and field from the *Chronicle* offices, are now gushing out energy 24 hours a day. The creative steam pouring out of the *Chronicle*'s offices all year intensifies as SXSW approaches, as it brings with it not only three of the biggest *Chronicle* issues of the year but also the three SXSW daily editions.

Through every fault and weakness in my personality, over the last couple of years I've found myself somewhat inanely defending SXSW rather than celebrating it. It is my favorite time of year, and I am so proud of it for so many reasons. Not the least of these are the extraordinary people with whom I get to work and that SXSW is very much and quite consciously a reflection and refraction of so much of what I love most about Austin. In light of my love and excitement and given the community behind and the source of SXSW, regardless of the intentions behind it and the plan of attack, my defense ends up as just pathetic whining. Rather than enjoying the hyper-pumping adrenaline excitement of the ride and the sheer thrill of the experience, I'd become so narrowly focused on trivial explanations and mounting meager defenses. Thus, instead of free-floating in the sky, running with the wind, and drifting up through the stars, I'd ended up in a dirty kitchen trying to feed Mikey his porridge while changing the baby's diapers and cleaning up the spilled orange juice on the floor.

I and only I had allowed what was once transcendent to become tedious, mundane, and soul-sapping. I'd been just too bundle-headed to realize that the vicious missives directed at SXSW were not really about questions or concerns, but rather that the attacks were in and of themselves the purpose. In so many ways, by responding to these sneers and jibes so seriously, I'd been insulting the extraordinary staff, volunteers, and creative communities that make SXSW happen.

SXSW for me has always been about a cornucopia of wonderful cultural events, which combine excited, unlimited, and endless creative possibilities. I had lost that vision for a while, but this year I'll be raising my eyes upward from the dank ground toward the farthest sky.

*continued on p.10*

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As I have walked along the everywhere boardwalk that we all stroll down, living the every day to every day of our lives, my gait has always been uneven, rarely displaying the nonchalant grace, or at least ease, of most others. Almost stumbling, I've never been terribly far from slipping off the solid wood boards into the endless sandstorms raging on all sides. Once the solid boardwalk is left, I find myself tossed around at the mercy of the tiny tornadoes of personal instability and an always-shaky grasp on reality.

This tilt, even at its most extreme, is not grandiose enough to call insanity or to find in it any related breed, but it is an overwhelming uncertainty, accompanied by a painful inability to understand the obvious. It is the simple tasks that break the spirit. There is a poem by Charles Bukowski about how what truly finally drives a person mad is a broken shoelace. This sense of impending slippage is always of my breath and on my mind – as when, taking long walks by the ocean, one always can hear the waves, take in the many smells, taste the salt, and feel the wet.

I point this out not to seek pity or to complain. This very uncertainty means I'm constantly open to new and moving experiences. Music, movies, comic books, poems, memories, stories told by friends, interactions between people witnessed from a distance – at any point and every point I'm susceptible to the heightened experience, the more-than-just-normal senses of life.

## Oops!

In a News story that ran Feb. 13 (“Craddick’s Computer Files Wiped Clean”), the Texas Public Information Act was incorrectly referred to as the Texas Freedom of Information Act.

Also from that week (“Ayres on Texas Children”), we apologize for identifying Robert and Pat Ayres as brother and sister – they are husband and wife. Again, our congratulations to the Ayres on receiving the Texans Care for Children’s Founders Award.

Falling away from the known and familiar can be distasteful, but it can also be exhilarating. SXSW, by erasing time as it is normally experienced – at the very least substantially changing, if not simply overwhelming, known daily routines and by necessity ignoring the many mundane anchors by which we stabilize our lives – allows us to go soaring off fearlessly into our imaginations. Sometimes, I feel that when this column is awkward, it still may display some grace; when too repetitive, it may at least offer calm; and, at its most unexpected, it just might take us all off into the unknown. ■

## Postmarks

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### WHAT ABOUT DARDEN SMITH?

Dear Editor,

While I enjoyed reading the article “Blood on the Tracks” [Music, Feb. 6] regarding Griff Luneburg and the Cactus Cafe in your recent issue, I was disappointed that Darden Smith was not mentioned along with the many talented musicians that contributed to the success of the Cactus Cafe. Smith has been playing at the Cactus since its beginning. (And even recorded some live albums there.) He continues to play there, to this day. I feel he is definitely part of the big picture of the Cactus Cafe, and he should have been mentioned.

Thank you,  
Eleanor Crose

### A BIG GREEN THUMBS UP

Dear Editor,

Re: City of Austin Solid Waste Services’ new recycling program: I just wanted to give a big green thumbs up on this program. To be honest, when it was first rolled out and the

new big blue recycling bins were delivered, I had my doubts. Now that I’ve had a chance to participate in this program for a couple of months, I’m impressed! The gray bin, the one for the garbage? It used to go out every week very close to, if not completely, full. Now it rolls out every week less than 75% full. This means about 75% to 80% less trash is going to our landfill, at least that’s the way it’s working at my home. Good job, city of Austin!

Thank You,  
Delwin Goss

### THAT HAD TO BE A JOKE, RIGHT?

Dear Editor,

Re: “Comparing Obama to Hitler,” Alan McKendree’s letter to the editor [Postmarks online, Feb. 9]: So, any popular politician that McKendree doesn’t like, for whom he obviously didn’t vote, and/or who he doesn’t understand is comparable to Hitler? Wow. What a small, little, unenlightened mind you have. Alan, put down the TV remote and your gun, put away your blatant ignorance, and read a book ... or a newspaper ... or a magazine, because, obviously, your scope of intelligence, knowledge, and experience is very limited. Thanks for the laugh, though; your ridiculous little letter was hilarious. It had been a long time since I *literally* laughed out loud. You were just kidding, though; right, Alan? Right?

J.T. Serrato

CONTINUED ON P.12

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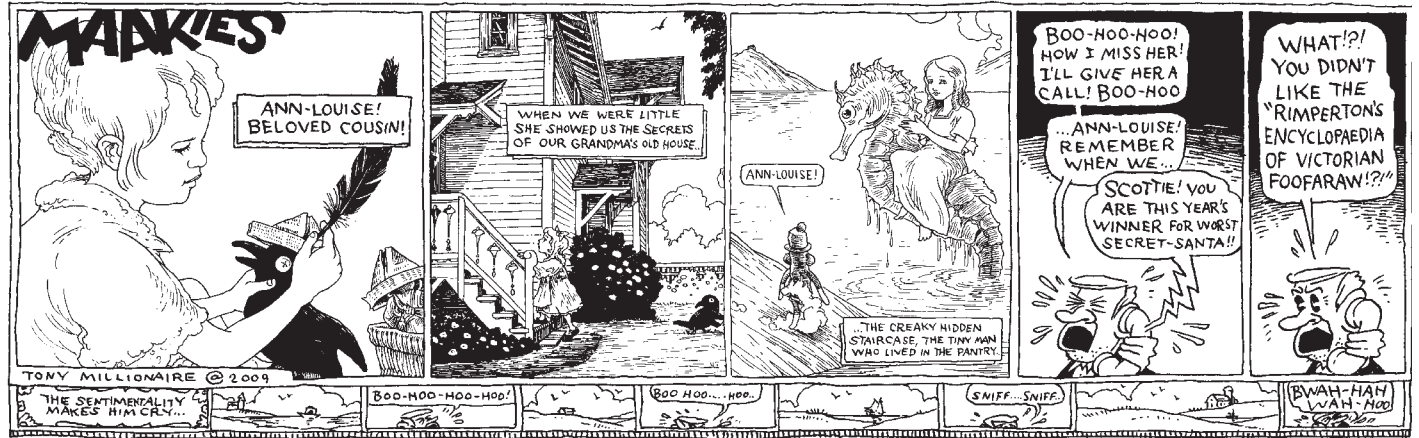
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**SECOND AMENDMENT UNAMBIGUOUS**

Dear Editor,  
 In "Page Two" (Feb. 13) Louis Black declares, "The Second Amendment as written offers no absolute guarantee of the right to bear arms." This bizarre belief in the myth of Second Amendment ambiguity continues to baffle me. There is nothing the least bit ambiguous or unclear about the statement "... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." You can argue over the meaning and extent of "infringed," but the amendment itself is perfectly clear.

Black bases this opinion on his belief that "basically militias no longer exist." Title 10, Subtitle A, Part I, Chapter 13, Section 311 of the U.S. Code disagrees: "(a) The militia of the United States consists of all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and, except as provided in section 313 of title 32, under 45 years of age who are, or who have made a declaration of intention to become, citizens of the United States and of female citizens of the United States who are members of the National Guard." Able-bodied males 17-45 are members of the unorganized militia whether they like it or not. It's not some nebulous intellectual exercise, it's federal law, and Section 332 gives the president the authority to call up the militia if he "considers that unlawful obstructions, combinations, or assemblages, or rebellion against the authority of the United States, make it impracticable to enforce the laws of the United States in any State ... by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings."

Jason Meador



**CHIP IS A WISE INVESTMENT**

Dear Editor,  
 Gov. Perry has suggested that Texas should reject federal money that would increase the number of children covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program.

CHIP is not a waste of taxes but a wise investment. It helps parents who work but whose jobs do not provide insurance and whose wages won't pay for health insurance. CHIP subsidizes the family's payments and allows those with the least resources to pay the smallest premiums.

Sick children without insurance frequently must endure their illnesses without medical care. Untreated childhood illnesses can linger on or worsen. Any measure of human kindness should move us to alleviate these children's suffering, but since Perry seems unmoved by such feelings, he ought to respond to more practical considerations.

Sick children cannot learn, and students who fail in school frequently end up without good jobs. Worse, many of those who fail in school wind up in prison. Education remains our best investment of tax money, and CHIP helps us educate children.

Sick children whose illnesses worsen end up in hospital emergency rooms, where the cost of returning them to good health is many times what it would have been had the illness been treated early on. This increased cost is usually borne by taxpayers.

We have always known that mean-spiritedness is bad morality; in this case, it is also bad economics. Texas should aggressively seek the money offered to expand CHIP, and the state should then aggressively seek to enroll every eligible child.

Sincerely,  
 John Cole

**IS SOMETHING WRONG AT THE CHURCH?**

Dear Editor and readers,  
 The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin has undergone changes in recent months. During December, its senior minister, Davidson Loehr, was dismissed from the church. For many the dismissal process was unfair, upsetting, and wrong. While many others felt the dismissal was fair. Many remain distressed over the dismissal. Others are happy. Church announcements reveal some of the efforts to move the church through its emotional conflicts. Helping Ministries has been running small group sessions to help members through this turmoil; a reconciliation team was put together, and this evolved into the bridge-building team, which in turn has hired an outside expert to help heal the church. More "healing" activities are planned. Obviously, the methods used to orchestrate the

CONTINUED ON P.14

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**Jesse McCartney**  
**March 17**

Rev. Loehr's departure have caused a significant upheaval. Some members have left the church, while others have returned; overall, membership is suffering. Some say reconciliation and truth are intertwined. Others want to be forward-thinking and get away from the past. Somehow something went terribly wrong at FUUCA. There is even a website for those distressed and displaced by the Dec. 13, 2008, dismissal of Loehr. For those who want to better understand why many left the church, they can visit the Yahoo! group ReFUUgee at [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/refugees](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/refugees).

Bob Randall

### MARATHONS NEED TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE

Dear Editor,

Exactly how accommodating does the marathon community expect the rest of us average Joes (and Janes) to be when it comes to one-hour traffic snarls on Sundays? It just took me roughly 45 minutes to travel a distance that normally only takes me five. The flow was so poorly controlled, as only one car every two to three minutes was allowed to pass through any given intersection throughout the Brentwood neighborhood (whatever happened to jogging in place so at least some traffic could pass?). As I write this letter, my car is sitting in a parking lot of a business, as I finally gave up, got out, and walked home (hopefully, it will still be there when the marathon is over). Why can't the city of Austin plan these events around Decker Lake, like the Danskin Triathlon does? It's a beautiful area and not nearly as heavily traveled as the inner areas of Austin. More to the point, why doesn't Austin City Council listen to its average tax-paying citizens when they complain about the horrendous delays caused by these marathons? Is it because they don't have the money and political clout that RunTex has? I listened with only partial interest when the businesses Downtown were complaining about the loss of customers and churchgoers due to these events. I now intend to pay a lot more attention when this dialogue arises again, as it most certainly will. If you are one of the countless individuals who had to sit in frozen traffic for an interminable amount of time on Sunday, Feb. 15, please call or write your favorite Austin City Council member and complain.

Thanks,  
Anita Rice

### SUPPORT THEATRE FINANCIALLY!

Dear Editor,

I fully believe that Karen Sneed writes with the best intentions ["Theatre Artists Please Volunteer," Postmarks, Feb. 13] when she asks theatre artists to forego reimbursement for a single show this year. However, her request propagates the myth that artists, particularly practitioners of drama, should be willing to work without compensation for their efforts. Such thinking is a fallacy, and it has hobbled the Austin theatre scene for years. Theatrical designers, technicians, and actors are craftsmen and should be treated as such, no matter the state of the economy.

Let me be frank: There are too many theatre venues in this town, diluting audience numbers across the city. There are too many theatre companies producing mediocre work, thereby scaring off potential long-term patrons. A purge, followed by a better consolidation of talents and effort, would improve the health and viability of the scene.

Furthermore, Austin citizens need to realize that buying a ticket at a local theatre does just as much, if not more, for our local economy as eating at Mother's or shopping at BookPeople. On at least one weekend out of the month, please skip the latest formulaic Hollywood release at a national movie chain, and head to an Austin theatre. There is magic happening on our local stages. It won't be available on DVD in six months, and it deserves our attention and support.

Scott Daigle

### DOESN'T LIKE MCCRACKEN

Chronicle editors,

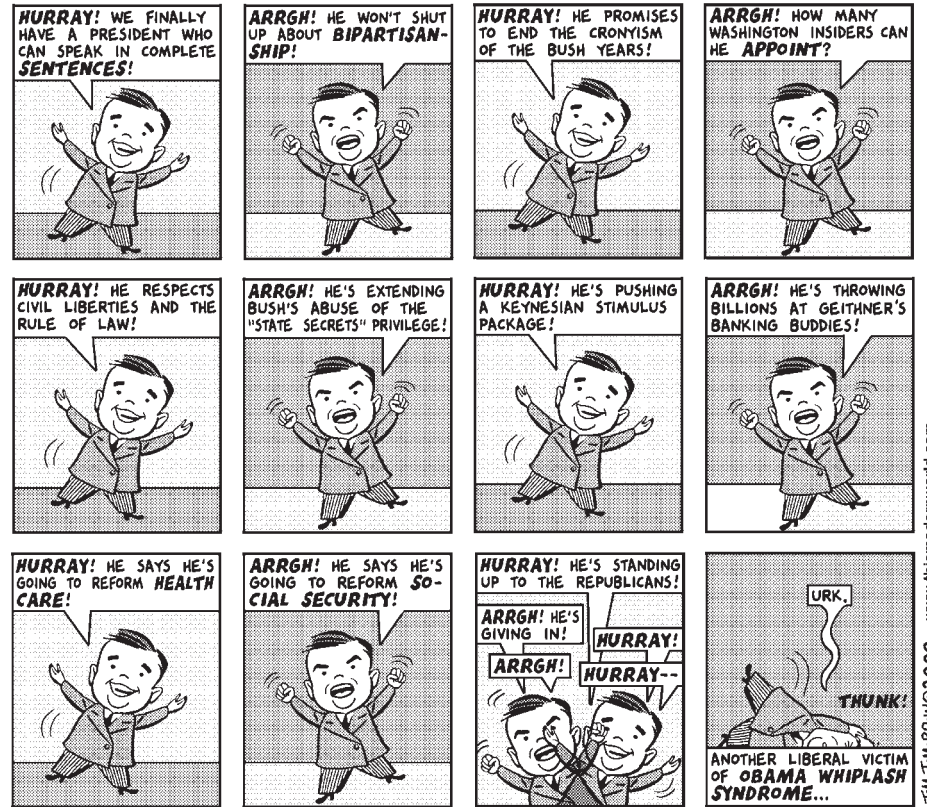
Brewster McCracken's actions as a council member and Capital Metro board member belie the dubious claim that he backed Barack Obama from the beginning ["City Hall Hustle," News, Feb. 13]. Panhandling ordinances, quasi-internment camps for homeless people, privatization, developer wedlock, regressive taxation, and corporate welfare are just a few McCracken specialties that are in no way Barack-esque.

If Ronald Reagan ascended from the depths of hell to run for Austin mayor, would he too be clawing at the new president's coattails?

Glenn Gaven

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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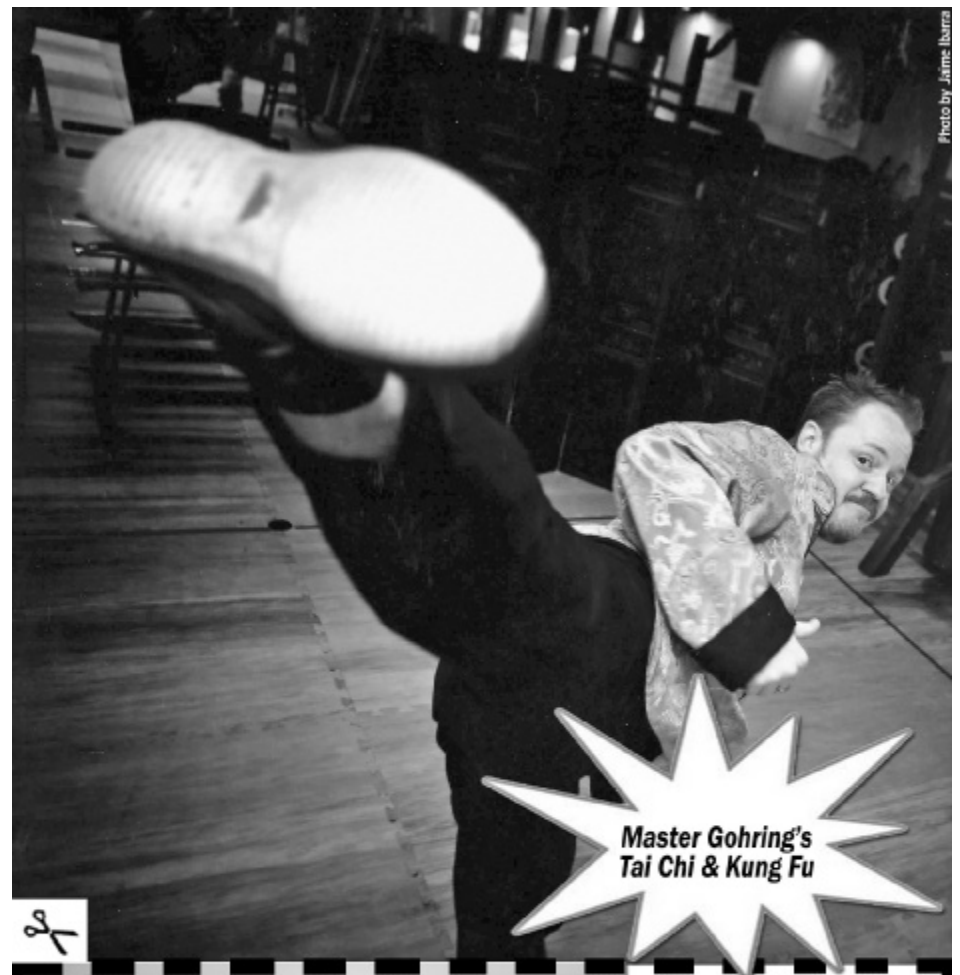


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# news

## Headlines

► After publicly deliberating for months, former *Texas Monthly* Publisher **Mike Levy** (r) announced he would not run for mayor. See "Point Austin," at right.



JOHN ANDERSON

► City Council is recovering from a contentious meeting last week. Among the decisions: delays on the **Wildflower Commons** development and a proposed \$250 million **solar energy farm**. See "Later for Wildflower Commons," p.24, and "City Hall Hustle," p.18.



► President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** on Tuesday – the historic legislation is expected to bring approximately \$5.4 billion to Texas public schools, including \$41 million to Austin schools, over the next two years.

► Space oddity: A bright, fiery streak flickered in the Austin sky Sunday, prompting wide speculation and online buzz. Crashing satellite debris? A plummeting spacecraft? The **Federal Aviation Administration** said Monday the fireball was a **meteor**. (See, that's what they want you to believe!)

► The **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve** received the avian equivalent of VIP status last week when the National Audubon Society,



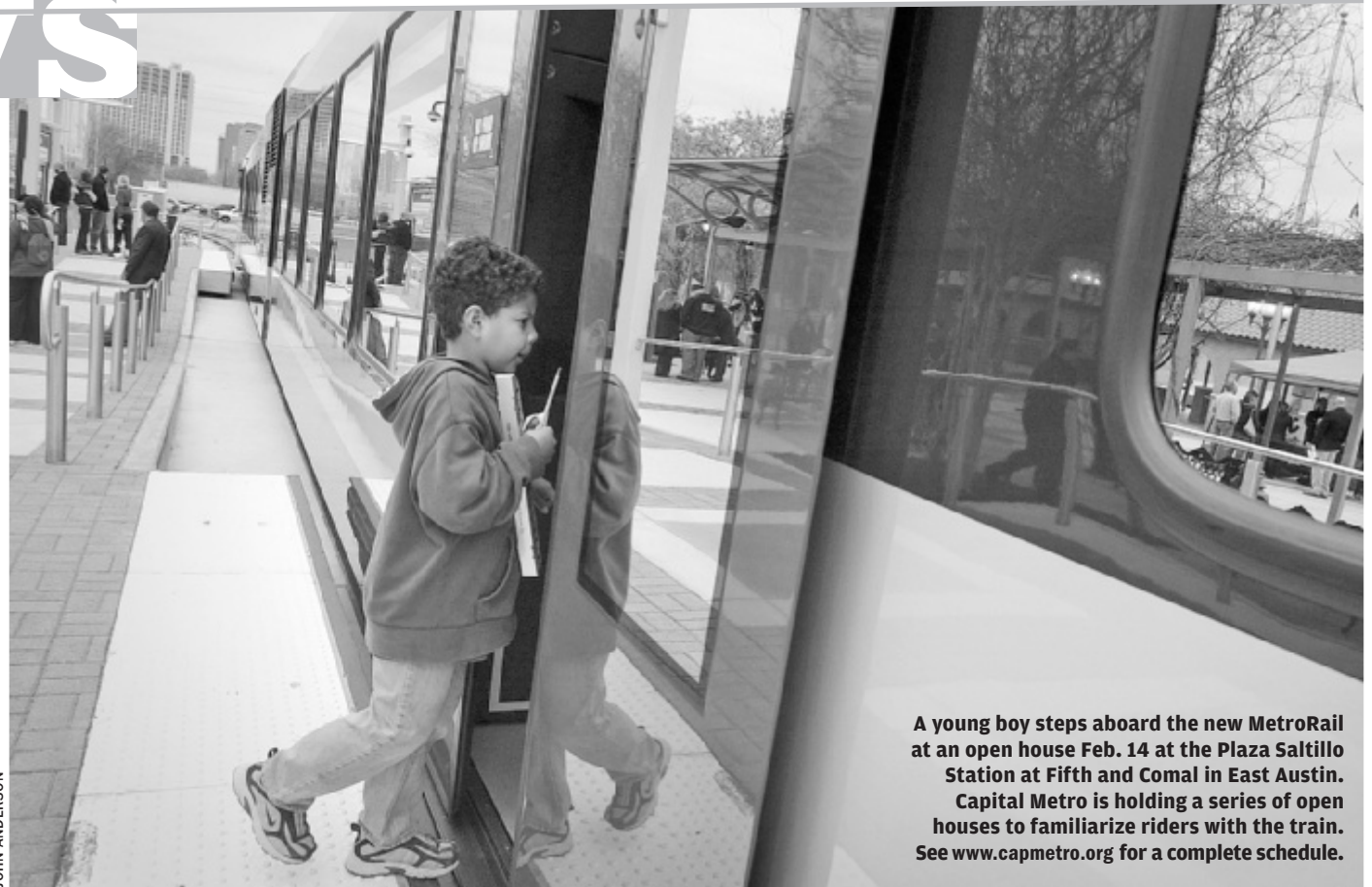
Black-capped Vireo

Audubon Texas, and BirdLife International designated it as a Global Important Bird Area because of its role in protecting the nesting sites of the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo.

► Our rural neighbors, **Bastrop** and **Caldwell** counties, have asked the governor to declare a state of emergency brought on by killer **drought** conditions – the worst in recent history, officials say.

► The city is presenting **\$20 million in suggested budget cuts** at a town meeting tonight (Thursday). Cutting back library hours, shuttering a city-run day-labor site, and postponing public-safety cadet classes are among staff's proposals. Give your input tonight, Feb. 19, 6pm, at the Mexican American Cultural Center (600 River St.), before the cuts are finalized.

► The **East Cesar Chavez neighborhood** will be creating a local historic district with some help from a \$10,700 grant it received Tuesday from the Heritage Society of Austin and the Holly Good Neighbor Program.



JOHN ANDERSON

A young boy steps aboard the new MetroRail at an open house Feb. 14 at the Plaza Saltillo Station at Fifth and Comal in East Austin. Capital Metro is holding a series of open houses to familiarize riders with the train. See [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org) for a complete schedule.

## Levy Steps Back ... and Shoots Long

Running the city is easier campaigned than done

BY MICHAEL KING

When Mike Levy told me last fall that he was considering a run for mayor of Austin, he added that he would not be beholden to fundraisers, because he could afford to finance his own campaign. "The courts say that's legal, you know," Levy added.

"I know," I replied. "You can't outlaw insanity."

Levy didn't find my attempt at humor amusing, but he's a resilient fellow and quickly got over it. It took him a few months longer to get over the idea of running at all. This week he finally distributed a lengthy e-mail to thousands of Austinites, announcing his decision not to run, citing "very personal and family considerations, intensified by the recent death of [his] mother" (Florence Ruth Levy passed away Feb. 3, at the age of 94). Levy insisted that his candidacy would have been "more than just viable," although in a crowded field the former *Texas Monthly* publisher with a well-honed gift for invective would have been a volatile long shot. (Setting aside potential qualifications for office, Levy's demurrals leaves the campaign trail measurably diminished in entertainment value.)

Unsurprisingly, Levy took a couple of parting shots at City Hall, based, he wrote, on his exploratory conversations. He had confirmed his belief that local officials are "out of touch" with Austinites' needs and priorities and that "local government simply is not working to serve the more important

needs and interests of most citizens, especially those living paycheck to paycheck." The reason 90% of Austinites don't vote in local elections, Levy says, is "primarily because they believe city government doesn't work for them, and so naturally they don't bother voting." (One counterargument, nationally demonstrated last November, is that people are more likely to vote when they're angry.)

More specifically, Levy accused city government of being too much in thrall to "single issue groups" (read "environmentalists," a longtime obsession) and "downtown developers," who in his judgment are attempting to foist on the city "the high-ticket downtown trolley car system [for] the downtown area at the expense of [other] neighborhoods."

### One Man's 'Basic'

More than one observer will be confounded by Levy's identification of Downtown developers, on the one hand, with their implacable enemies, on the other. More generally, however, I think many citizens share Levy's vague but heartfelt notion that city priorities are askew – although when you ask any one of them what those priorities instead should be, you're likely to get a different answer every time. And there's the political rub.

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## QUOTE of the WEEK



JOHN ANDERSON

"We've told the developer that the project submitted, as is, is not approvable."

– City Council Member Randi Shade, following City Council's decision to postpone until Aug. 20 a public hearing on the proposed Wildflower Commons development in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone

CONTINUED ON P.19

► **Californians, Here They Come?** With unemployment in many California cities now in the double digits and Austin-Round Rock holding at a relatively low 5.2%, according to December 2008 figures recently released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, another influx of lifestyle Californians appears likely. Of the 20 metro areas nationally that reported the highest unemployment rates, 12 were in California. Who wouldn't rather live in Austin than in desert-locked cities such as Bakersfield, Chico, Stockton, or Fresno anyway (especially with unemployment there around 12%)? Florida and the upper Midwest, hurting just as badly, could also send transplants our way, despite the softening of the local high tech job market. Brian Kelsey of the Capital Area Council of Governments notes: "In 2002, when we were losing tens of thousands of well-paying computer and semiconductor jobs, our regional population still increased by 30,000 people. ... As long as smart, talented people want to live here, our economy is going to be just fine." A bright note: All those newcomers should help support local housing values, another area where Austin is strong.

— Katherine Gregor

► **One Hundred Trees for Pease** On Saturday, Feb. 21, Pease Park will be 100 trees greener, thanks to the volunteer efforts of the newly formed **Friends of Pease Park**. In cooperation with the Austin Parks Foundation and the city's urban forestry division, the organization has raised \$18,000 for plantings, as well as a drip-irrigation system to water them. From 9am to noon, the organization will lead a volunteer planting of the donated trees. "Pease Park is dangerously close to losing its canopy," said Friends of Pease Park founder Richard Craig in a press release. Between "last year's unprecedented wind and hail storm and the tremendous damage due to overuse and unchecked erosion, a great many trees in Pease are close to dead. That's why it is so important that we plant the next generation of shade trees now." The urban forestry division contributed 84 trees, and the Old Enfield Homeowners Association and others supplied another 16 for what the friends hope will become an annual volunteer event. For more info, contact Richard Craig, 925-5306.

— Michael King

► **Shelter Makeover** The **Austin Humane Society** is still in the running for becoming one of America's top remodeled shelters. As of press time, the agency's ranking had risen from September's low point, 51, to between 4 and 5, in ZooToo.com's second annual Shelter Makeover Contest. ZooToo, a social networking site for pet lovers, will award a million-dollar makeover to the winning shelter or rescue group in a three-phase contest. During the first phase, which lasts until mid-March, AHS fans may participate in a variety of activities, thus ensuring the agency maintains a high ranking. AHS must stay in the Top 20 to move to the second phase, in which ZooToo officials will conduct site visits to determine 10 finalists. In April, America will vote online to determine the winner. "The grand prize would be used to improve the quality of life for our shelter pets, increase the number of animals we can serve, and increase the number of adoptions," said Lisa Starr, AHS marketing director. "AHS is depending on the Austin community to visit ZooToo.com and designate AHS as the shelter you would like to support." For more info, see [www.zootoo.com/makeover](http://www.zootoo.com/makeover).

— Patricia J. Ruland

# Alternating Current

Hard times make hesitating council blues **BY WELLS DUNBAR**

During campaign season, politics inevitably intrudes on politics — look no further than the City Council's Feb. 12 meeting. Saddled with several politically risky choices — including expanding Austin's **nuclear power draw** (rejected) and approving the controversial **Wildflower Commons** development over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (punted to August) — council's mayoral candidates, **Brewster McCracken** and **Lee Leffingwell**, were careful not to rock the dais. If anything reflected a difference between the two last week, it was the proposed \$250 million **solar energy project** from Austin Energy.

AE's **Roger Duncan** broke down the specifics of the proposal: The solar array, to be managed by San Francisco-based Gemini Solar, would be "the largest single solar photovoltaic project in the United States" and the sixth largest worldwide. Planned for the city's Webberville tract, the project would reside "on our side" of the state energy transmission grid, meaning it would sidestep grid congestion problems that prevent West Texas wind from traveling efficiently to Austin. When completed, it would be a major step in Austin's ambitious renewable energy goals, generating 30 megawatts by 2010; currently, Duncan said, AE generates "maybe 2 megawatts" of solar through a rebate program.

Of course, all this comes at a price: \$10 million a year for 25 years. But while customers would pay more initially — approximately 60 cents on a monthly residential bill — Duncan noted the "price will be locked in for 25 years," making it akin to the already oversubscribed **GreenChoice** wind-energy program. With such a minimal increase, this would be an easy sell in oh-so-progressive Austin, right?

Not necessarily. Massive electricity consumers, chip manufacturers such as **Freescale** and **Spansion** — who, not coincidentally, are feeling the economic heat right now — plus groups such as the **Building Owners and Managers Association** came out in opposition to the extra charge, admittedly larger in bulk. Seemingly a valid point, until swatted away by environmental expert and council watchdog **Paul Robbins**, who noted: "Larger users have much lower electric charges per unit, per kilowatt-hour, than residential customers. Typically it is on the order of one-third lower than residential customers."

It still wasn't an easy sell. Cognizant of the cost, not only financially but politically, Council Member **Mike Martinez** questioned the immediate necessity of the array. Saying that when the solar goals were originally set, "nobody knew we would be in global economic Armageddon," he urged recon-

sideration. "What if we explore what comes out of [the federal] economic stimulus and can make a 60-megawatt solar-power facility by the end of 2011?" Alluding to Spansion's current financial woes (briefly in property-tax arrears last week), he noted: "Many of our large corporations that employ thousands upon thousands of employees are literally struggling day to day. ... We need to be mindful of the impact of our decision, and we need to try to mitigate that as much as possible." The solution he proposed was to bundle the solar cost into a package of GreenChoice energy AE customers can purchase at a premium. Duncan said this was possible, but dispersing the cost only among a self-selecting group rather than among all customers would make it a "fairly expensive" batch.

McCracken enumerated the reasons he supported the project as originally conceived. Calling solar "the most flexible way to add new power as we need it," he said: "The backbone, the foundation of our private-sector economy is the semiconductor industry ... and just about every single one of them has said their number one business opportunity into the future is going to be solar energy. ... If the Austin City Council were to say, 'No, we don't really think solar is the way to go; we're going to reject it; it's too expensive,' we would be doing significant economic harm to our sectors trying to sell these technologies to customers worldwide. ... Austin should not be the kind of city that follows and waits for others to make the future."

Martinez dismissed McCracken's rhetoric, saying additional analysis "is not sending a message that Austin does not want to lead. ... A little over 24 hours ago we sat in a room, and we saw \$20 million in a budget shortfall we needed to talk about. ... We're going to consider closing libraries, closing fire stations, and we're going to consider cutting services. And today we're saying we're going to consider investing \$2 million in 30 megawatts of power." Duly postponed, the item is scheduled to return March 5, one meeting before the March 12 meeting — the last day council can make a decision without losing its current price guarantee.

As McCracken has founded his own campaign on forward-looking technologies such as solar power, his adamant defense of the project was no surprise. And as Martinez is surmised to be Leffingwell's proxy on issues the candidate would rather not wade into at the moment, his fulsome call for caution shouldn't surprise either. Maybe most surprising was Leffingwell's virtual absence from the debate — as politicians take pains to appear cautious, they may not want to remain overly so. ■

Catch the Hustle online at [austinchronicle.com/hustle](http://austinchronicle.com/hustle).



## res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.60.

### THURSDAY 19

#### CAMPO 2035 PLAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization needs your help developing a mobility plan for 2035. 6:30-8:45pm. Thompson Conference Center, Rm. 2.102. [www.campotexas.org](http://www.campotexas.org).

#### TOWN HALL MEETING: CUTTING CITY COSTS

Discuss the latest plan to reduce city of Austin expenses to meet the projected \$20 million budget shortfall. 6pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St. [www.cityofaustin.org/budget](http://www.cityofaustin.org/budget).

### FRIDAY 20

**CENTRAL TEXAS RAIL WORKSHOP** Register online for this comprehensive look at Austin's new rail line and how it could fit into a larger rail system for Texas and the U.S. Thompson Conference Center, 26th & Red River, 471-2933. Free. [www.mobilityauthority.com/rail\\_workshop](http://www.mobilityauthority.com/rail_workshop).

#### BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME

Listen to spoken-word performances of prison protest poetry as part of Freedom Weekend. 5:30pm. Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809.

[www.utexas.edu/law/conferences/bringing-human-rights-home](http://www.utexas.edu/law/conferences/bringing-human-rights-home).

#### RADICAL SCHOLARS

Scholar/activist **Dylan Rodriguez** presents Prison, Disaster, Genocide: From (Anti)black Slavery to Mt. Pinatubo. 8:30pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.

#### WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE: POWER & POLITICS

Elected female officials share their experiences. 8am. Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones, 841-4093. \$25. [www.genaustin.org](http://www.genaustin.org).

### SATURDAY 21

**BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME** Activists, attorneys, community leaders, and historians gather to discuss human rights. 12:30-6:15pm. Eidman Courtroom of UT's School of Law, 727 E. 26th.

#### CAPITAL METRORAIL OPEN HOUSES

Check out the new passenger rail line set to begin service March 30. 10am-2pm. Crestview Station (Lamar, north of Justin Lane) and MLK Jr. Station (MLK & Alexander Avenue). [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org).

#### CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

Place 5 candidate Bill Spelman discusses neighborhoods, public participation, and open government. 10am-noon. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd. Free.

#### COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY CONFERENCE

First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 441-1808. \$50. [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org).

### SUNDAY 22

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY FORUM** Discuss the hot issues of the 81st legislative session in a nonpartisan environment. 4pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 478-5684.

#### STATE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Rep. Mark Strama discusses his role as chair of the Technology, Economic Development & Workforce Committee. 4pm. First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca. [www.davidhasissues.com](http://www.davidhasissues.com).

#### WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

Former Black Panther and Angola 3 member Robert King tells his story. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover. Free. [www.austinnu.org](http://www.austinnu.org).

### MONDAY 23

**AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM** is here to help you unleash your inner environmental activist. 6:30pm (potluck at 5:30pm). Le Jardin D'esprit, 3210 Hancock Dr. Call to RSVP: 632-8585. [www.pachamama.org](http://www.pachamama.org).

**CAMPO WORKSHOP** (See Thursday, Feb. 19.) 6:30-8:45pm. Education Service Center Region XIII, 5701 Springdale.

**IMMIGRATION SPEAKER SERIES** focuses on the ramifications of increased collaboration between

I took the opportunity to ask the sitting council members/mayoral candidates what they thought of Levy's criticisms. Brewster McCracken and Lee Leffingwell each praised Levy's commitment to Austin but were unpersuaded by his arguments. McCracken – often the target of Levy's sarcastic e-mails, particularly for his support of a Downtown circulator ("trolley car") – indulged in a little sarcasm of his own, saying: "What a great idea, let's listen to the voters – we haven't heard that before. If someone had just clued us in and told us that that was the way to get elected and serve the public, things would be a whole lot better."

I had caught McCracken en route to a San Antonio forum on clean energy, where he was hoping to enlist support for a regional economic partnership. While he noted that for city officials, the budget shortfall is "the overwhelming focus" right now, "It's not going to be a surprise to anybody that renewable energy and this technology stuff is an area I've been focused on for five years now." What was once largely an environmental motivation has become an urgent economic priority. Citing cutbacks at Spansion and Applied Materials, McCracken said: "The elephant in the room right now is that we're seeing the bleeding away of good middle-class manufacturing jobs that have provided a good living in this region for a generation. ... These are the \$50,000- to \$80,000-a-year jobs that people could go to [Austin Community College] and get trained [to do] and have a good life. I personally believe that has to be our top focus."

Via e-mail, Leffingwell similarly disagreed with Levy that City Hall isn't listening to folks living "paycheck to paycheck – and some have already lost that paycheck. It's clear that the nation's economic crisis is hitting home in Austin." He argued that the city in fact is focused on what he and Levy agree are "prioritizing the basics – jobs, traffic, public safety, social services, and environmental protection," and he praised the "thousands of city employees at work right now who are focused exclusively on the most important needs and interests of the people of Austin."

Both men pointed to the current, ongoing budget-cutting discussions as reflecting the city's inevitable focus on basic priorities.

## Finding the Sweet Spot

The much-maligned "downtown developers" weighed in all on their own, in a spirited press release by Tom Stacy, chairman of the Downtown Austin Alliance. Calling Levy's claims against Downtown "misdirected," Stacy points out that Downtown generates roughly \$4 billion in tax base, thereby generating "about 80 percent of its taxes to the benefit of the entire city (outside the Central Business District), with recipients including the Austin Independent School District, Travis County, the Travis County Healthcare District, Austin Community College and, of course, the City of Austin."

In public discussions of the abundant evils of development, it's seldom acknowledged that – like it or not – in financial terms, Downtown carries more than its own weight; according to the city's calculations, residential neighborhoods routinely cost more in public services than they generate in property taxes. The more quarter-acre and sprawling we are, the more Downtown subsidizes our little pieces of Texas heaven.

If that sounds like an argument for density and mass transit, Stacy makes it, itemizing thusly: "[T]he proposed urban rail system would connect downtown (65,000 jobs), Capitol Complex (13,000 jobs), UT (67,000 students, faculty and staff), Mueller (10,000 jobs, 10,000 residents), University Medical Center Brackenridge, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, the Long Center for the Performing Arts and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (8 million passengers per year). This rail system also would promote compact development (as opposed to auto-dependent sprawl) and present development opportunities in the city's Desired Development Zone." Maybe there's something to the trolley folly, after all.

I'll let McCracken, often the target of Levy's sharpest barbs, get the last word on finding the balance of city priorities. "Definitely Mike has had a consistent take," McCracken said. "We're not spending enough money for public safety, we're not spending enough on libraries, we're not spending enough on roads – and we're being taxed too heavily." Something's got to give, under that analysis. ■

local law enforcement agencies and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 6pm. TICE Community Space, 1009 E. 11th. [www.austiniirc.org](http://www.austiniirc.org).

### CENTRAL TEXAS DEMOCRATIC FORUM

features three mayoral candidates:

**Lee Leffingwell** (r), **Brewster McCracken** (l), and **Carole Keeton Strayhorn**.



11:45am-1pm. Austin Bar Association, 816 Congress #700. \$20. Call or e-mail to RSVP: 320-0665 or [jerben@herring-irwin.com](mailto:jerben@herring-irwin.com).

**PAT CROW FUNDRAISER** Local politicians host a Mardi Gras party honoring longtime Austin activist and campaigner Pat Crow, who is recovering from a stroke. \$15, or whatever you can afford (See "Fundraiser for Pat Crow," p.25, for more). 5:30-8:30pm, Moose Lodge No. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin. [www.patcrow.com](http://www.patcrow.com).

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## Local Reps and Their Committees

If Speaker **Joe Straus** had waited any longer to make his House committee appointments, the assignments to legislators would have served as Valentine's Day presents. Now local Democrats have unwrapped his Feb. 12 announcement and are separating the bow on top from the strings attached.

In the last two sessions, former Speaker **Tom Craddick** made his picks from a heavily Republican membership in late January, but with the House now split 76-74 and with a redesigned committee structure, Straus faced a tougher balancing act. In the new order of things, the other 10 members of his "Gang of 11" – the GOP rebels who put the speaker's gavel in Straus' hands – have become a power block. Each gets a major committee chairmanship, and as a whole, the gang has a strong presence on the three supercommittees: Appropriations, Calendars, and State Affairs.

Straus lived up to his promise for a more bipartisan split of appointments, handing Democrats 16 of the 34 committee chairs. But numbers aren't everything, as common expectations about particular committee appointments were not met. There was broad expectation that **Garnet Coleman**, D-Houston, would head up **Public Health**, but that went instead to **Lois Kolkhorst**, R-Brenham. Similarly, 17-term legislator and former speaker candidate **Senfronia Thompson**, D-Houston, leads the relatively low-octane **Local & Consent Calendars**.

Yet for all the changes, there are constants: Austin's **Dawna Dukes** kept her seat on **Appropriations**. During the struggle to remove Craddick, Dukes drew criticism for staying outside the fray; her defense was that she was not prepared to lose a voice for her district in the budget-building process. Even in the current shake-up, she wasn't going to sacrifice that seat. "I've always had to make a decision of going for a committee chair or sitting on Appropriations," she said. Having sat on the committee since the last big budget shortfall in 2003 is a big plus in a recession, she said, because "you need to have experience and historical knowledge of funding mechanisms and revenue streams."

The other big winner from Travis County is **Mark Strama**, who chairs the new **Technology, Economic Development & Workforce Committee** – quickly nicknamed the green-collar jobs committee. With its mix of applied research and environmentalism, he argues, it's timely for Austin ("It's right in our sweet spot," he said) and the state. As fossil fuel gives way to renewable energy, Strama said:



JOHN ANDERSON

**Austin Rep. Mark Strama will chair a new House committee focusing on "green-collar" jobs in Texas.**

"Texas can lead, or Texas can fight that evolution. If we lead, we could see even more prosperity in the future than we've enjoyed over the last hundred years. If we fight it, we could see it go somewhere else, and that's 15 percent of our GDP at stake."

**Donna Howard** kept all her appointments from the 80th session and picked up a promotion to vice chair of **Culture, Recreation, & Tourism**.

She applauded the nod to party parity, but with only seven female chairs and five vice chairs, she said, "We could do a better job of getting women in those leadership positions."

For **Valinda Bolton**, the biggest gain for the Travis Co. delegation is a chance to end knee-jerk Austin-bashing under the dome. "It's the opposite of Austin-bashing," she said. "We're at the table in leadership positions." By staying on County Affairs and adding a seat on Land & Resource Management, she can concentrate on rebalancing planning needs – a big issue in her southwest

Travis Co. district. "The days of most people living in a rural area are long gone, and those days have been over for a lot longer than urban and suburban issues have been highlighted in the legislative process," she said.

Nevertheless, Dukes warns against Democrats getting too optimistic. "For the measures and issues that are important to us," she said, "we will have to be hard workers and very savvy." – *Richard Whittaker*

## Sticker Shock Over Governor's Mansion Repairs

Last week, the organization **Preservation Texas** placed the **Governor's Mansion** at the top of a list of the state's most endangered historic buildings. Its timing couldn't have been better – just a week earlier, the **Senate Finance Committee** balked at the **State Preservation Board's** estimated \$27.3 million price tag to repair the 153-year-old residence, which was severely damaged in an arson attack last summer.

"That's a lot of money," said Sen. **Chuy Hinojosa**, D-Mission. He asked why Texans shouldn't just take the cheaper route of knocking down the structure and building a new one. "If we built a new house, it would not be the historic Governor's Mansion; it would be a new home," said **John Sneed** of the State Preservation Board, which cares for the mansion and Capitol. "What's the difference?" asked Hinojosa, apparently not one for nostalgia.

Sneed and **Dealey Herndon**, project manager for the mansion restoration, said a completely new residence would cost \$14 million to \$15 million. The cost of the restoration, they said, included closing off Colorado Street in front of the mansion, enlarging the grounds (a security suggestion from the Department of Public Safety), adding a wing to help meet Americans With Disabilities Act requirements, and improving its functionality as an actual residence ("There's almost no closet space," Herndon said).



JOHN ANDERSON

Of that \$27.3 million, only \$2.1 million would be covered by the highly touted private donations drive pushed by first lady **Anita Perry**.

"After September it's [been] a tough year," complained Sen. **Robert Duncan** of Lubbock. "This is more than a restoration. [It's] a hard sell to a constituency during a period of time when we're sitting here listening to [testimony about] hospitals, and major damages have been done on the coast."

"I'm the ultimate practical preservationist," Herndon told the committee, insisting that she had looked for ways to cut expenses. But "it's not just a matter of looking for savings," Laredo Sen. **Judith Zaffirini** said. "It's making some changes. Because I do not think that your proposal as you've presented it today would be approved by this panel. ... With all due respect, I suggest you go back and try to change it in ways that would be acceptable to members of the Finance Committee."

Sneed was before the Finance Committee again on Tuesday, and Chairman **Steve Ogden** of Bryan suggested he research whether federal stimulus money could be used for the renovation. – *Lee Nichols*

### WHAT TRAVIS CO. GOT

**Valinda Bolton:** County Affairs, Land & Resource Management, Local & Consent Calendars

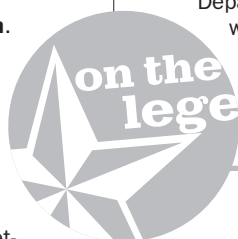
**Dawna Dukes:** Appropriations; Culture, Recreation, & Tourism

**Donna Howard:** Culture, Recreation, & Tourism (vice chair); Higher Education; House Administration

**Elliott Naishtat:** Human Services, Public Health (vice chair)

**Eddie Rodriguez:** Public Safety; Technology, Economic Development & Workforce

**Mark Strama:** Technology, Economic Development & Workforce (chair); Energy Resources



## Renewed Push for Judicial Reforms

In his **State of the Judiciary** speech on the floor of the Texas House last week, Supreme Court Chief Justice **Wallace Jefferson** again expressed concern about the influence of campaign contributions and partisan politics in the election of judges. And once again, Jefferson is calling for an end to that system. "If the public believes that judges are biased toward contributors, then confidence in the courts will suffer," he said. "So, I ask the question: Is our current judicial election system, which fuels the idea that politics and money play into the rule of law, the best way to elect judges in Texas?"

Many Texas court watchers, of course, would answer a resounding "no." Still, the call to end partisan election of judges is hardly new, and it most certainly won't happen any time soon. Jefferson said he hoped to work with state lawmakers on judicial reforms that would increase access to justice and make the judiciary more transparent.

On the heels of Jefferson's speech, Austin Sen. **Kirk Watson** joined with seven col-

leagues (six Dems and one Republican, Arlington Sen. **Chris Harris**) to file Senate Bill 780, which would make public how each Supreme Court judge votes in deciding whether to accept individual cases for review. Only about 10% of cases appealed to the

court are actually accepted for consideration – so "a lot of law gets made just [by] deciding which cases are taken and which aren't," said Watson. That means that about 90% of cases appealed to the court are "essentially decided in closed-door meetings," said **Alex Winslow**, director of the consumer advocacy group **Texas Watch**, which supports Watson's bill. Moreover, said Watson, the bill creates more transparency in a system that elects its judges, by providing

voters with a more complete record on which to base their decisions. Currently, Watson said, 14 states make public such votes. "Secrecy prevents voters from keeping [tabs] on elected officials," he said. "The chief [Jefferson] is calling for reforms. My bill [calls for] immediate and graphic reform." – *Jordan Smith*



Wallace Jefferson

## Brewers Want Equal Rights

The push to allow Texas **microbrewers** to sell their products on their premises has returned to the Capitol. Senate Bill 754 and its twin, House Bill 1062 – authored by **Wendy Davis** and **Lon Burnam**, respectively, both of Fort Worth – would allow brewers who produce at least 1,000 barrels a year of “ale or malt liquor” to sell on-site. A similar bill two years ago died in committee. On-site sales are currently allowed for winemakers but not beer producers, a double standard that rankles brewers. “Texas produces some of the finest beer in the world, and Texas breweries deserve a fair playing field in the commercial market,” said Burnam, noting that Rahr & Sons Brewing Co. is located in his district. The bill also would benefit the Austin area – Live Oak, Independence, and (512) Brewing are all located here, and Real Ale is in nearby Blanco. Texas’ other microbreweries are Saint Arnold in Houston, Southern Star in Conroe, and Franconia in McKinney. “I believe that local breweries are an important part of the business community in Austin,” said Austin Rep. Elliott Naishtat in declaring his support for the bill. – *Lee Nichols*

## Important Eye-Glazers to Watch

Austin Sen. **Kirk Watson** has filed a raft of state budget- and finance-related bills that he hopes will make sure the right money is going to the right agencies. “Budgets glaze eyes like doughnuts,” he admitted, but “I really think nothing in government’s as important.” The bills mix spending proposals, such as a constitutional requirement to fully fund the **Children’s Health Insurance Program**, with structural reforms, such as moving the agency oversight process of **Texas Performance Reviews** from the Legislative Budget Board back to the **comptroller’s office**. Watson also wants to increase budget transparency and end all diversions of dedicated funds, as well as placing appropriations and budget information online. – *Richard Whittaker*

## Keller Comeuppance

One year and five months after Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge **Sharon “Killer” Keller** gave the one-fingered salute to the U.S. Constitution by shutting the courthouse door on condemned Texas inmate **Michael Richard**, state Rep. **Lon Burnam**, D-Fort Worth, has filed House Resolution 480 calling on the Texas House to impeach her for “gross negligence” and “willful disregard” of her official duties. On Sept. 25, 2007, Keller refused to hear Richard’s appeal challenging the lethal injection method of execution, claiming the courthouse doors close at 5pm. Richard was executed that evening. – *Jordan Smith*

## On the Road (and Rail) Again

Transportation reform in Texas is a lot like driving on I-35 at rush hour: a lot of noise, a lot of energy, and a lot of time spent behind the wheel. But as Texans lose the luxury of throwing money at highways, Senate Transportation & Homeland Security Committee Vice Chair **Kirk Watson** suspects this may be the time for a real discussion about road, rail, and decision-making.

Watson admits he was frustrated last session by **Texas Department of Transportation’s** “total lack of communication except for, ‘Here’s how it’s going to be, and if you don’t like it, get out of the way.’” But he’s seen improvements since the April 2008 appointment of Texas Transportation Commission Chair **Deirdre Delisi**: “Sometimes it means taking the first step to get some of that communication, but ... it’s the difference between being able to open the door and last session [when] it was always locked.”

While he remains unconvinced about replacing the five-member Texas Transportation Commission with a single elected commissioner (“Having had the experience of running statewide and knowing how expensive and difficult it is, I worry about who would have resources to run,” he said), Watson is looking to clarify accountability in the agency. “When the place was at its worst,” he said, “even a guy who’s vice chair of the Senate Transportation Committee would get conflicting answers.”

If accountability is to be more centralized, Watson wants decision-making better distributed. He proposes giving more authority to the metropolitan planning organizations (the next task, he said, is to make the “P” in **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** “really mean something”). After decades of legislator frustration with TxDOT’s “one-size-fits-all” model, Watson said, he’s even seeing support for localized fundraising, such as gas tax and vehicle registration charges. “It may be the old mayor in me,” he said, “but I really believe in this concept of local control, as long as you build in mechanisms of accountability.”

Watson is also optimistic about the **Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund**. Austinites may be waiting to see how many

passengers use the new **Capital Metro-Rail**, but with three lines open in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and three more to open by 2013, Watson says an increasingly densely populated Texas is learning the mass transit lessons the East Coast learned decades ago. “Think about tying

Austin and San Antonio together with a real commuter rail line,” he said. “Think about what that would mean in terms of the efficient use of dollars.” Watson has some advice for doubters. “Go stand at the corner of Sixth and MoPac when those freight trains go through, and count the number of containers on those rails. Then think about what would happen if we had better freight carriage so you could carry more containers, so we could reduce those numbers of big ol’ trucks that are on the road.”

While money will be a fight, Watson detects a change in the Lege from examining programs in isolation to looking at long-term, statewide benefits. Last session saw greater investment in crime prevention and rehabilitation. More recently, Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** has sung the praises of preventative medicine. With provable savings to be made from investing in freight rail (fewer heavy trucks means fewer new roads and less costly damage), “Instead of being penny-wise and pound-foolish,” Watson said, “put the money in so that you’re saving money over the long haul.”

With so little state cash around, the biggest initial outlay may come from the billions of transportation dollars in the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**. That’s not just bailout cash for old programs, Watson argues: “If we’re smart about it, it’s money that will be spent on things that will help our economic development and quality of life for a long time.”



Sen. Kirk Watson

JOHN ANDERSON

As for Gov. **Rick Perry’s** vocal opposition to the bill, “Regardless of whether he disagrees with [it], there’s going to be a stimulus package,” Watson said. “When it’s paid back, nobody in D.C. is going to look at Texas and say, ‘Your governor didn’t want any of this money; you don’t have to participate in the repayment.’” – *R.W.*



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## LOCAL NEWS

# VULTURES CIRCLING, BIRDS FLYING

BY KEVIN BRASS

Potential buyers have been circling the *Austin American-Statesman* this month, kicking the tires and checking under the hood. Five groups heard presentations and took tours of the facilities after making nonbinding bids and proving their financial worthiness, Publisher **Michael Vivio** said.

Parent company **Cox Enterprises**, its finger in the wind, put the *Statesman* up for sale in August, along with 28 of its other newspapers. A family-owned operation saddled with heavy debt, Atlanta-based Cox opted to focus on its other businesses, including cable and TV, rather than battle the prevailing winds battering the newspaper business.

The company's timing, needless to say, was not the best. The *Statesman* is one of dozens of newspaper properties languishing on the market. Lenders going into seizures at the idea of financing the purchase of a \$200,000 imitation Mediterranean suburban dream home are running like wounded hyenas from newspapers, as more and more papers teeter on the edge of bankruptcy.

However, the *Statesman* has several attributes that buyers will find appealing, beyond the newspaper, including its Web operations – Statesman.com and Austin360.com – a thriving commercial printing operation, and a cluster of steady community newspapers. The deal also includes 19 acres of prime lake-front property, site of the company headquarters. Cox is selling everything as one package, all included, Vivio said.

None of the current suitors should inspire much excitement in the paper's staff or readers, at least based on details provided in the *Statesman*. (And if the *Statesman's* Business section covered other news the way it has reported on the *Statesman* sale, the section might be worth reading in the morning.)

Three of the interested groups are fronted by private-equity firms – ZelnickMedia Corp.,



TAYLOR HOLLAND

Hicks Equity Partners, and Platinum Equity – the type of buyers infamous for slashing overhead on their new purchases. Another group is headed by Granite Publications, the community newspaper publisher based in Taylor, which produces such thrilling fare as the *Hill Country News*. The fifth faction eyeing the

paper includes former Editor **Rich Oppel**, former Mayor **Roy Butler**, and newspaper veteran Chris Harte, who recently led the Minneapolis *StarTribune* into bankruptcy – two years after the paper was sold to a private-equity group.

Meanwhile, the *Statesman* continues to slowly downsize as it wrestles with the forces battering the newspaper industry. Several regularly featured bylines have disappeared, as Cox cuts back on its international and Washington, D.C., operations. And the remains of the paper's classified advertising business are now tucked into the back of the Life section a few times a week, saving the need to print a separate section for the ads on Mondays and Tuesdays.

A few weeks ago, *Statesman* management offered staffers 55 and older a voluntary

retirement package, as it continues to shave away staff. About 130 employees who have been with the company for at least 10 years are eligible for two weeks of pay for every year of employment, up to one year's worth of pay.

Vivio emphasized that the voluntary retirement offer was not a precursor of draconian measures to follow. The *Statesman* continues to avoid the layoffs employed at other papers, he notes. "It was a sign of strength," he said, "not a sign of weakness." About a third of the 30 eligible employees in the newsroom have applied, Vivio said, although he declined to offer names.

Two have confirmed taking the plunge: veteran Capitol reporter **Laylan Copelin** and award-winning editorial cartoonist **Ben Sargent**. "We will make adjustments, promotions, and perhaps hire to fill voids left by departing staff," Vivio said in an e-mail. "However, in the end our staff will be smaller."

### WILSON JUMPS SIDWAYS

CBS affiliate **KEYE-TV**, which bills itself as "the most experienced" news operation in town, continues to lose experienced reporters. The latest departure is investigative reporter **Nanci Wilson**, a seven-year veteran of the station, who rejected a station offer and

instead decided to move to NBC affiliate **KXAN**. Reporter **Julie Simon** has also left the station, opting not to return after having a baby.

Their exits follow the layoffs of 14 people last fall and a newsroom shake-up that included dumping longtime political reporter **Keith Elkins** and weatherman **Byron Webre**.

KEYE took the unusual step of issuing a press release announcing Wilson's departure, attributing the move to Wilson's decision "to make a change in her personal life and pursue other interests." That was news to Wilson, unless "other interests" was a move to a rival station. Wilson declined to elaborate on her reasons for leaving KEYE. But station sources say she had been forced to videotape her own stories recently and investigative pieces were rarely featured in station promotions. "[KXAN's] long-term goals on investigative reporting are in synch with mine," said Wilson, who worked for ABC affiliate KVUE before joining KEYE.

Wilson will spend six months honoring a no-compete clause before joining KXAN in August. Meanwhile, KEYE's "commitment to investigative journalism and holding lawmakers responsible to citizens remains firm," station General Manager **Amy Villarreal** said in the release. ■

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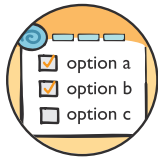
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# Wheels Finally Turn on Bicycle Road Map

When it comes to safe and accessible bike transportation, Austin comes up dry compared to rainy cities such as Portland, Ore., and Seattle. But the perfect storm of bike transportation progress may finally be upon us. More people are bicycling, and grassroots advocacy for better bike infrastructure is stronger and more organized than ever.

In that context, the city just released a 10-year update to its **Bicycle Master Plan**, full of international best practices and long-awaited local reforms. And the two transportation rainmakers hired by the city last summer, new Director of Public Works **Howard Lazarus** and **Robert Spillar**, who fills the new post of Transportation director, say they feel strongly about making bicycling a big part of Austin's multimodal transportation future. "I want to supercharge bikes as a mode of transportation," said Spillar, who formerly served as Seattle's director of traffic management. Bike facilities are "important to the health of the community, to quality of life, and to the economy."

"If Rob can think it, we can build it," Lazarus chimed in, adding that the bike plan, along with updated trails and pedestrian plans, will be included in an interactive transportation plan under development. Coming from a private-sector job in New Jersey, Lazarus said he was surprised bike commuting isn't more widespread given Austin's environmental image; he and Spillar have agreed to bike to work at least once a week. "In the Northwest, there's a huge number of people riding to work every day in suits," Spillar said. "Here, I'd like to try to change the perception that bicycling is primarily a recreational sport versus a major asset to how people get to work and commute around this community."

Bicycle advocates have expressed optimism that the two officials can put Austin on the map as a bike-progressive city. Having participated intensely in the city's yearlong **Street Smarts** bike mobility task force in 2007, the **League of Bicycling Voters** was eager to launch a dynamic pedal-powered program. This January, it introduced **Project Catapult** to identify and promote projects designed to move Austin forward as a bicycle-friendly city. LOBV President **Rob D'Amico** cites the Lazarus-Spillar meeting as its impetus. "There was tremendous energy in the room and a feeling that great things were going on," D'Amico said, "but at the time, there weren't a lot of huge bike projects on the table, and the ones that were weren't moving forward very quickly." In addi-

"I'd like to try to change the perception that bicycling is primarily a recreational sport versus a major asset to how people get to work and commute around this community."

— Robert Spillar, Austin's new Transportation director

tion to seeking a clear timeline for implementing the new bike plan, LOBV has listed its Top 3 priorities under Project Catapult, for submission to the city in mid-March:

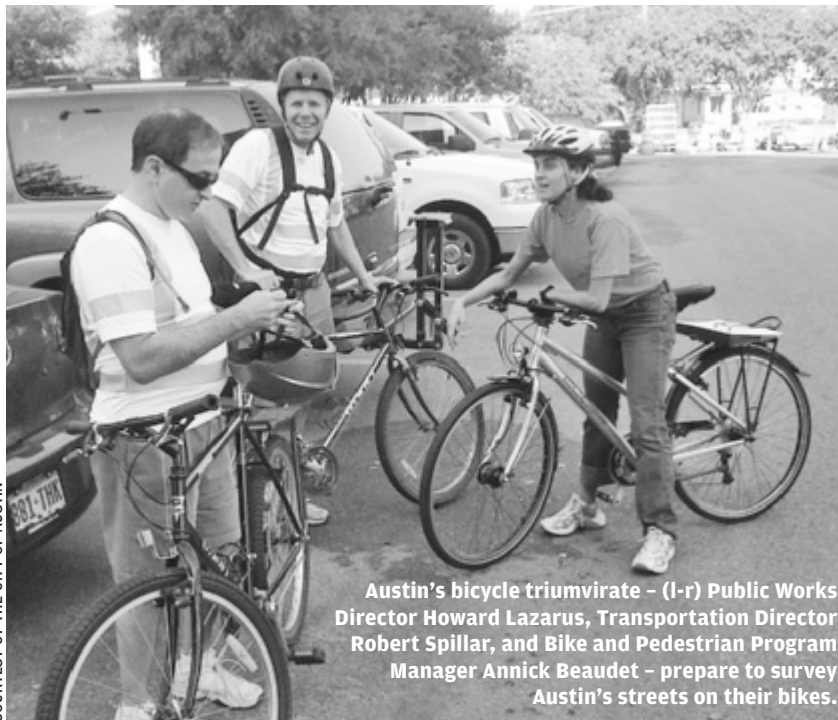
**1) Nueces Bike Boulevard:** a bike highway that discourages auto traffic through the placement of barriers at intersections, including signage denoting the route as a bike thoroughfare and the removal of some stop signs. (Lazarus and Spillar say they intend to fund and execute this project and that initial planning has begun.)

**2) Public Education:** Based on the recommendations of the Street Smarts Task Force, such a program would provide information on existing bike routes and educate cyclists and motorists on road safety, among other topics.

**3) South Austin Bikeway:** a major new route from Ben White Boulevard to Lady Bird Lake at Congress Avenue, which could include on-street parking modifications and special climbing lanes on hills. The project would address concerns from businesses about parking.

The updated bike plan was released for public comment Feb. 18 (available at Austin public libraries and [www.cityofaustin.org/bicycle](http://www.cityofaustin.org/bicycle)). It goes before the Austin Neighborhoods Council Feb. 25 and various boards and commissions in April. The city will host a **bike plan open house** on Wednesday, March 4, at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., and City Council will consider the plan for adoption in May. The plan pools knowledge from local and international studies and accounts for land-use changes

and growth since its last update in 1998. The plan has been approved by every applicable city department, and Austin Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Project Manager **Annick Beaudet** says she's confident it'll be passed based largely on community support. "I've been in Austin for 25 years, and I've never before noticed the degree to which today's bike community understands the importance of their



Austin's bicycle triumvirate – (l-r) Public Works Director Howard Lazarus, Transportation Director Robert Spillar, and Bike and Pedestrian Program Manager Annick Beaudet – prepare to survey Austin's streets on their bikes.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

involvement in getting bike projects passed and implemented," said Beaudet, an avid bike commuter and racer. She's particularly enthusiastic about the plan's call for more public process and oversight in road construction projects, banning parked cars in bike lanes, creating north-south and east-west corridors for novice cyclists and families, and more education and promotion of Austin as a bicycle town. (For example, she wants to distribute free blinking bike lights – mandatory for night riding – featuring the Public Works logo.)

As for funding the estimated \$250 million bike plan, Lazarus and Spillar say cash exists from previous bond elections, which they hope to supplement with future bond dollars. Lazarus expects his decision to merge the Public Works Department's Child Safety Program with the Bicycle Program will increase the program's clout and resources while saving money. Beaudet said budgeted bike-lane projects often piggyback on already funded road-improvement work, offsetting cost. Plus, she said, "We've submitted for over \$2 million in stimulus funding for bicycle lanes and shared-use paths." D'Amico said he's concerned the economic downturn will be an excuse for underfunding bike projects, "even though they're a drop in the bucket compared to other areas." But securing political will, not dollars, is what he sees as the largest potential roadblock to better bikeways.

— Daniel Mottola

## LATER FOR WILDFLOWER COMMONS

Last Thursday City Council handed down a politically centrist – if immediately unpopular – six-month deferral on the controversy concerning **Wildflower Commons**, a proposed 37-acre mixed-use project in the **Barton Springs Recharge Zone**. The project, on a 265-acre site with dedicated open space, has stirred strong opposition from the **Save Our Springs Alliance** and other environmental groups. The council action – to postpone a public hearing and decision until Aug. 20 (with **Laura Morrison** dissenting) – did not please the enviros in attendance. The crowd of 25 to 30 citizens wearing bright-green "No PUD" stickers was advocating a no vote that night on the planned unit devel-

opment zoning request, and it came prepared to present evidence against the development. (More than 90 signed up to speak; only **Robin Rather** got the chance.) After the council took action without a public hearing, SOS' **Bill Bunch** yelled angrily at the council, followed by others. "Have the guts to vote it down!" cried Rather.

But though it failed to satisfy the opposition, the council action quietly supported the environmentalists' position. "This is a bigger victory than you think," said Council Member **Randi Shade**, when she stepped out into the atrium minutes later to soothe the crowd. She explained that because the developer successfully had gone through the city's pro-

cess – winning endorsements from city staff, the Zoning and Platting Commission, the Environmental Board, and the **Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods** – most council members didn't believe it was appropriate to flat-out reject the project. Instead, they put the onus on the developer to come back in six months with an improved project – which now will have to conform to the city's new, tougher PUD ordinance. A new proposal also must go through staff reviews and boards and commissions again; new information about environmental, water-quality, and traffic impacts can be heard.

"We've told the developer that the project submitted, as is, is not approvable," asserted

Shade. "A high bar has been set; they know they have an opportunity to come back if they reach that bar; otherwise, don't bother." And of course, the recession could always kill the project in the meantime.

"As long as there are private land owners there will always be proposals for redevelopment and new development over the aquifer," Shade observed later in an e-mail to Bunch. "We won't ever get to do a touchdown dance or cross some sort of finish line. We can and must, however, continue to strive for better – better than what would have been considered last night, but also better than the Bradley Agreement, and better than the SOS Ordinance." — Katherine Gregor



## Fundraiser for Pat Crow

On Monday, Feb. 23, current and past Democratic office-holders in Austin will pay homage to **Pat Crow**, a veteran political consultant who has built an impeccable record of running successful campaigns and helping novice candidates work through their fear of asking people for money.

This election year, however, Crow is recovering from a stroke she suffered last July during heart bypass surgery. Like many independent consultants whose paychecks are sporadic, Crow doesn't have private health insurance to defray the mounting costs of her ongoing medical care. A former financial planner for IBM, she's a woman of modest means, having lived the feast-or-famine life of a campaign manager since picking up her first political gig in 1982. Since she never demanded big bucks from her candidates, Crow's friends and family are now calling in her chips, and U.S. Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, state Sen. **Kirk Watson**, and other party stalwarts have stepped up to host a Mardi Gras-style fundraiser that's expected to draw a who's who of local progressives, public officials, and political aspirants.

"I don't think there's an elected official in Austin who doesn't want to play some kind of role in this," said Crow's sister, **Barbara Rush**, herself a longtime campaign hand and currently a policy adviser to City Council Member **Laura Morrison**. As part of the entertainment, Rush said political media man **Dean Rindy** has produced a video of friends and officials doing their best impersonations of Crow. A short, sturdy woman of considerable pluck and a distinct voice – imagine Marge Simpson as a brutally honest drill sergeant – Crow offers a wealth of comedy material.

Rush credits **Austin Speech Labs**, where Crow receives intensive therapy three days a week, for her sister's remarkable



ALAN POGUE

Pat Crow, who rode herd over Gus Garcia's 1997 campaign for City Council

comeback. The stroke occurred in the left temporal and frontal lobes of the brain, which affected her cognitive skills and memory. Now Crow is nearly back to her old self, keeping an eye (and ear) on local political rumblings, socializing, cracking (irreverent) jokes, and making plans to attend her annual movie marathon indulgence at the South by Southwest Film Festival. "Her goal is to live independently," Rush said. "So we're hoping to get the medical bills paid off so she can get to that point."

— Amy Smith

Pat Crow's Mardi Gras fundraiser is Monday, Feb. 23, 5:30-8:30pm, at the Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin. For more info or to make an online donation, go to [www.patcrow.com](http://www.patcrow.com).

## Developers Win Again

Last week, the years-long legal battle over a Hays Co. subdivision's wastewater discharge permit lurched to its conclusion. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality essentially agreed to a settlement that the **Belterra** development had struck with several of a long list of opponents, including the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and the Lower Colorado River Authority. The city of Austin, Hays County, and downstream landowners had fought the terms of the settlement, which still permitted 350,000 gallons of effluent to be pumped into Bear Creek and, ultimately, into the Edwards Aquifer. Andy Barrett, who represented the subdivision, said: "We believe it is important to recognize that the vast majority of the treated effluent will be reused to irrigate the open spaces in the subdivision. Paired with the strict water-quality protections required in our permit, our innovative approach to wastewater management will benefit both the residents of Belterra and the conservation efforts of the Texas Hill Country." But Kirk Holland, general manager of the BS/EACD, was much less sanguine. "We have mixed emotions about it. If there's not going to be a downright denial of the permit, this is probably the next best thing." — Jacob Cottingham

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## The Topless Tax Sequel, Part III

House Bill 1751 – aka the “**Titty Tax**” – was supposed to be a social-service panacea: paying for sexual-assault survivor programs and indigent health care by charging \$5 every time someone goes anywhere where there’s a combination of **booze and nakedness**.

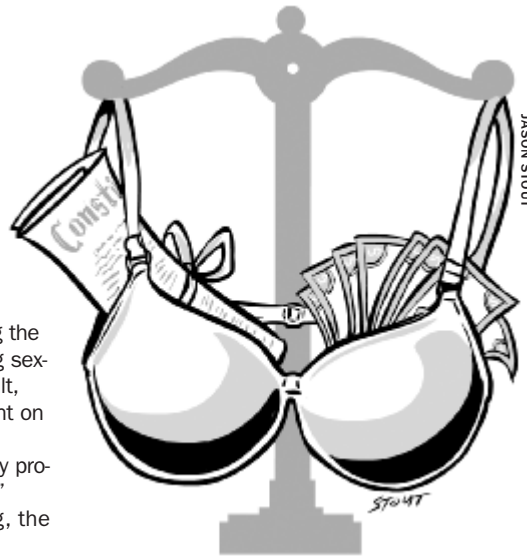
But two years after passage (and four years after a failed attempt to tack the bill on to the public-school finance bill in 2005), the surcharge is in limbo – condemned by **First Amendment** experts as an ill-defined tax on content, ruled unconstitutional in court, and now stuck in legal appeals. Undaunted, legislators are now working on a replacement that looks almost identical. Meanwhile, the comptroller’s office has been collecting the surcharge from the state’s 167 sexually oriented businesses. The tax has gathered \$11.2 million since Jan. 1, 2008 – well below the \$18 million a year bill author Rep. **Ellen Cohen**, D-Houston, said it would produce for abuse programs and nowhere near the \$87 million projected for the biennium. All that cash sits in the sexual-assault program account, unspent.

At trial last March, Judge **Scott Jenkins** of the 53rd District Court, calling the surcharge “unconstitutional and invalid,” granted the **Texas Entertainment Association** a permanent injunction against the tax (see “Topless Tax Terminated,” April 4, 2008). But just weeks later, Judge **Stephen Yelenosky** of the 345th District Court upheld a suspension of the injunction pending appeal. And on Feb. 11, the **3rd Court of Appeals** heard a request by Attorney General Greg Abbott and state Comptroller Susan Combs to reinstate the tax. The court’s opinion is pending.

At the appeal hearing, Texas Solicitor General James Ho told the court that the tax is not an attempt to restrict free speech. The businesses have choices: Lose the alcohol, put more clothes on their performers, or pay up. In response, TEA attorney **Craig Enoch** said that one firm had already made that choice: **Karpod Inc.**, the co-litigant in the case, had stopped its nude dancing. Describing the state’s argument as “seductive” in linking sexually oriented business and sexual assault, he said the surcharge remains “a payment on the right to exercise free speech. ... We wouldn’t need a First Amendment if it only protected speech that everyone agreed with.”

Yet even while the appeal is pending, the **Texas Association Against Sexual Assault** is working with Cohen on a new version of the tax to fix a bill that has seemed unfixable for the last two sessions. A major argument against HB 1751 was that it defined nude performance so broadly that it would have swept up everything from strip shows to productions of *Equus*. It ultimately collapsed as the comptroller’s office struggled to develop rules that didn’t read like a morality code, and Tax Policy Division staff pondered the taxable status of string bikinis vs. wet T-shirts (see “Return of the Titty Tax,” Dec. 7, 2007). “It was never our intention to tax traditional theatre,” said TAASA Deputy Director **Torie Camp**, “and we’ll be working with [the Texas Legislative Council] to ensure that [it is] not taxed.”

For Camp, the issue is about where the money goes. Part of why Judge Jenkins granted the original injunction was that a



portion of the surcharge went into the Texas health opportunity pool. “The court said that there was a link between live nude entertainment, alcohol, and sexual violence,” said Camp, “It just didn’t find a connection between live nude entertainment, alcohol, sexual violence, and indigent health care.” (Jenkins actually said the state presented “persuasive trial evidence” of a link, without indicating whether he had been persuaded.)

Cohen called the new tax “basically the same bill. If it’s determined that the money can’t go to indigent health care, we’ll lower the fee, and it will go purely to sexual-assault programs.” As for fears that any bill language will hit the wrong businesses, she said: “We really didn’t have an issue with that. I look at it from one perspective, and in our crafting of the language ... it’s clear in its definitions.” – *Richard Whittaker*

## PITCHING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

“Inclusiveness,” “engagement,” “ownership,” “implementation.” Those buzzwords were reiterated by each of the three finalist teams vying to lead Austin’s comprehensive planning process, as they presented their qualifications to council last Thursday. Representing the **ACP Visioning+Planning** team, principal **Gianni Longo** defined a successful plan: “It’s yours; it’s real; it reflects the values and aspirations of your community.” Or as he commented to activist **Jeff Jack** during an open house in the City Hall atrium, “If it’s not your plan, we’ve failed.”

All presenters reiterated the salient point: When the national consultants deliver their final reports and go home after two years, Austinites need to be deeply invested in implementing the long-term plan for shaping the city’s growth, development, and quality of life. They urged council to heavily weight each firm’s track record in successfully inspiring follow-on results. ACP cited the example of Columbus, Ohio, which in November 2008 voted to approve Dream It, Do It, a \$1.66 billion bond package to fund projects and capital initiatives developed through community visioning.

**Liveable City** board member **Robin Rather** questioned whether adequate imple-

mentation by Austin is possible, due to the recession; the group is considering urging a delay of the \$1.3 million plan as the city faces \$20 million in budget cuts. (The allocation was split equally between the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 city budgets.) But conventional wisdom holds that economic downturns are an ideal time to invest in thoughtful planning, in part because it’s less likely to be outrun by booming development.

So similar were the 15-minute pitches from the national team leaders – ACP, **HNTB**, and **WRT** – that only subtle differences emerged. (See the teams’ slide shows at [www.cityofaustin.org/planning/comp\\_plan.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/planning/comp_plan.htm).) All firms have led impressive efforts in other cities, from Omaha, Neb., to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. But ACP and WRT conveyed the best readiness for Austin-style demands of inclusiveness. (While waiting, the teams were treated to citizens yelling at council over its postponement of the Wildflower PUD without a public hearing; several consultants couldn’t resist commenting that the evening had provided an education in Austin’s “participatory tradition.”)

Sign up to be notified of future comp plan events at [www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/contact\\_info\\_ncp.cfm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/contact_info_ncp.cfm).

## ANOTHER SBOE VOICE FOR CREATIONISM

In recent months, North Austin’s representative on the State Board of Education, Richmond’s **Cynthia Dunbar**, has gotten all the headlines – as a strident voice against teaching evolution, an editorialist warning of **martial law** under Barack Obama, and the author of a book calling public education a “subtly deceptive **tool of perversion**.”

But what of South Austin’s SBOE rep? (SBOE districts divide Travis Co. along the Colorado River.) Oh, he’s plenty capable of embarrassing his educated constituents, as well. That would be San Antonio’s **Ken Mercer**, a former state rep who chimed in last week with a Dunbar-esque editorial in the *San Antonio Express-News*.

His op-ed, responding to an *Express-News* editorial slamming the creationist wing of the board, insisted that his current fight to preserve a state requirement that public school educators teach “strengths and weaknesses” of scientific theories – language that an SBOE-appointed panel of scientists and educators recommend removing – is about “freedom of speech and academic freedom.” The *Express-News*’ assertion that the battle “is about putting religion in public schools,” Mercer thundered, is “a false, political red herring.”

Yet after that claim of religious neutrality, Mercer spends much of the rest of the essay obsessing over atheists. “I pray for my three friends, Pat Hardy of Ft. Worth, Bob Craig of Lubbock, and Geraldine ‘Tincy’ Miller of Dallas,” Mercer writes, referring to three of his SBOE colleagues who played a crucial role in defeating “strengths and weaknesses” at the SBOE’s January meeting. “They voted against the Republican Party platform and allowed themselves to be constantly lobbied by prominent atheists and secular humanists. These three Republicans will now have to stand accountable before their constituents.”

Mercer challenged the *Express-News* “to find one science book approved by the SBOE that includes either creation science or intelligent design” during the past 20 years that “strengths and weaknesses” has been in effect. He fails to note that only recently creationists seized upon that previously unremarkable phrase to push their agenda and that fundamentalists haven’t quite had enough votes on the 15-member board to approve using that language to undermine the teaching of evolution.

But they’d certainly like to: As a blog posting by the **Texas Freedom Network** ([www.tfn.org](http://www.tfn.org)) pointed out, “Mercer and his fellow evolution deniers on the state board have protested time and again that they do not want ‘intelligent design’/creationism taught in Texas classrooms. But that is expressly what their supposedly authoritative Republican Party platform demands.” TFN quotes the platform: “Theories of Origin – We support objective teaching and equal treatment of strengths and weaknesses of scientific theories, including *Intelligent Design*.” (Italics ours.)

Mercer’s editorial includes too many contradictions to itemize here – see the *Chronicle*’s Newsdesk blog ([austinchronicle.com/newsdesk](http://austinchronicle.com/newsdesk)) for more details.

– *Lee Nichols*

# the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## WHAT'S THE WORD FOR WALL STREET GREED?

America's titans of finance have caused the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, and what is their reaction? Party time!

"Break out the Champagne/We're feeling no pain/Let the bonuses rain/It's all to our gain!"

Obtuse? Self-indulgent? Narcissistic? What's with these people? Let's review just three examples of their insanity:

While Merrill Lynch was collapsing last year, requiring a \$25 billion salvage job from us taxpayers, its CEO was merrily redecorating his office, picking out such necessities as \$28,000 worth of curtains, a \$35,000 antique commode, and a \$1,400 wastebasket. Then he magnanimously doled out \$4 billion in executive bonuses.

Citigroup, which lost \$28 billion in the past 15 months, has now been given a \$345 billion bailout from Washington and is presently holding a fire sale of its corporate parts in a desperate effort to survive. But this didn't stop top executives from trying to buy a new \$50 million Dassault Falcon corporate jet for themselves. Never mind that the bank already had five executive jets.

Despite losing billions of dollars last year, then going hat in hand to the government for multibillion-dollar bailouts, Wall Street investment bankers paid themselves \$18 billion in bonuses at the end of the year. In a poll of these bankers, 46% felt they deserved bigger bonuses.

We have to have some new words. "Greed" doesn't say it. "Outrageous" falls way short. "Shameful" has no effect on bankers. Help me out here: How shall we describe their abominable sense of self-entitlement? Channel your fury into creativity, and send me your ideas for new words that nail these bankers. The top three will get an autographed copy of my book, *Thieves in High Places*. Send your creations to [info@jimhightower.com](mailto:info@jimhightower.com).

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

## WHY AMERICA NEEDS A TRUTH COMMISSION

Alberto, Alberto, Alberto. Please, just go away.

Alberto Gonzales, I mean - George W.'s devious White House counsel and attorney general. He sullied both offices by repeatedly and secretly striving to shred our Constitution and defy the rule of law on everything from torture to illegal wiretapping. Finally, having misled Congress, he was forced to resign in 2007.

But he won't go away! He's recently been on a pity tour of media outlets, trying vainly to portray himself as an abused public servant. In one interview, Gonzales did show remorse - not for anything he did but for actions of subordinates. "I deeply regret some of the decisions made by my staff," he wormed.

He's not alone in his public display of smug, self-serving delusion. Bush himself asserts that he did no wrong in his eight-year term: "When I ... look in the mirror, I am not going to regret what I see." Dick Cheney, too, is full of conceit, saying he's writing a book to show that everything he did - including okaying torture - was beyond reproach.

What's at play here is far more than the usual effort by politicians to put a shine on their records. These are politicians who knowingly violated our nation's laws and who secretly asserted a politics of executive supremacy that unilaterally overthrows the constitutional mandate for separation of powers. If there is no true accounting for what they did, then their actions become a legal precedent, sanctioning other White House inhabitants to do the same.

This is why America needs a fiercely independent review commission to reveal the details of executive excess. The point is not to prosecute someone but to uncover the truth and make clear that America will not sanction an autocratic power grab - even one disguised as a "war on terror."

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# Dumping the Water Pump

Should Austin's conservation success delay WTP 4?

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Somehow Austin just can't stop fighting over Water Treatment Plant No. 4.

A coalition of environmental groups has again taken aim at WTP 4, asking council to halt construction. Though the fight is familiar, it's been freshened up with a new rationale tied to the city's 2008 success in water conservation.

A long Dec. 11 letter to council lays out the latest reasons why the city should forestall WTP 4. Signatories to the letter (available online with this article at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com)) represent eight local environmental groups. WTP 4 Phase I is scheduled to open in 2014, drawing from Lake Travis to add 50 million gallons per day to the city's current water-treatment capacity. The core of the enviros' argument: With conservation working, we won't need that additional capacity until far after 2020, so why not ice the \$494 million project for at least three to five years? The advantages cited: Keep customer rates lower (by delaying the need to pay off an estimated \$400 million in additional bond debt), benefit from wisdom in the city's upcoming comprehensive plan for growth, and – most important to this group – keep the focus and the pressure on water conservation. If council commits to living as long as possible within our current water-treatment “means” of 285 MGD, goes the argument, we're more likely to conserve the most water.

City policy already requires conservation, but could be made stricter. Aggressive water conservation can help achieve Austin Climate Protection Plan goals of saving energy (used heavily in the pumping and treatment of water) and thus significantly reduce the city's greenhouse-gas emissions. So if we increase our water-treatment capacity, runs the argument, residents will inevitably use more water.

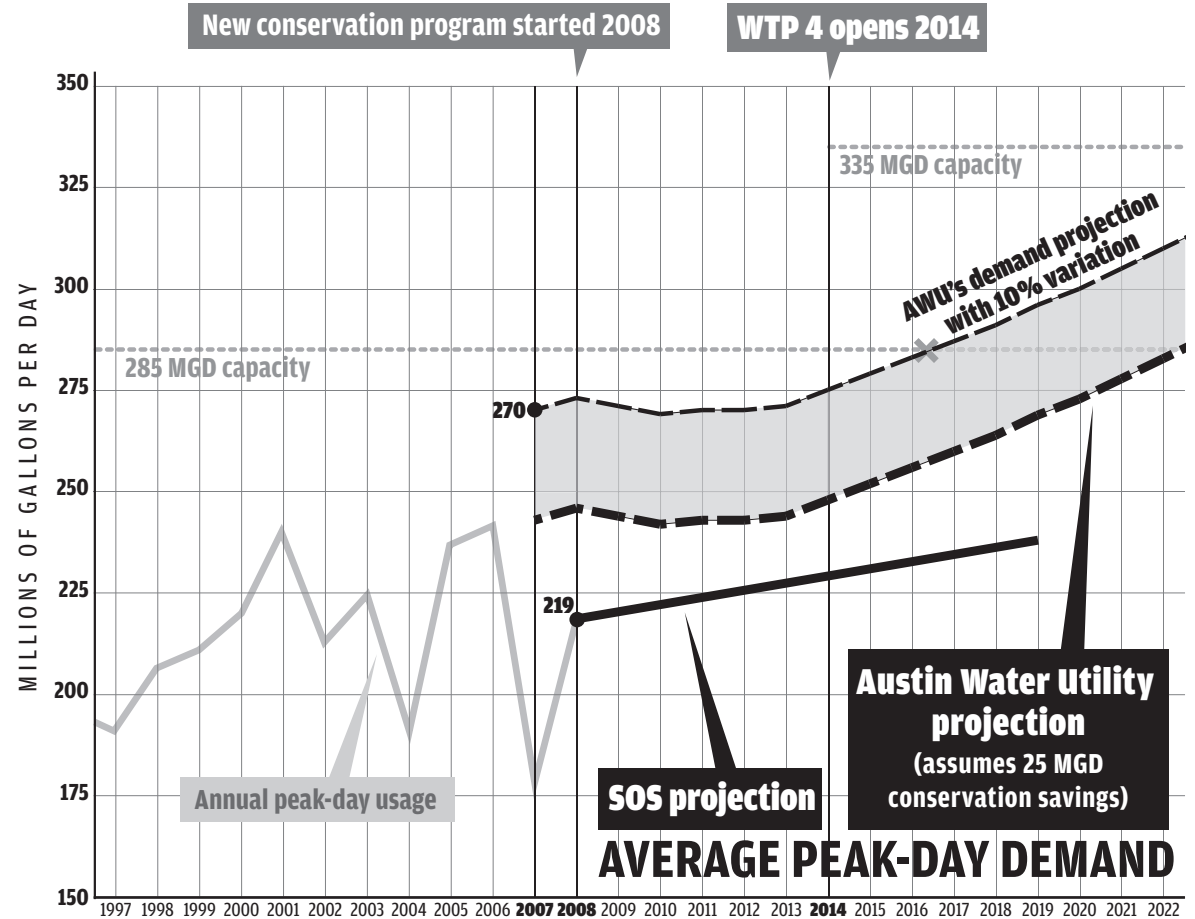
The city's water-conservation program (chiefly new mandatory lawn and landscape watering restrictions) successfully reduced usage by so much last year, the enviro alliance says, that the city should now change all of its water-demand forecasting. The alliance asked council to establish new policy based on a key 2008 figure: 219 MGD peak-day consumption. (That's the single day on which the most water is pumped/consumed – usually in August.) To date, the city has used projections based on an average peak-day demand of 240 MGD – the historic high hit in 2001 and 2006. Adding a 10% safety buffer to allow for seasonal variations, additional pumpage, and other factors, AWU's current projections start from 270 MGD in 2007 (see “How Much Water Will We Need?” at right). The Save Our Springs Alliance argues we should base projections instead on average peak demand of 219 MGD, on the assumption that the new city restrictions have permanently reduced use. Extending the same projections forward, the city then would not hit its system capacity of 285 MGD (even with the 10% “safety buffer”) until well past 2020. The activists also argue that if the city would contain the “peak” by more strictly curtailing water use on the hottest summer days, all projections could be rolled back even further.

It will take about five years to build the first phase of WTP 4. Given last year's success, SOS and others want the city to freeze the initial design, planning, and preliminary engineering work scheduled to start this year. In a few more years, they point out, we'll have far better data on water-conservation results. Meanwhile, the water-conservation program could be made even stronger, saving more water and further lowering demand projections.

What do we have to lose by waiting?

## How Much Water Will We Need?

The Save Our Springs Alliance and other groups are promoting a lowered peak-day use projection as an argument for delaying work on Water Treatment Plant No. 4. The key question: In what year will we exceed current system capacity of 285 MGD and thus need WTP 4? Phase I (adding 50 MGD capacity) is on a construction schedule to be completed by 2014.



Austin Water Utility projections start from a theoretical 270 MGD in 2007. That reflects a 10% variation from an average peak demand line that starts at 240 MGD, the historical high from 2001 and 2006.

With conservation savings keeping usage roughly level for the next four years, AWU projections show us hitting 285 MGD system capacity by about 2016. Opening WTP 4 before that would allow the city's other, old plants to close for renovations.

SOS starts its projections at 219 MGD, the peak use in 2008, the first year of the city's new water-conservation program. That's a truer average, they say, and even allowing for a 10% variation on top of that, we won't need additional capacity until well past 2020.

### AWU Response: Pragmatic Need

Austin Water Utility Director Greg Meszaros bluntly rejects the equation of WTP 4 Phase I construction with a lack of city commitment to water conservation. He believes the new plant's construction will have no dampening effect on water conservation, and he stressed that the city has committed only to build Phase I, which in fact will replace the 42 MGD lost when the 83-year-old Green Water Treatment Plant was decommissioned in December. (The initial intake tunnel and infrastructure investment will allow the plant to be expanded, far into the future, as aging plants expire and Austin grows.) As evidence of AWU's

strong commitment to water conservation, he pointed to last year's resounding success: “We asked our community to do a lot, and it has responded in a great way.”

Austin Water Utility is on schedule to implement a council-mandated menu of additional water-conservation measures for the next decade. Under Daryl Slusher, who assumed the new post of assistant director of environmental affairs and conservation in 2007, water conservation has become a top AWU strategic goal, said Meszaros. Long defined by an engineering mindset, AWU staffers have a growing environmental ethos.

CONTINUED ON P.30

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The director cited a number of pragmatic reasons to build WTP 4 now. The city now has just two plants, Ullrich and Davis, which opened in 1969 and 1954, respectively; Davis in particular is sorely in need of rehabilitation, and neither can be expanded. AWU needs some redundancy in the system – more water-treatment capacity than it uses – so that it can “take down” part of an old plant for repairs, said Meszaros. Those Sixties-era plants aren’t energy-efficient, and they’re not going to last forever. AWU has a responsibility to ensure Austin’s adequate water supply 25, 50, 100 years into the future. Even if the full 50 MGD from WTP 4 aren’t needed until 2025 – as Meszaros said he hopes – he needs redundancy soon.

Another AWU concern: Davis and Ullrich draw water from the Colorado River. WTP 4 will draw from Lake Travis. That’s a cleaner, deeper source, said Meszaros; using it will reduce water-draw from the river, which more directly impacts wildlife and ecosystems downstream. And if the Lower Colorado River Authority has oversold rights to the Colorado, that could lead to big rate increases from that source in the future.

As for rate increases from financing WTP 4, Meszaros anticipates 10% to 12% total over the next five to six years or about 2% annually, over and above another 4.5% in rate increases projected over the same period. (An average homeowner pays Austin Water Utility \$61.67 a year for water and wastewater.) But the actual WTP 4 cost could go down, especially for contracts signed in the next year, because in the current economy, construction bids are coming in lower, and utility bond interest rates have dropped.

### Climate Considerations

Austin Water Utility turns a profit on every gallon of water sold, generating essential

revenues for the city’s hard-pressed General Fund. Nonetheless, said Meszaros, “there are some real business drivers for us to pursue water conservation.” The city has contracted with LCRA to buy its raw water through 2050. But from 2020 to 2025, the price rises substantially, as water usage increases and hits predetermined triggers. “Each year we can delay that, we’ll realize \$10 [million] to \$12 million of savings annually,” said Meszaros. “If we can postpone purchasing additional raw water by decades, we can save hundreds of millions.” The util-

required to pump water. “The number one thing the utility can do to reduce our greenhouse gases is to open WTP 4, which will cut about 10,000 to 15,000 metric tons a year – even pumping the same amount of water we do today,” asserted Meszaros. (AWU has not calculated the greenhouse-gas emissions of building WTP 4, nor has it run parallel numbers on greenhouse-gas reductions from water conservation, but standard estimates reflect that 1.2 to 1.3 metric tons of greenhouse-gas savings are achieved with every million gallons of water or treated wastewater conserved.)

as Phoenix and Las Vegas or even nearby San Antonio. “It’s a lot easier to sell conservation when you can say, ‘We just don’t have the water,’” Leffingwell noted.

Said the SOS Alliance’s Colin Clark, “The utility’s push to build this extremely expensive plant seems entirely based on fear – fear that Austinites will become more wasteful with water every summer instead of more conservation-minded.” In effect, Meszaros has countered: The opposition to WTP 4 seems entirely based on fear – fear that the project means the city isn’t fully committed to water conservation.

Council must also consider other economic effects. WTP 4 Phase I is exactly the kind of “shovel-ready” infrastructure project that the Obama administration advocates for 2009 in this serious recession. If council froze the additional \$400 million now for design, consulting, and construction contracts, it would be another hit to the Austin economy and job market. Given that context, in addition to other AWU considerations, council would hesitate to delay the project.

The early 2009 council has signaled its willingness to move forward. New members Laura Morrison and Randi Shade said recently that they were excited about the conservation results, but neither would advocate a project halt without further analysis and data.

Rather than trying to hold the “no-build” front, environmental organizations might more wisely move to a “don’t expand” stance on WTP 4 – then work enthusiastically with the city to help spread its water-conservation gospel. Meszaros argues that AWU needs and deserves collaboration, not solely criticism. Only one thing will change the city’s expansion plans: good, hard data for several years showing that water conservation is working well. That’s within the community’s power to produce, one faucet and yard at a time. ■

## Reasons to Conserve The Message

The city’s water conservation campaign cites a whole roster of “Reasons to Observe and Conserve Water,” including climate change. They include:

- Water is a finite resource for a city, state, and planet with a growing population.
- Removing less water from the Colorado River is environmentally beneficial, because it leaves more for wildlife, aquatic life, and downstream bays and estuaries.
- Water conservation is the most direct and effective way to reduce AWU’s greenhouse-gas emissions, by reducing the energy required for water treatment and pumping.
- Water conservation is a direct way for citizens to participate in the Austin Climate Protection Plan.
- Lowered household water use translates to lower bills for customers.
- Successful conservation citywide can forestall hitting a usage “trigger” for LCRA additional payments, postponing an estimated 3-5% customer rate increase.

- K.G.

Source: [www.cityofaustin.org/watercon](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watercon).

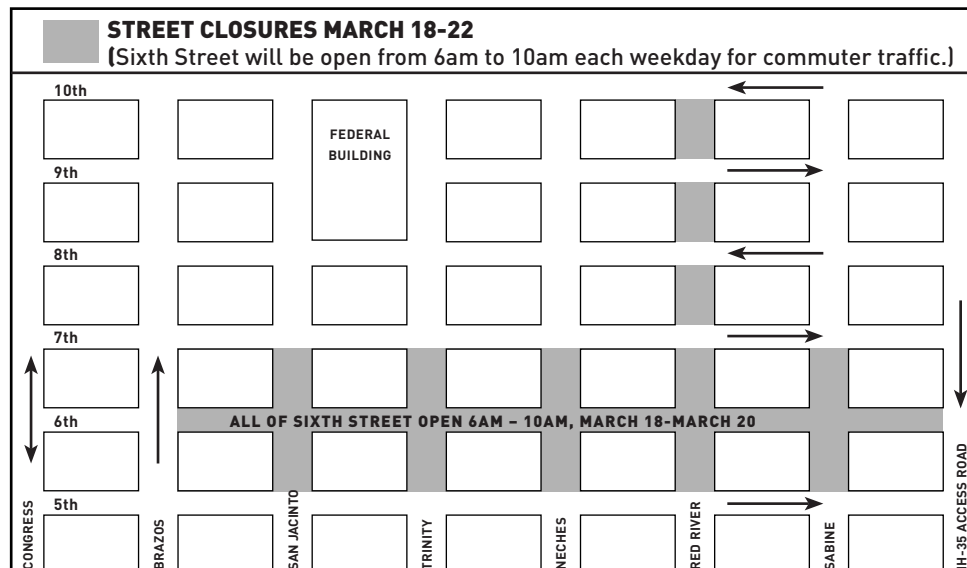
ity is redoing its rate design to encourage additional conservation by the biggest water users, probably starting in 2010.

Meszaros and Slusher also point to the significant cut in greenhouse-gas emissions as a result of WTP 4. Projections for fiscal year 2014-2015 (its first full year of operation) show that opening WTP 4 will immediately shrink the utility’s greenhouse-gas emissions by about 13.5%. The site is at a higher elevation; that substantially reduces the energy

All agree that conservation is the most cost-effective way to extend water resources. Council Member Lee Leffingwell – who chairs the Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force – said he remains convinced that the city got the most stringent water-conservation rules it could at the time – and it certainly can keep pushing. There is a public motivation problem: Through LCRA, Austin has excellent access to water for decades to come, unlike more water-restrictive cities such

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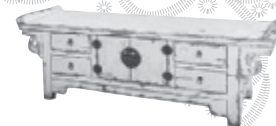
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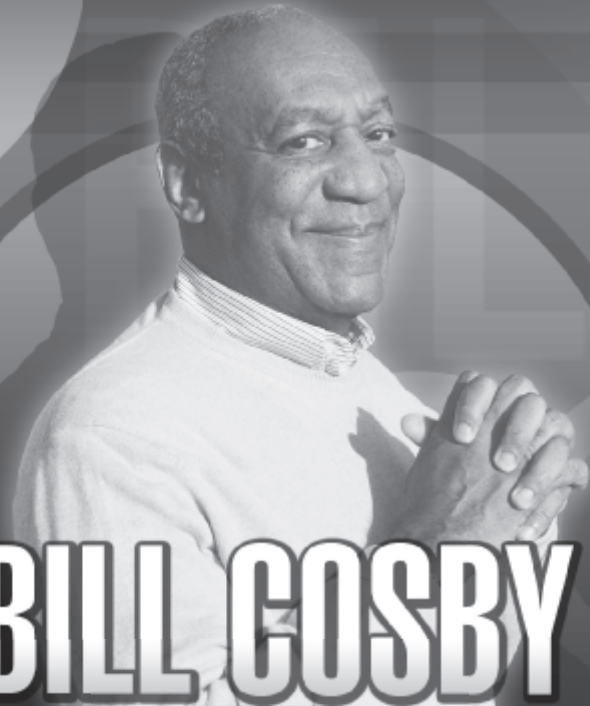
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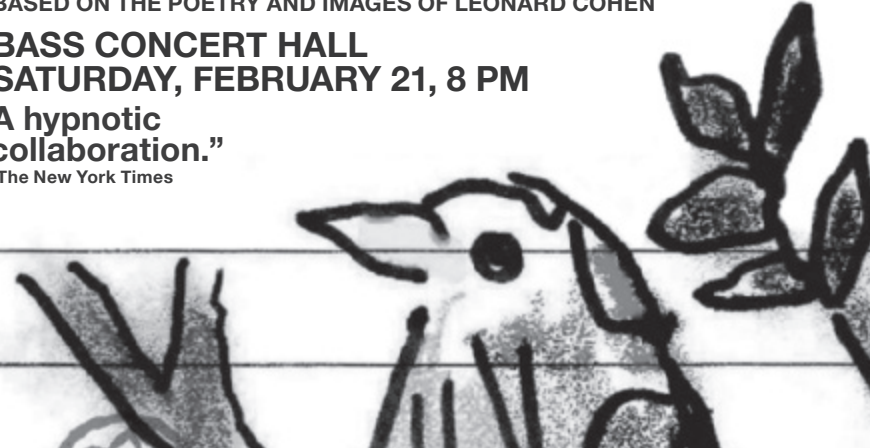
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# THE arts

## AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Executive director hired

The Austin Symphony Orchestra has a new executive director. Galen Wixson has been hired to fill the spot left by the departure of Jim Reagan last November. Wixson comes to Austin from Little Rock, Ark., where he has served as the executive director of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra for the past 19 months. Prior to that, he spent five years as executive director for the Symphony of Southeast Texas in Beaumont and two years as executive director for the Reno Philharmonic in Reno, Nev. He holds a Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Public Policy & Management at Heinz College, but don't think of him as just a number cruncher. He also wields a pretty mean bow on the cello, which he studied as both an under-

grad and graduate student at Wichita State University.

At a time when venerable classical music institutions across the country are slashing programming or closing down altogether, Wixson has the benefit of stepping into an organization that is fiscally sound. But that doesn't mean that the new executive director plans on coasting in his new position. "My priority in coming to Austin will be to make sure we sell our unused ticket inventory for our concerts," he says. "The Austin Symphony is taking great advantage of the Long Center in terms of subscription sales, and now we need to concentrate on filling the rest of the hall with single-ticket buyers. Having full concert halls will help us create more excitement and energy around our pro-

grams, which in turn will lead to more engaged patrons, more subscribers, and hopefully more donors. The bottom line is that we need to reinforce the idea that the Austin Symphony is a treasure, an indispensable part of the cultural fabric of the city." He considers ASO to have "wonderful potential" and the job of leading it administratively to be "quite simply, one of those opportunities that you just can't turn down."

The next performance of the Austin Symphony will feature "King of Flutes" Sir James Galway and his wife, flutist Lady Jeanne Galway, Friday & Saturday, Feb. 27 & 28, 8pm, in Dell Hall at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside. For more information, call 476-6064 or visit [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org). — Robert Faires



Galen Wixson

## SEVENTH ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

### Praise the Duke!



Try to picture Duke Ellington speechless.

This pre-eminent composer, bandleader, arranger, and musical conceptualist — "possibly the foremost all-around musical figure of [the 20th] century," as Jay Trachtenberg noted in a 1999 *Chronicle* feature ("Beginning to See the Light," Music, April 30, 1999) — was never at a loss for words. Until, that is, an Episcopal cleric said that he wanted Ellington to compose a concert of sacred music to open a San Francisco cathedral.

Long pause. "What did you say?" Ellington asked. He was past 60 at the time and had spent his life in nightclubs and concert halls. It was not that he was without faith, but he had never been asked to create work for the church and probably never expected to be. Yet here was the invitation.

And so it was that in 1965 the Duke Ellington Orchestra presented A Concert of Sacred Music at Grace Cathedral, an event so profound to Ellington that he said, "I'm sure that this is the most important statement we've ever made." He went on not only to perform the work in houses of worship around the world but to create a second Sacred Concert three years later and a third in 1973, all with soloists, choirs, and musical ensembles creating a swirl of jazz, swing, gospel, spirituals, and dance made from new and reworked older compositions. The concerts' expansive scope has led to their being revived only rarely since Ellington's death. But this week, Huston-Tillotson University, Texas State University, and the Austin Chamber Music Center are teaming to present a Sacred Concert for the seventh annual Black History Month Concert. The project has been years in the making and promises to be an exceptional program of music, sacred or secular. — R.F.

Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert will be performed Sunday, Feb. 22, 3pm, in the King-Seabrook Chapel at Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon. For more information, visit [www.austinchambermusic.org](http://www.austinchambermusic.org).

## MCCALLUM FINE ARTS ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

### For the benefit of Mr. Kite (and the orchestra)



If the high school musicians of the McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra didn't really know the Beatles' music before this week (and it would be hard to blame them since the band broke up a full 20 years before any of these kids were born), they'll sure know it after. That's because this Saturday, the students will be backing the lads from Liverpool — well, okay, Austin's most reasonable facsimile thereof, the Eggmen — in a benefit concert at the Paramount Theatre. The award-winning Beatles cover band is helping the McCallum Orchestra raise funds for its trip this June to Carnegie Hall, where it will take part in the Masterworks Series, which invites qualified ensembles to collaborate on a major work for choir, professional orchestra, and soloists under the direction of a nationally recognized conductor. McCallum played Carnegie Hall previously in 2006 (see photo, above).

The Eggmen take pains to re-create the Beatles' sound faithfully — to the point of using vintage guitars, amps, and drums — and teaming with McCallum gives them the opportunity to make some of the band's hits that employed a complement of strings — think "All You Need Is Love," "I Am the Walrus," "Strawberry Fields Forever" — sound even more like the originals.

This isn't the orchestra's first time backing Austin's version of the Fab Four, says Ricky Pringle, director of orchestras at McCallum. "We have played with the Eggmen before, and we have several small groups that hire out and play these songs for wedding receptions, corporate events, and

private parties." The students love playing the Beatles' music, he insists, and at least one student echoes that sentiment. Violin player Olivia Erwin, who joined the band on its New Year's Eve gig at Jovita's, says, "It's so much fun playing this music with the Eggmen." Part of the reason? "It's music everyone loves, especially my parents."

The concert is Saturday, Feb. 21, 8pm, at the Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. For more information, call 866/443-8849 or visit [www.austintheatre.org](http://www.austintheatre.org).

In other McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra news, the ensemble's violinists will compete in the first KMFA Young Violinist Competition and Award on March 7. The classical music radio station chose the Fine Arts Academy to launch this program benefiting young violinists in school orchestras. Students will perform excerpts from Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G major* for a panel of judges that includes Austin Symphony Orchestra Music Director Peter Bay, Austin Chamber Music Center Artistic Director Michelle Schumann, ASO Assistant Concertmaster Jennifer Bourianoff, Viola by Choice founder Aurélien Pétillot, and Will Taylor & Strings Attached frontman Will Taylor.

The big draw for the winning violinist is getting to play the KMFA violin, an instrument handcrafted by William Townsend, for one year. But in addition, that talented student will also get to take part in a master class led by concert violinist Anne Akiko Meyers when she visits the UT Butler School of Music as part of the Starling Distinguished Violinist Series, get a \$200 scholarship with Blackerby Violin Shop for music and supplies, have the violin repaired and adjusted by Sandro Cocco Violin Studio as needed, receive tickets to Starling Distinguished Violinist Series and Austin Symphony concerts, and get a season pass to the Austin Chamber Music Festival. Three finalists are also in line for prizes such as a master class on violin making and care, violin repairs, and sheet music and supplies.

"It's a unique opportunity for deserving young violinists in our community," notes KMFA General Manager Joan Kobayashi, "and one we hope contributes significantly to their performance experience while in school, as well as their future relationship with classical music performance."

For more information, visit [www.kmfa.org](http://www.kmfa.org). To donate to the McCallum Orchestra Performance Fund, visit [www.macorchestrafund.org](http://www.macorchestrafund.org). — R.F.

# ROCKETING Through Hard Times



JOHN ANDERSON

**Yellow Tape and other small theatre groups blast past the black hole of the recession**

**BY ELIZABETH COBBE**

Jonathon Morgan and Amanda Butterfield are the two of the peppiest theatre artists in Austin. You know this because they use the word “awesome” in every other sentence.

“It’s gonna be totally awesome!” says Morgan of Yellow Tape Construction Company’s upcoming show, *Warpstar Sexysquad*. He could also be talking about any of their past eight shows, the weather, his glued-to-the-hand iPhone, or pretty much anything. The company’s tagline even reads, “A new kind of awesome, one performance at a time.”

Yellow Tape’s co-artistic directors (and, since October, official married couple) are nothing if not positive. It turns out they have good reason to be.

Yellow Tape has developed at a time when large, established theatre companies across the country have shuttered their doors and

declared bankruptcy. The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., has even launched an initiative called “Arts in Crisis,” offering free consulting services to any nonprofit performing arts group. These tough times for large arts organizations have led to a broader discussion in American theatre about the future of the theatre as an industry. More than once, a comparison has been made to the dying out of the dinosaurs, with only the small mammals at the periphery able to survive the disaster.

If true, then Yellow Tape may very well prove to be one of those small mammals. “We are in the black,” says Morgan. “We were always in the black because our ticket sales have matched or exceeded our expectations. We also do shows that are really fun ... and we work really hard to get people out to see them.”

Some of the company’s current success, and the success of other local companies, is due to location. Data from other sectors suggest that local nonprofit arts companies that rely on the fortunes of others may be better off than their colleagues elsewhere. Austin ended 2008 with a 5% unemployment rate, below the national average of 7.2%. Austin is still expected to add jobs in 2009, although in numbers far smaller than in recent years.

Yet much of the well-being that local arts companies have enjoyed is also due to the type of organizations that the artists behind them have built. Their aims and their strategies differ, but each has found a way to adapt to circumstances.

Yellow Tape has developed a two-pronged programming focus: dance shows choreographed by Butterfield and original, loud-and-crazy ensemble plays directed by Morgan. Their upcoming *Warpstar Sexysquad*, a sci-fi adventure in the vein of Sixties-era *Star Trek* and similarly campy classics, falls into the latter category. Says Morgan, “We wanted to do a science-fiction show, so we wound up with *Warpstar Sexysquad*, who save the future by saving the past,” with the help of Mr. Snuggles, a house cat turned gigantic mutant after a radiation accident. For the first time in Yellow Tape’s history, Morgan dons a (very tight) costume and appears onstage as the weapons specialist.

The flavor of the show is silly and ridiculous, and it’s also exactly the thing that brings in the younger audiences that so many other theatre companies miss. “We play to a demographic that appreciates a \$10 to \$15 ticket price,” says Morgan. They budget accordingly, with shows that actually play well with moderate production values.

Yellow Tape also has different goals for itself as a company. While most theatre groups try to grow from small to big to bigger, Morgan and Butterfield say they’re happy with the company’s current size and workload. They don’t rely on large grants from the major foundations whose endowments have taken a serious blow in recent months. Their budget isn’t large enough that losing 5% of annual donations will drive them under.

“The type of shows we do work well with the company being a nimble organization,” says Morgan. “We don’t really have the administration and overhead that would lead us to suffer.”

Butterfield agrees that remaining part-time artists rather than letting Yellow Tape become a full-time occupation has benefits: “It becomes a whole other angle to what it means to make work, to be an administrator. There’s a whole lot of fun making the work this way.”

“I’m not opposed to the company getting bigger than it is, but only if it’s an organic process,” Morgan says.

Yellow Tape is not the only company that appears to be skimming the surface of the recession so far. Hyde Park Theatre, a well-established company with its own venue, set box-office records in both 2007 and 2008, placing it in a strong position as times get tough.

FronteraFest, the annual performance festival that Hyde Park Theatre hosts each January and February, “is doing better box-office business than ever before,” reports Artistic Director Ken Webster. “Last year we got more money in private donations than we’ve ever had before, and we had the most successful fundraiser we’ve ever had in November.”

Ironically, HPT’s record-high income from donations was in part due to its landlord raising the monthly rent from \$1,250 to \$2,500. When faced with the reality of doubled rent, the theatre had to devote more efforts to fundraising or else face losing its location.

Amanda Butterfield  
and Jonathon Morgan

BRET BROOKSHIRE

**“We are in the black,” says Morgan. “We were always in the black because our ticket sales have matched or exceeded our expectations. We also do shows that are really fun ... and we work really hard to get people out to see them.”**

Hyde Park is also the happy owner of a mailing list of 5,000 e-mails and 6,000 addresses that the company has been building since before Webster became artistic director. Introducing online ticketing has benefited the company, improving access to tickets. Additionally, HPT has developed a reputation for consistent programming of contemporary plays that play well in its 80-seat space. Audiences know what they’re getting when they go to a show.

Webster is cautiously optimistic that Hyde Park Theatre will continue to perform well in the coming months. “It’s too early to tell right now because it’s only February. As far as the fiscal year goes, we’re doing very well, but as far as the calendar year goes, it’s still too early to tell if fundraising is going to be affected by the downturn in the economy.”

Last summer, Penfold Theatre Company launched its first production, *Art*, earning strong reviews across the board. It followed up with *The Last Five Years* in January, which enjoyed both critical and marketing success, filling the house to an average 87% capacity for the run and adding extra seats for the final weekend.

Penfold appears to be off to a good start at a bad time for the arts. The three company members know that they will have to begin fundraising efforts soon, as they negotiate the jump to a full season of programming. Says Penfold co-founder Ryan Crowder, "There's sort of a leap of faith when you say, you know, 'I don't know if the money's going to be there' - but as long as you're doing what you're passionate about, then you have to trust the funding will be there."

The long-term aim for the company has always been to establish itself with its own space in North Austin and the suburbs, a region that as yet has no professional theatres. They have begun talks with the Round Rock Area Arts Council to define Penfold's possible role in the scheduled development of downtown Round Rock.

Will Penfold find an audience so far from Austin? Will Austinites make the trip up there? The hope is that by focusing on a region where the company believes demand is high and supply is low, it can fill an opening and grow so that it will one day be a career for the company members and not just a part-time job.

While news that small, local theatre companies are faring well for the time being is welcome, the reality is that these are not the companies who can afford to hire a staff of full-time union shop hands or a large cast of Equity performers. Small theatres, even those with a reputation for strong work, are typically training grounds for young actors with their sights set elsewhere or an outlet for actors willing to work as part-time performers. Few career artists can afford to work for the necessarily small stipends that these companies pay.

Additionally, not every type of play can fit into the small spaces owned or rented by small companies. (You won't see Hyde Park doing *Les Miz* any time soon, for a variety of reasons.) Austin's small-theatre scene has so far excelled with programs of original works, regional premieres, or contemporary classics. Yet plays that require a high production value or a generous performance space rarely see production in the region. The reality is that small companies, in Austin and elsewhere, can only do so much.

Yet what those small companies can accomplish is worth noting, especially if they are the ones who can make a profit in bad times. And, if Morgan and Butterfield are right, then everything's gonna be totally awesome. ■

Warpstar Sexysquad runs *Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 19-March 7, 8pm, at the Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo.* For more information, visit [www.yellowtape.org](http://www.yellowtape.org).

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Clifford Ross, *Hurricane 1*, 2000, silver gelatin print, 50 x 60 inches (frame), Private collection, © Clifford Ross  
Lordy Rodriguez, *Texas*, 2006, Ink on paper, Triptych, each panel 63 x 45 inches, Courtesy of artist and Finesilver Gallery, San Antonio

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By Edmond Rostand  
Translated by Anthony Burgess  
Directed by Michelle S. Polgar  
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# Cyrano de Bergerac

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## WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS: STORIES

by Ray Bradbury  
William Morrow, 224 pp., \$24.99

Being a writer is one of a very select group of occupations that no one ever truly retires from. Even Stephen King, who announced his intention to withdraw from the scribbler's fold in 2002 so that he "could finish up like Harold Robbins," has, in the interim, positively devoured his words and regurgitated them back into the booksellers in novel, anthology, nonfiction, and graphic-novel form. Ray Bradbury, 27 years King's senior at 88 years old (or young, as he frequently notes), has become, if anything, even more prolific than his reigning literary offspring. Since suffering a massive stroke in 1999, America's literary treasure has produced a steady stream of new story collections and novels, the best of which, 2001's *From the Dust Returned*, was an unexpected sequel to what is arguably his best-loved piece of short fiction, "Homecoming." *We'll Always Have Paris* collects 21 previously unpublished short stories and one poem ("America") that are unmistakably Bradbury. Long ago released from the sci-fi and "dark fantasy" literary



subghettos, Bradbury's prose has become both leaner and keener over the years without sacrificing any of his trademark humanist whimsy. Some of the stories here are reminiscent of Raymond Carver's stripped-down and edgily blunt brand of emotional fireworks ("Un-Pillow Talk"), while pieces such as the dialogue-rich title story have the literary solidity and self-awareness of Hemingway. For better or worse, however, it's Bradbury's meditations on Mars and men

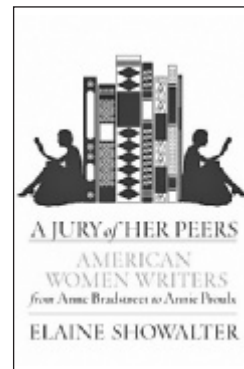
and the primal, atavistic interactions of one upon the other that won him first fame. That sublime obsession with the Angry Red Planet-as-metaphor reappears here in the excellent "Fly Away Home." Other Bradbury themes – fey phantoms, Gabriel García Márquez-esque magic realism, meditations on murder and music – return in new guises, still pulsing with the human heart and soul of their varied precursors. It's reassuring and immensely satisfying to discover, once again, that Bradbury has no intention or inkling of setting aside his pen – his sword, our shield – and has lost none of his unique power to make you think not with your head but with your heart. Bradbury's lyrical prose still radiates off the page and into the soul. In days like these, that's nothing short of a medicine for melancholy. – Marc Savlov

## A JURY OF HER PEERS: AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS FROM ANNE BRADSTREET TO ANNIE PROULX

by Elaine Showalter  
Knopf, 608 pp., \$30

It's pretty amazing, the things people used to feel free to say about women who write. According to Nathaniel Hawthorne, "ink-stained women are, without a single exception, detestable." In the Thirties, Nathanael West wrote that all women writers need is a good rape. Harken back to puritan views that, according to God's will, women should not spend time reading, let alone writing, and you see how a woman in print provoked moral outrage from the start.

With *A Jury of Her Peers: American Women Writers From Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx*, feminist critic Elaine Showalter tackles the first ever comprehensive history of American women writers. Exploring forgotten writers and larger issues for women in literature, Showalter aims to foster further debate and discussion. Throughout American history, for their efforts women writers faced fierce attacks – or just plain indifference – from the literary establishment along with larger society. Showalter points out that critics' antagonism toward female writers has spiked during the periods that their books' popularity rose, such as in the 1850s and 1920s. Bestsellers by women presented



scary prospects – of fomenting social and political pressure or encroaching on the masculine realm of literary prestige. But more cogently, women's market power threatened the direction of cash into male writers' pockets. The book also casts an interesting light on attitudes toward chick lit and on Jonathan Franzen dissing Oprah's endorsement in 2001.

Showalter gives a steady smack-down to trend-driven critics who've fueled drastic changes in writers' reputations, as precipitous as hemlines or as lemminglike as a stock-market panic. Take the 19th century author Sarah Orne Jewett (*The Country of the Pointed Firs*): In one decade critics treat her as forgettably mediocre, in another as a pioneer of narrative structure, then most recently a perpetrator of imperialism.

In this way, inherited views on women writers appear more subjective, defined by an exclusively male "jury." As women participate more forcefully in literary criticism, the publishing industry, and the U.S. economy for that matter, all Americans' appreciation of the stuff of women's lives evolves, finally establishing more space and permanence in halls previously ruled by Melville, Twain, and Hemingway for Harriet Beecher Stowe, Willa Cather, Flannery O'Connor, Gwendolyn Brooks. My personal assignment is to renew my library card and get me to a 20th century women-writers nunnery. Grace Paley, here I come.  
– Elizabeth Jackson

# CHRONTOURAGE

Friday, Feb. 20, 9pm

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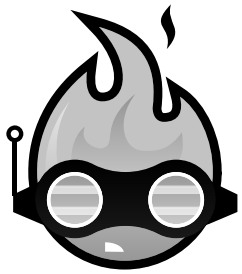
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# Events at BookPeople



**CUTTING FOR STONE**  
**ABRAHAM VERGHESE**  
Thursday, February 19 7 PM  
Random House

Abraham Verghese has been praised for his non-fiction writings, and his debut novel had a lot to live up to. Thankfully for us it surpasses expectations. *Cutting for Stone* is so beautifully written, that we're even making it our Signed First Club selection for this month (check out [bookpeople.com](http://bookpeople.com) for details). BookPeople highly recommends this event, tonight at 7 PM.



**FOOL**  
**CHRISTOPHER MOORE**  
Sunday, February 22 3 PM  
HarperCollins

Christopher Moore is a favorite around BookPeople. He makes us laugh out loud with his quick wit and wild tales of pure ridiculous splendor. *Fool* is no exception to that. His newest tale is a satirical look at one of literature's most famous scribes: William Shakespeare. Moore has rewritten Shakespeare's *King Lear* and given it a good dose of modern raunchiness and hilarity. You won't be disappointed when you take this book home. We think it will make you will laugh like a fool. Stop by BookPeople this afternoon, for a very comedic event at 3 PM

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## after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

**DRINK** All right, I'd seen the ads and was not deeply impressed by the campaign, which features a rather carnivorous Russian spokesmodel named **Svetlana**. Svetlana, from the extensions on her head to the tip of her stilettos, clearly has the power to make most men melt at her feet. And I'd get to find out all about that at the launch party for **VÖD**, a new alcohol-based beverage. The party was at the always-fabulous **Estilo**. The bartender presented a thorough product-knowledge seminar (I, of course, was thinking about a tumbler full of vodka). I chose the **VÖD Citrus**, a thoroughly delightful-looking concoction with a twist of lemon. It appeared that the bartender tried to make a drink with a bite to it, but when I tasted the drink, I was underwhelmed by the weakness of it. "More vodka, please," I asked the bartender. That's when I realized the secret; it was *not* vodka we were drinking at all but a "wine-based" beverage. So that's why the vodka tasted so weak. I'm sure the bartender had explained this before, but I'd been too busy pawing through Estilo's fabulous sale rack instead. We also tried the **VÖD Sour Apple** and **Cranberry Lemon** drinks (I couldn't bring myself to try the vanilla flavor). They were indeed more flavorful than the Citrus, but overall, I came to the conclusion that I simply don't care for wine-based drinks. But wait! We weren't done yet! Soon the owner of the

company was introduced, and he announced the hotly awaited arrival of ... of ... yes, **Svetlana**, the man-eating Slav. We whirled around to see this vision of loveliness exit her **Mercedes** limo and stride through the door. Upon closer inspection, the spokesmodel, clothed in stretch **pleather** and leopard print, looked like **Donatella Versace**. Her face was that of a woman who long ago had waved goodbye to her youth. Her weave was stupendous: a veritable mane of synthetic hair. Her accent was thick. She came across as a cross between **Zsa Zsa Gabor** and **Charo**. Even if she was (perhaps) from **Pomona** or **Kansas City**. She opened the floor for questions, but everyone else in attendance was just as mesmerized as I was, and no one asked anything. Moments later, she informed us that she was off to New York and disappeared with a wave of her hand.

**EAT** It's true: I've raved about my very favorite Tex-Mex restaurant, **Maudie's**, dozens of times in this column. But when we showed up at the South Lamar location – a place I'd been to hundreds of times, literally – I didn't recognize a single member of the staff. Then we were told, "Sorry, it's too late to eat; our kitchen closes at 9:30pm." ¿Qué? 9:30? I'd thought the kitchen closed at 10pm, I said, but the man said no. Flummoxed, I walked away in sadness, knowing that Maudie's divine enchiladas would not be passing through my lips that evening. It was when I got back into the car and looked at my watch that I realized it was 9:26pm. Hmmm. I checked my iPhone, and it said the same thing, as did my two companions' watches. If the kitchen closed at 9:30, why couldn't we be seated and place an order? But since it *did* appear to be near the witching hour for restaurants, we drove away. Coming up South First, I spied **Jovita's**. Now, when I



PHOTO BY SEABROOK JONES/www.juliefiths.com

The wild man Bobby Cook from **Rain on 4th** with visiting royalty **Amanda Lepore**, the surgically and genetically enhanced transsexual entertainer from **New York**.

first moved back to Austin almost 10 years ago, **Jovita's** was my favorite Tex-Mex restaurant. I'd written about it then, but after dropping in for lunch one day and being served by a waitress who chatted on her cell phone while taking our order, I decided not to return. That's when I discovered **Maudie's**. But since **Maudie's** wasn't an option on this night, we decided to go in. Oh. My. God. **Jovita's** service was so welcoming and friendly that we were all very pleased. Our server (who turned out to be the floor manager) was extremely gracious. **Aradia Puckett** is her name, and she explained that **Jovita's** had been through many changes since I'd last been there, including having a new chef, the truly talented **Caesar Ortiz**. The food was *truly* divine. I was dumbfounded. You mean, I could have been at **Jovita's** *all along*? Well! Scrumptious. Simply scrumptious. We dropped by twice more over the next few days and were pleased again every time.

**PARTY** It's almost time again for **AIDS Services of Austin's** glamorous 16th annual **Viva Las Vegas** benefit, this Saturday at the **Austin Music Hall**. This is definitely one of my favorite benefits – a riot of fun, music, and faux gambling. It's true that I can't be there this year, but there's no reason for *you* not to be! Tix are available at [www.asaustin.org](http://www.asaustin.org) and BookPeople.

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

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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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BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

## SUSHI INNOVATIONS

The sushi situation in Austin just keeps getting better, and some local restaurateurs are bringing new ideas and innovations to the table.

**D.K. Lee**, the chef and owner of **DK Sushi** on South First ([www.dksushi.com](http://www.dksushi.com)), has opened a sushi market at 5610-B N. Lamar (302-1090). The timing is perfect, as more and more Austinites are learning to roll their own. Sushi nori, rice, sauces, ginger, wasabi, and sushi-grade frozen vacuum-packed fish, as well as other sushi ingredients (quail eggs, cucumber, avocado) are all assembled here for quick one-stop shopping. Lee is also showcasing his renowned "game-show-host personality" with sushi-making classes in the modern, hands-on cooking-class facility that dominates the northern side of the market. "I think I can teach better than anyone how to make perfect roll in fast time," boasts Lee with the exuberance that has made him a local celebrity. The classes are Thursdays, 6-8pm, and Saturdays, 1-3pm, and cost \$65 for a two-hour class. The class fee includes ingredients, and since you make at least 65 dollars' worth of sushi, which you get to eat or take home, the class literally pays for itself. Lee is

also on the premises making sushi to-go Wednesday through Sunday (except during class time). Though the store is small, the staff is superfriendly and fully able to answer all of your sushi-making questions.

**Korea Garden** (6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149) has upped its cachet by installing Austin's first sushi train. No, it's not a Lionel model train (as fun as that would be) but an elegant and swift conveyor belt that carries color-coded plates of sushi and other favorites around an expanded sushi bar that seats 48 people. It takes three chefs working constantly to keep the "train" loaded with plates on a busy night, and busy it has been! The experience is extremely festive, and the sushi is very good. Plates range in price from \$1.50 to \$4, making a fun sushi dinner a real bargain.

**Sushi Kyu** (2438 W. Anderson Ste. A-3, 452-7874), the cleverly named new sushi restaurant opened by Paul Lee, showcases one of the new sushi-rolling machines (often referred to as a "sushi robot"). Though they used to be found only in Japan, these robots are growing in popularity worldwide. The robot perfectly



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

D.K. Lee

spreads the sticky short-grain sushi rice on the delicate nori, leaving the chef to accomplish the filling and slicing that must be done with skilled hands. The process speeds up production significantly; even on the busiest night, there's no long wait for your sushi at Sushi Kyu! – *Kate Thornberry*

## ARPEGGIO GRILL

6619 Airport, 419-0110  
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[www.arpeggiogrill.com](http://www.arpeggiogrill.com)

Arpeggio Grill was once a Schlotzsky's and morphed through several owners before Yemenite Fida Hussain Shah took over four months ago with the help of his brood. You'd never guess it was anything but a Mediterranean restaurant; the digs have been spruced up, and the decor now solidly reflects the menu.

We ordered items that insured we could taste almost everything offered. The **Greek pizza** (\$8.99, 10-inches) is superb. Loaded with feta cheese, tomato, onion, gyro meat, green pepper, mushrooms, and green and black olives, the crust is thin, browned just right, and packed with flavor: a



great pizza. The **Arpeggio Meza Platter** (\$9.99) covers many bases. The hummus is light and delicate, with the flavor of sesame and nutty garbanzos balanced by lemon and garlic. The **baba ghanoush** is superb: Smoky roasted eggplant shines but doesn't dominate. The **dolmas** are loaded with minty rice and lemon, and the **falafel** here is the best in town, light and perfectly cooked. The **tabouleh** has the right balance of bulgar, tomato, parsley, olive oil, garlic, and lemon. The beef and chicken **shawarma** are robustly seasoned, resting on a flavorful pilaf.

The **Fattoush salad** (\$3.99) was excellent, but somehow the pita failed to be included in the mix (we added our own). The **shish kabob mix** (\$9.99) is a combination of *koufta*, beef, and chicken kabobs, served with pilaf and Greek salad. The seasoning paste on the meats is rich and delicious, but the meats were all just a tad overcooked. In Arpeggio's defense, we did hit right when the staff was breaking down the lunch buffet (\$7.99, salad, three sides, one meat, and drink). The **baklava** (\$1.49) is crisp and flaky, loaded with walnuts and pistachios.

Arpeggio manages to produce solidly authentic taste but does so with a delicacy that is rare. Prices are easy on the wallet, portions are generous, and service is attentive. We recommend your visit with gusto.

– *Mick Vann*

## recently reviewed

**AMERICAN CAFE: COVER 3** takes the sports bar menu to a new level with offerings such as green-chile beef nachos, jumbo North American scallops, and chicken-fried beef tips. 2700 W. Anderson #202, 374-1121. [www.cover-3.com](http://www.cover-3.com).

## Event Menu Feb. 22-28

- From now through Feb. 28, Austinites are encouraged to vote on one of the T-shirt designs for **Schlotzsky's** annual **Bun Run** (May 3 this year). Vote for your favorite design at [www.bunrun.com](http://www.bunrun.com), and you'll automatically be entered in a drawing to win one of 10 free race-entry fees, valued at \$28. The design winner gets a \$1,000 prize, and **Austin Sunshine Camps** get the proceeds from the race.
- Learn about growing and cooking with herbs from longtime *Chronicle* contributor **Mick Vann** at a free seminar at **It's About Thyme Garden Center** (11726 Manchaca Rd., 280-1192, [www.itsaboutthyme.com](http://www.itsaboutthyme.com)). Sunday, Feb. 22, 2-4pm.
- **Cannoli Joe's** (4715 Hwy. 290 W., 892-4444, [www.cannolijoes.com](http://www.cannolijoes.com)) **Tex-Italian Wine Celebrations** proved so popular that they've been extended through 2009. They feature four Texas wineries or distilleries each evening, offering highly reduced prices on tastings of both full-bottle and by-the-glass purchases. Live local jazz each night, and 100% of the wine sales benefit Austin charities. Wednesday and Thursday evenings through March.
- Austin participants in the **Saint Arnold Scavenger Hunt Pub Crawl** ([www.saintarnold.com/blog/index.html](http://www.saintarnold.com/blog/index.html)) have until Sunday, Feb. 22, to e-mail their pub-crawl photos to compete in the contest. – V.B.W.

# Agricultural Convergence

Food, art, politics, and culture come together in the garden

## Madam Mam's West Gate

4514 West Gate Blvd., 899-8525

www.madammam.com

When we finished the landscaping at Madam Mam's West Gate soon after they opened that location, there was a large triangular open area left between the north side and the 8-foot privacy fence that borders the gas station. It was in a bad state, needing a serious clean-up, solarization of some pesky Bermuda grass, and repeated fluffing-up at the hands of a churning tiller. Long-range plans were launched for a vegetable and herb garden to provide those hard-to-find items that every authentic Thai chef's pantry demands. The target date was set for the following spring.

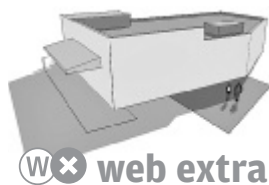
Before that could happen, I knew that I needed to enlist the help of longtime pal and Hollywood whiz-bang production designer Michael Corenblith. The vertical north wall presented problems: A big chunk of the garden would be shaded during the cooler growing season, but I didn't know to what extent.

Corenblith had developed a method of using Google's SketchUp software ([sketchup.google.com](http://sketchup.google.com)) for set design, enabling him to do rotatable elevations of any building from any

angle. Once he had the address and some basic measurements of the 20-foot-tall north wall of the restaurant, he was able to send me some shadow data. We selected April, July, October, and December, with shadow details for 8am, noon, 2pm, and 4pm. The same day, he e-mailed a full set of architectural drawings showing the exact path of the shadows for each date and time, including a QuickTime animation. Amazing what a little high tech can accomplish.

Once that was in hand, a garden design was quickly drawn, and there was plenty of room for intensive organic vegetable and herb production. Concrete blocks were brought in to provide a curbed border to contain the imported 18 yards of organic compost garden soil. A drip-irrigation system was installed, and Chris and Diane Winslow of It's About Thyme Nursery were alerted to start the seedlings of Thai treats. They'd gotten certified seeds in a wide array of flavors from Thailand, and by mid-May 2008, the garden was under way.

One problem with cooking authentic Thai in the United States is that you just can't get the same vegetables here that you can get



**Wx web extra**

**April 1, 4pm: About half of the garden will be in shadow by now. The part closest to the building will only get a couple of hours a day of direct sun. The modeling, done on Google SketchUp, was a big help in planning the garden. See a short animation of it, with this story, online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).**



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

The garden at Madam Mam's

there. Take eggplants, for example: Pretty much any fresh market you visit will have a dozen types of all sizes, tastes, and colors. The market here has one kind of Thai chile, but over there expect a dozen different types, all with different flavors and heat levels. Have you ever tasted fresh galangal and compared it to frozen or eaten lemongrass when it's freshly plucked from the ground instead of sitting in some cooler for several weeks? It is pointless.

One ingredient that's indispensable for making Thai spice pastes is cilantro root. The roots are chopped off of all the cilantro you buy here, and cilantro stems are a weak, pitiful substitute. Not to mention that Thai cilantro is bred for heat and humidity and doesn't even think about bolting in our summer. Buy it over there, and at the bottom of each plant is this

wonderful white miniparsnip of a tuberous root, just waiting to be pounded for spice pastes in the mortar and pestle.

Within six weeks or so, the harvest at Madam Mam's had begun. Thai peppermint, *chaplu* leaf (a distant relative of betel leaf, used for salads and wrapping things), and big healthy clumps of galangal (a peppery, earthy relative of ginger that brings the *kha* to *tom kha*) were all thriving happily in the shaded areas, along with some of the peppers and a basil or two. Over on the sunny side, the plants were going absolutely nuts.

Giant fountains of lemongrass shimmering with the wind sit next to huge mounds of green "apple" eggplants (*makheua phraw*), sweet and slightly bitter Ping-Pong-ball-sized globes of textural goodness just waiting to sacrifice themselves in one of Mam's amazing curries. There were all of the Thai basil, looking like a sea of green and slightly purple-tinged velvet: holy basil, Thai sweet basil, Thai lemon basil, and the alchemic *yee raa*, a wild basil that intensifies the heat of a dish.

Chiles never looked so good. "Sky pointing" chiles burst up from the green foliage, glistening scarlet when ripe. Banana-stalk chiles glowed chartreuse, ready to add medium heat but huge flavor. Yellow Thai chile plants are covered with Technicolor gold, just waiting for Sap to create some of his tasty yellow-chile *sriracha* sauce. In back are the massive pots holding the *makroot* trees from which the Thai lime leaves are plucked.

The first year was a complete success but just a tease of what will grow this spring. That 8-foot fence will be lined with long beans. The tiny grape-sized green eggplants will flourish, waiting to swim in bowls of green curry. More chile varieties are planned, including the diminutive and incendiary *prik kee nuu*. Just outside the kitchen door will be a veritable Thai fresh market, just waiting to be harvested and turned into culinary magic. — Mick Vann

CONTINUED ON P.44

## The Gardening Habit

It started innocently enough. Just another mealy supermarket tomato. But this particular underwhelming tomato triggered not only disgust but also memories of homegrown tomatoes: red, sweet, tart, abundant. "If the only way to get a decent tomato is to plant a tomato plant, I guess I can manage a few tomato plants!"

I wonder if that's how we all start. One spring, four tomato plants; the next spring, a few jalapeños are added to the mix; and then, full-blown gardening mania. Because one thing vegetable gardening delivers like gangbusters is positive reinforcement: You get the freshest, best-tasting fruits and vegetables; packed with flavor, vita-

mins, and minerals; growing conveniently right outside your door. And vegetable gardening is one hobby that doesn't fall by the wayside as people age; as long as folks are able, even into their 90s, they keep growing their own. The difference in quality is that dramatic: No one wants to return to the underwhelming tomato and his sorry friends.

By my third year, I was growing tomatoes, eggplant, sweet and hot peppers, cabbage, melons, broccoli, squash, cauliflower, carrots, onions, strawberries, basil, dill, oregano, lemongrass, green beans, snow peas, leeks, artichokes, kale, Swiss chard, beets, cucumbers, peaches, lemons, and tangerines in a mere fraction of our quarter-acre lot.



Kate Thornberry with the veggies of her labor

My husband asked me once, "We are saving money on food because of this, right?" I thought about it, and even throwing in my labor for free, well, no. "What it is," I said,

"is that we are getting fresh, organic produce and better nutrition. Probably not actually saving money in a strict sense, not after you figure in the water and compost and seedlings and everything. But we are getting better value for our money."

Oh, but that was seven years ago. Food prices have skyrocketed so shockingly since then that our modest home garden has gone from luxury to necessity, saving us significant amounts of money in addition to the superior food we enjoy. As the corporate food chain grows ever more untrustworthy, prices keep climbing, and the economy flounders, there has never been a better time to take control of your food supply and start growing your own. Here, have a tomato seedling ... the first one's free! — Kate Thornberry

# restaurant roulette

ESTIMATED MEAL COST PER PERSON

\$ <\$10    \$\$ \$10-25    \$\$\$ \$25-40    \$\$\$\$ \$40+

## DOWNTOWN

**AMERICAN CAFE: PARADISE CAFE** Its Downtown location and hearty menu have led to its success as a lunch destination, as well as a night-time spot. 401 E. Sixth, 476-5667. [www.paradiseonsixth.com](http://www.paradiseonsixth.com). \$\$

**AMERICAN CAFE: PARKSIDE** Simple but excellent bar and bistro fare with varied raw-bar selections and lots of savory snacks, as well as hearty main dishes and sides. Check it out for dinner and a thriving late-night scene. 301 E. Sixth, 474-9898. [www.parkside-austin.com](http://www.parkside-austin.com). \$\$\$

**BRAZILIAN: FOGO DE CHÃO** Take one look at the massive ribs and open-flame rotisserie as you walk in the door, and know this is a carnivore's paradise. It also has a terrific salad bar. 309 E. Third, 472-0220. [www.fogodechao.com](http://www.fogodechao.com). \$\$\$\$

**INTERNATIONAL: THE AMSTERDAM** This European-style cafe has a relaxed and convivial atmosphere and offers a basic menu of sandwiches, soups, pizzas, and salads. Full bar and espresso service and excellent draft and bottled beers. 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606. [www.theamscafe.com](http://www.theamscafe.com). \$\$

**JAPANESE: SUSHI GEISHA** Popular with both touring and local bands, this spot offers perfectly decent sushi at relatively low prices. The Spider Roll is a standout, but don't miss the vegetarian choices. 616 E. Sixth, 480-2211. [www.sushigeisha.com](http://www.sushigeisha.com). \$\$

**MEDITERRANEAN: MÁLAGA TAPAS & BAR** Austin's only full-time tapas bar offers a good core selection of the real thing, along with an excellent list of fairly priced wines and Sherries. 440 W. Second, 236-8020. [www.malagatapasbar.com](http://www.malagatapasbar.com). \$\$

**PACIFIC RIM: ROY'S** The Pipeline Sashimi Sampler is one of Austin's greatest raw-fish bargains. Meat lovers will appreciate the pork shank and braised Hawaii Kai Short Ribs. Also, find a good wine list and terrific desserts. 340 E. Second, 391-1500. [www.roysrestaurant.com](http://www.roysrestaurant.com). \$\$

**VIETNAMESE: MEKONG RIVER** Formerly known as Pho Công Lý, Mekong River has the same pho, but you can't listen to ABBA until 2am. A staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. 215 E. Sixth, 236-8878. \$

## EAST

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

**BURGER JOINT: GUS' GRILL** In addition to great, cheap hamburger baskets, the sampler platter allows you to try almost everything on the menu. 3223 E. Seventh, 385-8898. \$\$

**CAJUN/CREOLE: PAPPADÉAUX SEAFOOD KITCHEN** Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled, with a variety of side dishes. 6319 N. I-35, 452-9363. [www.pappadeaux.com](http://www.pappadeaux.com). \$\$\$

**JAPANESE: SUSHI JAPON** The sushi is fresh and professionally prepared, and the draft Ichiban is perfect with it. Don't leave without tasting the black cod and the yellowtail. 6801 N. I-35, 323-6663. [www.sushijaponaustin.com](http://www.sushijaponaustin.com). \$\$\$

**SOUTH AMERICAN: EL ZUNZAL RESTAURANT** A cozy, comfortable place serving Mexican and Salvadoran specialties. We recommend the arroz con albóndigas, the mariscadas, and the pupusas. 642 Calles, 474-7749. [www.enaustin.com/zunzal.html](http://www.enaustin.com/zunzal.html). \$

**SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: MAXINE'S SOUL KITCHEN** Look for beef tips, chopped steak, brisket, and other multiple-napkin treats that stick to the ribs, as well as the soul. 2931 E. 12th, 220-3650. \$

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

**TEX-MEX: BEJUICO'S RESTAURANT** Cabrito, enchiladas, tamales, and chile rellenos. Not open 24 hours like the sign outside says, but at this place you can get three squares a day. 2711-A E. Cesar Chavez, 476-7878. \$\$

## LAKE

**CHINESE: CHINA PACIFIC RESTAURANT** This quiet neighborhood restaurant has been around for quite some time and provides good, fresh, standard Chinese fare at reasonable prices. 107 RR 620 S. #107, 266-9328. [www.chinapacificaustin.com](http://www.chinapacificaustin.com). \$\$

**FINE DINING: HUDSON'S ON THE BEND** A lake-side fine-dining fixture for two decades, specializing in game of all descriptions: rabbit to rat-tlesnake, pheasant to frogs' legs. The ambience is romantic, too. 3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369. [www.hudsonsonthebend.com](http://www.hudsonsonthebend.com). \$\$\$\$

**ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT** The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original has been pleasing lake dwellers and Hill Country residents with its traditional Italian-American recipes. 1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936. [www.ciolas.com](http://www.ciolas.com). \$\$\$

## NORTH

**CHINESE: MANDARIN HOUSE** A respectable and frequently replenished lunch and dinner buffet is the main attraction here. Popular items include General Tso's chicken and above-average egg rolls. 8929 N. Lamar, 837-6361. [www.austinmandarinhouse.com](http://www.austinmandarinhouse.com). \$\$

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

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

**JAPANESE: SUSHI SAKE** This place takes its sake seriously, serving premium brands cold (as their makers intended), and don't forget about the long sushi bar with some of the most beautiful fish in Austin. 9503 Research #500, 527-0888. \$\$\$

**PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA** Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. 12001 Burnet Rd., 832-5550. [www.mangiapizza.com](http://www.mangiapizza.com). \$\$

**SEAFOOD: OPAL DIVINE'S MARINA** This menu features some seasonal seafood items in addition to favorite Opal's staples. 12709 MoPac N., 733-5353. [www.opaldivines.com](http://www.opaldivines.com). \$\$

**SOUTH AMERICAN: CAFE MANGÜ CARIBBEAN BISTRO** Muy autentico from Dominica, Cuba, and Puerto Rico served lovingly from a bright-yellow house. Enjoy lechón pork that melts in your mouth, a killer Cubano sandwich, or ropa vieja by the pound. 15200 FM 1825, 990-3121. \$\$

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

**VIETNAMESE: HUONG GIANG** Featuring the foods of the central region of Vietnam, it has great selections of appetizers, soups, noodles, and rice plates. 9200 N. Lamar, 834-1736. \$\$

**VIETNAMESE: PHO CONG LY** This location has quickly become a staple for quick, cheap, and tasty meals. Where else can you slurp down a bowl of pho and listen to ABBA? 8557 Research, 832-5595. \$

## NORTH CENTRAL

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: DOLCE VITA GELATO & ESPRESSO BAR** offers a delicious assortment of handmade Italian ice creams and fruit sorbets, along with a variety of coffee drinks, spirits, and cordials. 4222 Duval St., 323-2686. [www.dvgelato.com](http://www.dvgelato.com). \$

**BARBECUE, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: STALLION GRILL** You'll find the traditional country fare here solid, tasty, and affordable. Don't miss the homemade rolls and desserts. Now serving breakfast at 6:30am. 5201 Airport, 380-9433, 866/435-1184. [www.stalliongrill.com](http://www.stalliongrill.com). \$

**BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX** Build your own burger at this longtime no-frills restaurant. 5420 Airport, 453-8772. [www.burgertex.com](http://www.burgertex.com). \$

**CHINESE, JAPANESE: PEI WEI ASIAN DINER** A sleek diner atmosphere and affordable favorites keep us coming back for lunch and dinner. Choose your own combinations for noodle and rice bowls. 1000 E. 41st (Hancock Center), 382-3860. [www.peiwei.com](http://www.peiwei.com). \$

**CHINESE: SHANGHAI RESTAURANT** The 168-item menu contains enough to satisfy any craving, from the usual favorites to some exotic Cantonese offerings. 6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088. \$\$

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

CONTINUED ON P.45

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## Fonda San Miguel

2330 W. North Loop, 459-4121  
www.fondasanmiguel.com

Inspired by the wonderful vegetable garden at Eastside Cafe, Tom Gilliland dreamed of having one for his successful Fonda San Miguel, but he lacked the space in which to do it. Years passed before Gilliland acquired the land adjacent to the restaurant. He considered expansion, or perhaps adding an art gallery or a private dining room for special events, but kept the lot vacant, until one day the garden idea was revived in conversation with a longtime staff member. "I know the right person to do it," she said. So in October 2008, she put Gilliland in contact with Randy Jewart, founder of Austin Green Art project.

After a few meetings, Gilliland commissioned the Land Art Division of Austin Green Art for site design and the arduous task of installing the garden. After the initial planting of ornamental trees and perennials, the division enlisted Scott Dubois, an experienced gardener and landscape designer, to oversee the edible garden. Eventually, Dubois parted ways with Austin Green Art, and the garden at Fonda became the full-time project of his own company, BlueGreenProject.

Dubois is a young, enthusiastic visionary and lover of all growing things. He took on Fonda's garden with a contagious passion and dedication. A landscape/graphic designer, photographer, and educator, he graduated from UT and is a certified permaculture designer. A creative bundle of energy, the Corpus Christi native oversees a handful of initiatives under his BlueGreenProject: Fruit Rescue seeks to map fruit trees in the Austin area whose fruits go unclaimed and unused, in order to distribute them to food banks and volunteers; Urban Homestead is an organic landscape design, installation, and maintenance company that specializes in edible and ecological landscaping; AntiLawn "tells the truth about the dangers of lawns and promotes healthy alternatives." Dubois is behind all these projects and more, both here in Austin and in San Francisco, as well.

He can be found at the Fonda garden two or three times a week, doing everything from weeding and preparing soil beds to planting, seeding, and mulching. All produce and herbs go directly to the Fonda kitchen, where the chefs create specials around the day's available crops. The first time I met Dubois, he was thinning out seedlings for the first fall crop. The beds were loaded with cabbage, broccoli, and tiny lettuce, spinach, arugula, cilantro, carrot, and beet seedlings. Mexican herbs such as epazote and *hoja santa* dotted the landscape. I asked if he had planted radishes, a vegetable widely used in Mexican cooking. "No, but in a few minutes I'm going to the Natural



The garden at Fonda San Miguel

Gardener with Diana Kennedy to shop for some plants she suggested, and radishes are on our list," he replied. It was my lucky day. I had the chance to walk the garden with Ms. Kennedy, one of my most admired authors and cooks, and we talked about where the *hoja santa* should be moved so it wouldn't scorch in the sun and how wonderful it would be to find a few Seville orange trees to plant along the fence line.

On a more recent visit, I found Gilliland, plastic bucket and scissors in hand, heading for the old iron garden gate to harvest tender lettuce, spinach, arugula, and beet greens. "Since we started using greens from the garden, our salads usually sell out before 8pm," laughs Gilliland, adding: "We picked the carrot crop last week, roasted them, and served them on some of our dishes and soups. And I swear I'll never buy broccoli from the store ever again. The flavor is just so wonderful when they are fresh. We left a few to bloom because the bees love them!"

Dubois planted a second fall crop with radishes, lettuce, and spinach, which are being harvested now and can be found all over the restaurant's menu. Just now he's waiting for the last frost date before planting the summer garden with tomatoes, squash, chiles, and more.

Dubois is always looking to the future – currently he's planning to add all the necessary requirements to qualify the garden as a wildlife habitat. This will mean reinstalling purple martin houses and adding more native plants and fruit trees (his specialty). Dubois' love for his work is evident in every conversation, and Gilliland couldn't be more pleased. "Our patrons enjoy strolling through the garden, sitting on the swing, and asking about the plants," he says. "For me, it's been enormously gratifying!" As far as this gardening writer is concerned, Scott Dubois is an absolute treasure. Check out his work at [www.bluegreenproject.com](http://www.bluegreenproject.com).  
– Claudia Alarcón

## Victory Gardens Redux: A Resurgence of Urban Agriculture

*Eating is an agricultural act.*

– Wendell Berry, 1990

*Eating is a political act.*

– Alice Waters, 2001

*Victory Gardens offer a way to enlist Americans, in body as well as mind, in the work of feeding themselves and changing the food system.*

– Michael Pollan, 2008

Growing vegetables at home is agricultural, political, practical, and symbolic – a personal, take-charge stance during economically precarious times, when the quality of commercially produced food can be less than desirable, and food "safety" isn't exactly what we believed (think peanuts).

Throw in fresh air and purposeful exercise, add the satisfaction of eating the results, and you have many Americans newly engaged in digging up lawns and planting vegetables. Seed

companies report 2008 sales increases up to 40%; the National Gardening Association expects even stronger growth in 2009.

City gardening with political overtones isn't a new idea. Urban agriculture has been around since the 18th century; its popularity waxes and wanes with economic tides. We associate U.S. "victory gardens" with World War II, but the term was coined near the end of World War I as the Allies began winning. Previously, patriotic plots were called war gardens or liberty gardens (and sauerkraut was renamed liberty cabbage). Five million gardens were planted across the country in 1917 to 1918, producing food worth \$875 million.

Austin did its part for the Great War. A 1918 Housewives' Bulletin states: "The War Gardens Committee reports ... ninety percent of the men, women, and children of Austin have planted gardens. ... They are not only making the

patriotic response to the Allies and our Government's appeal for an increased food supply, but they are robbing the doctors of spring patients, and reducing the high cost of living."

Urban gardening declined between wars, but only 12 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a National Defense Gardening Conference revived the victory garden idea. By 1943, Americans planted 20 million gardens and produced 8 million tons of food (40% of all vegetables consumed nationally). In solidarity, Eleanor Roosevelt tended carrots and peas on the White House lawn.

Eleanor's vegetables weren't the first on the White House grounds. Early presidents had to fund their own households; John Adams planted the first garden in 1800. Thomas Jefferson and John Q. Adams added fruit trees; in 1835, Andrew Jackson built an "orangery" for tropical

fruit. This was razed in 1857 for vast greenhouses (demolished by Teddy Roosevelt in 1902 to construct the West Wing). Woodrow Wilson grazed sheep on the lawn during World War I, and his wife grew vegetables. And there's been a small vegetable garden on the White House roof since the Clinton administration.

Today, there's a groundswell movement promoting a garden on the White House lawn. Roger Doiron of Kitchen Gardens International has collected 10,000 signatures for his petition ([www.eattheview.org](http://www.eattheview.org)), and the White House Organic Farm initiative ([www.thewhofarm.org](http://www.thewhofarm.org)) has gathered 10,000 more. In the *New York Times*, Michael Pollan called for "a new Victory Garden movement" seeking victory over "high food prices, poor diets, and a sedentary population. ... How America's first household organizes its eating will set the national tone ... communicating a simple set of values that can guide Americans toward sun-based foods and away from eating oil."  
– MM Pack

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

**THAI: THAI VILLAGE** Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. 6406 N. I-35 #1550, 452-3888. www.thaivillageaustin.com. \$\$

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

**SOUTH**

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

**AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL** A welcome South Austin branch of the venerable neighborhood institution, where the coziness of the original is replaced with a sleek sensibility. The menu is identical, however, including the legendary fries. 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700. www.hydeparkbarandgrill.com. \$\$\$

**CAJUN/CREOLE: EVANGELINE CAFE** Casual lunch and dinner every day except Sunday, specializing in the traditional dishes of Southern Louisiana. Terrific food, friendly service, and live music most nights during dinner. 8106 Brodie, 282-2586. www.evangelinecafe.com. \$\$

**CHINESE: MANDARIN CHINESE RESTAURANT** Beer and wine served amidst quick but flavorful entrées give the authentically Oriental decor an American twist. 212 E. Oltorf, 445-2225. \$\$

**INTERIOR MEXICAN: JANITZIO MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Grab a couple of cocas en botellas from the icebox, and choose from among the Michoacan-style steak dinners, seafood platters, sopas, gorditas, tacos, and tortas. 1422 Town Creek Dr., 442-6275. \$

**PAN-ASIAN: 888 PAN ASIAN CUISINE** You'll find traditional dishes seldom seen elsewhere, as well as Asian fusion creations with Thai and Chinese influences. Delicious and inexpensive. 2400 E. Oltorf Ste. 1-A, 448-4722. www.888panasian.com. \$

**SOUTH AMERICAN: BUENOS AIRES CAFE** We know stupendous food when we taste it. The pastries, soups, and entrées are all superlative at this modest cafe. 2414 S. First, 441-9000. www.buenosairescafe.com. \$\$

**TEX-MEX: HABANERO MEXICAN CAFE** When God created fajitas, he (or she) took lessons here first. Breakfast is just as good as lunch, with low prices, big servings, and great service. Vegans, don't pout: Concessions have been made for your limited diets. 501 W. Oltorf, 416-0443. \$

**TEX-MEX: MATT'S EL RANCHO** This immensely popular Tex-Mex icon is a food-happy dispenser of giant margaritas, excellent enchiladas, and craving-curling quesadillas. 2613 S. Lamar, 462-9333. www.mattselrancho.com. \$\$

**VIETNAMESE: LEE'S KITCHEN** Right at the corner of MoPac and William Cannon, Lee's Kitchen offers wonderfully fresh ingredients and well-made dishes, gracious service, and fair prices. Don't miss the Com Suon Bi Hoi Gà Op La, a delicious rice dish with barbecued pork chops, shredded pork, and a sunny-side-up fried egg. 4404 W. William Cannon Ste. B, 899-8862. \$

**UT**

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

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

**BRAZILIAN: SÃO PAULO'S** offers Tex-Mex dishes as well as Brazilian cuisine, such as this version of the national dish, feijoada. São Paulo's constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. www.saopaulos.net. \$\$

**CHINESE: THE MAGIC WOK** Cheap lunch and affordable dinners that include soup and an egg roll. 2716 1/2 Guadalupe, 474-7770. www.magicwok.150m.com. \$

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

**FINE DINING, MEDITERRANEAN: FINO RESTAURANT, PATIO & BAR** Influences from Nice to Morocco, Italy to Athens, are all ably executed here by chef Jason Donoho. 2905 San Gabriel, 474-2905. www.astiaustin.com. \$\$\$

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

**MIDDLE EASTERN: GYRO KING** They carve your spiced meat from one of those rotating triangles. A take on the sandwich beyond the ordinary. 2025 Guadalupe #224 (Dobie Mall, second floor), 479-6222. \$

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

**WEST**

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# screens

## THE AMERICAN CON OF BOOTSTRAP OPTIMISM

Kelly Reichardt talks about 'Wendy and Lucy,' her prescient film about a girl and a dog, a rock and a hard place

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT



Michelle Williams  
in *Wendy and Lucy*

In an age when Hollywood studios are churning out \$150 million computer-generated explosion reels and calling them movies, the idea of a quiet tragedy about a young woman looking for her lost dog seems almost revolutionary. *Wendy and Lucy*, the newest film from writer/director Kelly Reichardt (*Old Joy*) is a sort of minimalist opera in blue, with long, lingering shots of rain-soaked Oregon providing the backdrop for a story of financial and emotional collapse. The film stars a fantastic Michelle Williams, who gives the kind of subdued performance critics laud and Academy voters ignore.

Recently the *Chronicle* spoke with Reichardt about the best way to approach political themes as a filmmaker, the importance of capturing mood in a movie almost devoid of dialogue, and how, sometimes, the best moments can't be scripted.

**Austin Chronicle:** Where did the idea for *Wendy and Lucy* come from?

**Kelly Reichardt:** It was in the wake of Katrina. I had seen Colin Powell on some show talking about people pulling themselves up by their bootstraps, and I thought, "Oh my God, what a bunch of crap!" [Laughs] Really? That's all it takes? All you need is the desire to change your life and a little spunk? You can improve your life without the benefit of an education or social skills or family security? The whole thing angered me. The idea that opportunity is just laying at everybody's feet in America is very dangerous. And it's an idea that seemed to be the tenor of the national dialogue after Katrina.

We wanted to base something around the economic situation in the country

and explore how the divide between rich and poor is getting bigger. So Jon [co-writer Jonathan Raymond] went off and wrote a short story called "Train Choir," and then I started working on the script based on his story, and the idea started getting passed back and forth between us.

**AC:** Do you consider it a political movie?

**KR:** Well, I started off with those ideas, but no. It's about a girl and her dog.

[Laughs] After some point, you're just focused on the character and the story you're telling. I like the idea of a political subtext but nothing more than that. My favorite political films are *McCabe & Mrs.*

"The idea that opportunity is just laying at everybody's feet in America is very dangerous."  
- Filmmaker Kelly Reichardt

*Miller* and *Shampoo*, where the political ideas are buried and it's the characters we're following, and the other stuff dawns on you later.

**AC:** *Wendy and Lucy* is very light on dialogue. Were you ever worried that the movie wasn't going to grab viewers' attention?

**KR:** Sure. But I get nervous when there's too much dialogue. Which is why I spend so much time scouting locations, because I know the place I end up shooting is going to have a huge impact on the film. The landscape and the physical context become a part of the story.

We have so little time when we're shooting, so my fear is that we're not going to get to the contextual, tonal stuff because you tend to shoot the dialogue scenes first. And everything else that

isn't on paper can easily get lost and forgotten because it may not seem so significant. But it is actually very significant. For me, it's what makes a movie.

For example, when we finished shooting in Oregon, the first day driving back east I stopped in a motel, and I made a list of all the little moments and visual ideas I hadn't gotten on film, shots of birds on a telephone wire or Michelle sitting in her car on a rainy day, for example. I felt like I had the meat of the movie but none of the extras. So while I was editing, Michelle and I would go back to Oregon to get more of those intimate moments, moments that really make the movie.

**AC:** Is it those intimate, human moments that can't be scripted that you're looking for?

**KR:** The unscripted moments have more room for possibilities. At the beginning, when the movie only exists in your mind, the possibilities are endless. And then all the things you have to go through to make the film – scouting the locations, finding the actors, finding the crew – everything becomes more matter of fact. And then the more things get written in stone, especially when you start shooting, you realize the possibilities actually aren't endless. But the scenes where you're just filling in, that's where the mood comes from. You just go and you sit in a train yard, for example, and you wait for the train, and you don't know if the train is going to come or not. Anything can happen. And that's exciting. That's life. ■

*Wendy and Lucy* opens in Austin on Friday. See *Film Listings*, p.72, for review.

## THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL

The Criterion Collection, \$39.95

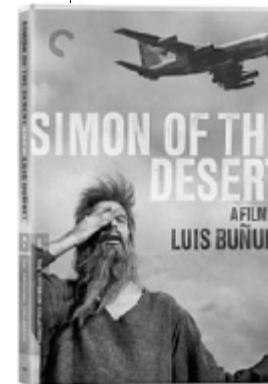
## SIMON OF THE DESERT

The Criterion Collection, \$24.95

Jean Renoir's *The Rules of the Game* (1939) played ball and jacks compared to *The Exterminating Angel*. Bourgeois "charm" never suffered a more wicked lashing than with the deliciously straight face of Luis Buñuel. Between unparalleled surrealism old and new – Salvador Dalí collaboration/1928 debut *Un Chien Andalou* and penultimate film *The Phantom of Liberty* (1974) – the Spanish director's late-career commercial and artistic peak run begins at fellow Criterion marvel *Viridiana* (1961) and knocks out *Diary of a Chambermaid* (1964), *Belle de Jour* (1967), *Tristana* (1970), and *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* (1972). Mademoiselles Catherine Deneuve, Jeanne Moreau, and Delphine Seyrig were never so grateful for a Spanish Francophile. *The Exterminating Angel* (1965) follows *Viridiana* and makes that sacrilegious dysfunction seem heavenly levelheaded compared to the alternately hilarious and atavistic behavior of the idly tuxedoed and gowned, who become trapped during a house party one evening – in a living room with nothing barring their exit except existential poverty. "I think the lower classes are less sensitive to pain," offhands one guest. "Have you ever seen a wounded bull? Not a trace of emotion." This lot should be so lucky. Somebody break out the lithium. Though their predicament never comes with an explanation, even

in the face of the dinner party's mock sleuthery, neither is one necessary. They're trapped by vacuity. What happens once panic sets in, however, washes in straight out of *The Poseidon Adventure*, with a delicate dab of horror just for fun. No less satirical, surreal, or fun is 1965 short film "Simon of the Desert," in which a Christian ascetic spends six years, months, and days (45 minutes reel time) in the titular desert until he's visited thrice by top-billed Exterminating Angel Silvia Pinal as the devil. If there's one dance that should have caught on in the swinging 1960s, it's Radioactive Flesh from "Simon of the Desert." Both films are part of Buñuel's Mexican period, and both DVDs come with fascinating documentaries, particularly a new, feature-length jewel on the double-disc *The Exterminating Angel*, in which the director's late-period writing partner and son take an enchanting global reminiscence over the life of a radioactive screen sorcerer.

- Raoul Hernandez



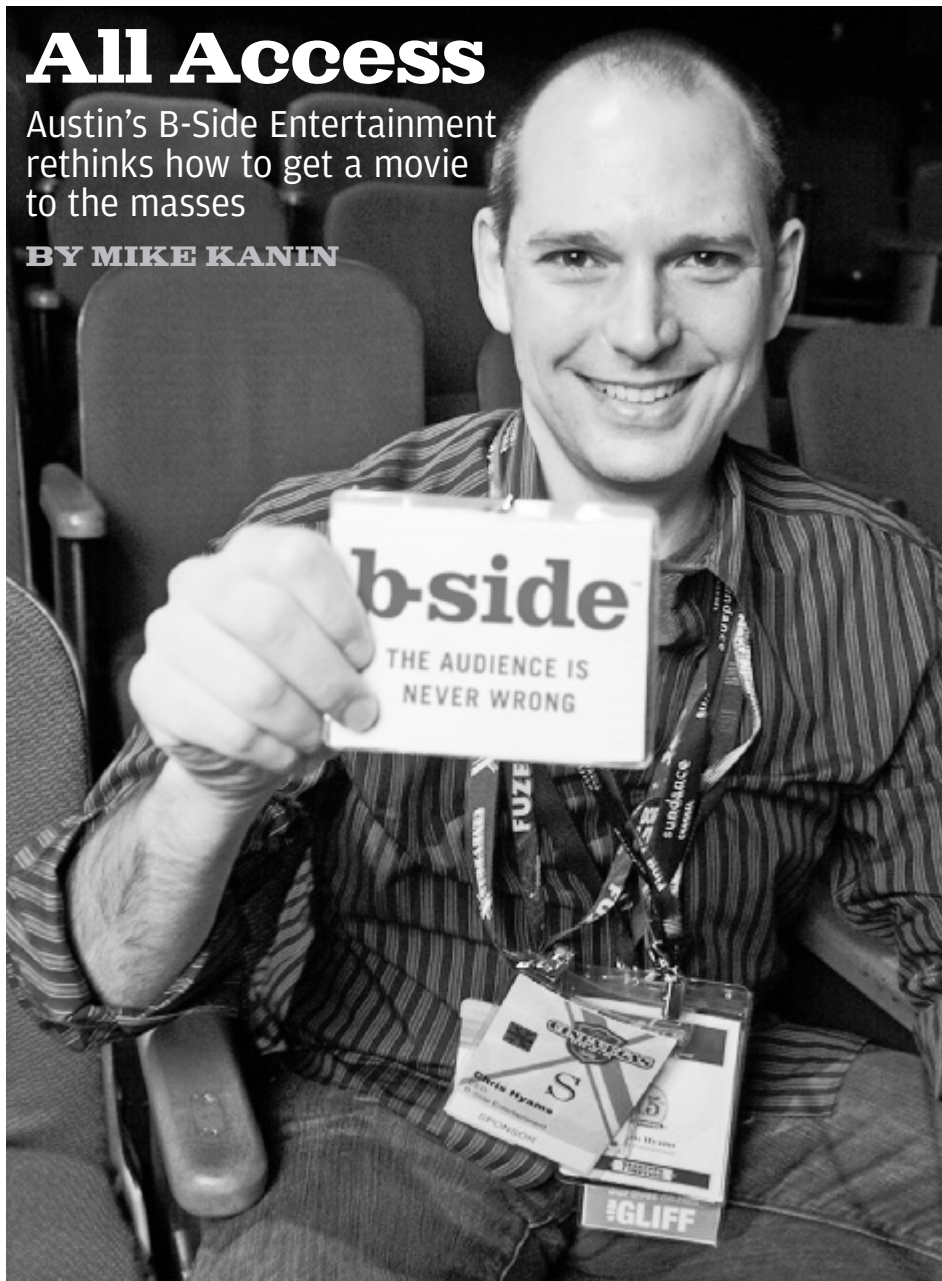
## ALSO OUT NOW ...

**El Norte (The Criterion Collection, \$39.95):** Forever topical tale of a Guatemalan sibling couple on their perilous trek north for a "better life" as immigrant workers in the director's hometown of San Diego. The 1983 mass-market debut by Gregory Nava (director of *Selena*, screenwriter of *Frida*) includes a second-disc making-of wherein screen fiction becomes real-life border drama.

# All Access

Austin's B-Side Entertainment rethinks how to get a movie to the masses

BY MIKE KANIN



JANA BIRCHUM

On Jan. 25, *The New York Times* ran what was a fairly glum take on the 2009 edition of the Sundance Film Festival. There, mixed in among various Chicken Little-isms, reporter Michael Cieply quotes filmmaker Joe Swanberg, director of *Alexander the Last*, as saying, "I've come to realize that my festival run is my theatrical run." Cieply's use of Swanberg is meant as a reinforcement – a personification of the woe afflicting his picture of things as they stand. And it's in that spirit, as he turns from Swanberg to continue his article, that Cieply offers the following bridge: "If Sundance was a lesson in diminished expectations for most ...." He doesn't stop to wonder if his implication – that every filmmaker whose work misses a theatrical run is some poor sap suffering from "diminished expectations" – is a fair one.

For the record, Chris Hyams' Sundance was not as gloomy as the one portrayed in the pages of *The New York Times*. On the Friday the festival opened, Hyams' Austin-based B-Side Entertainment – which was already busy pro-

viding a select group of filmmakers with some pretty savvy public-relations help and the cinema-nerd world at large with a free, easy-to-use Web-based interface for film festivals – announced that it would receive \$4.25 million to help fund a full-on play for a slice of the feature-film distribution world. For Hyams and B-Side ([www.bside.com](http://www.bside.com)), this fresh infusion of cash did indeed mark a sort of arrival. But, more to the point, it also signaled a further business-world endorsement of Hyams' approach to distributing films – one that would seem to totally recast Swanberg's comments.

If you go by years, Hyams is an industry veteran. "At the age of 5, I decided that I was going to write and direct movies," he says. His father – longtime writer and director Peter Hyams (*Running Scared*) – was in the business; despite the wizened paternal advice the younger Hyams says he got, he couldn't help but throw his precocious hat into the ring. An impressively large collection of homemade Super-8 films followed, as did various on-the-lot second assistant jobs: gigs which earned Hyams both actual onscreen

credit and proximity to the creative side of the world he hoped to soon join.

Then he took an internship with Elliot Kastner's production company. There, as he observed the realities of what it takes to get a film made, he became more cynical about his chosen field. "Going to work for this production company ... [I saw] the business end," he says. That experience, he adds, was crushing. "I was young and impressionable. ... [I] thought that it was really about art and creativity. And [I] realized, *oh no, it's just about money.*" So, having spent roughly 15 years thinking of nothing other than film and how to make it and now suffering from total disillusionment, Hyams quit the business. He was 20.

It wouldn't last.

His return to the industry started with the issue of too many options. In the middle of the Internet boom, Trilogi – a software company that Hyams, who now had a master's degree in computer science, had gone to work for – had contracted with Ford to build the research and shopping portion of its website. Among its interactive features, Hyams and his team included a design-your-own page – a place where, as he says, "you could configure your silver Eddie Bauer with a moonroof and a third-row seat." This may have provided would-be Explorer buyers with hours of at-home fun, but it also presented Ford with an age-old industry dilemma: In offering its customers a ridiculous variety of options, an auto manufacturer also hamstringing itself at the sales lot. "There are literally hundreds of different choices that you can make. Some of those have 10 or 15 different choices [themselves]," Hyams explains. "If you multiply out all of those, you could build 150 billion unique, different types of F-350s. The largest lot in Texas has about 200."

Except that now, thanks to the fact that the Ford site prompted its visitors for their ZIP codes before they could begin to outfit their future cars, the company was sitting on a mountain of regional data that could be turned into a tool to predict future sales. "We cut half a billion [in] costs out of their supply chain in the first year from doing that," Hyams says.

It would occur to him that this model for determining consumer interest could be applied to more than just the selling of cars.

In the meantime, Hyams' brother John had picked up the family mantle. "[He] had been sitting around with me all those times that we were watching my Dad work. ... Because he was younger, and I said I wanted to be the director, it was sort of mine," Hyams says. "But as soon as I stepped aside, he kind of came out. He's a brilliant writer; he's an incredibly talented director. And he's been making independent films for the last 15 years."

Hyams would eventually be able to watch some of his brother's work on HBO. But, in keeping with the experiences of most independent filmmakers, many of John's efforts got their first runs at festivals. And it was there, while playing the role of spectator in a place where he'd always thought he'd be a participant, that Hyams had something of a revelation. "What immediately struck me ... was

how many amazing films there were out there," he says. "[And] 99 out of 100 were never seen again outside of the festival circuit."

There was something else: His brother's two festival-screened films were each documentaries, one called *The Smashing Machine*, which followed the exploits of mixed-martial artist Mark Kerr, and one called *Rank*, which explored the world of professional bull riding. As Hyams points out, their respective theoretical audiences extended well outside the walls of the arthouse theatre.

"Ultimate Fighting at one point in time was the fastest growing sport in the U.S.," he says. "Eight out of 10 of the top pay-per-view events of all time were Ultimate Fighting events. And professional bull riding? One hundred twenty million people a year watch PBR events either in person or on OLN or on NBC."

Despite all of this, no one made any effort to market either film to a broader audience – at least until a Wal-Mart buyer made the logical connection, picked up *Rank*, and put it on a shelf, says Hyams, "by the Skoal and the Wranglers." There, it would become the bestselling IFC-released title, thanks to little more than smart placement – the act of being able to predict which audience was right for this particular film – and word of mouth.

From his experience with the Ford website, Hyams knew that with a bit of technology, the former was totally doable – and without a distributor having to rely on guesswork and luck. And he'd seen that there were films – tons of them – that might actually do relatively well and without the insane marketing costs often incurred by big studio productions – provided the right people heard about them.

With that in mind, he started B-Side in 2005.

The company – which had swelled by the end of the first year to include Hyams, current lead developer Meetesh Karia, and three others – began by offering film festivals a free Web home that would, according to B-Side promotional materials, allow audiences to "rate the films they've seen, share information on those films with friends, and get recommendations from other film goers."

"It was awesome," says Austin Film Festival founder Barbara Morgan, whose festival served as the B-Side guinea pig. "It was everything that Chris said [it would be] and more."

That success was followed by others, and four years later, B-Side's stable of festivals numbers well more than 200. Along the way, the Web-based software that B-Side offers has more or less revolutionized festivalgoers' experiences. Still, to be the finest dot-com purveyor of film festival support did not represent the alpha and omega of Hyams' ambitions. "The initial idea," he says, "was [that we'd] be able to distribute films."

How many people visit a film's page on a festival's site? How many of those people actually bought tickets or added it to their personal schedules (another B-Side Web feature)? Which of those people came back to talk about and/or rate the film? What did they say about that film? And which other films did those people like and dislike? Hyams could

CONTINUED ON P.50



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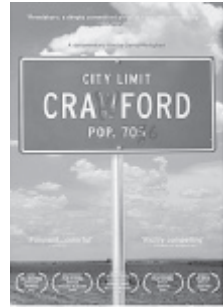
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figure out all of this just by looking at his stats. And, in terms of B-Side's next step, that data was far more valuable than any money the company might have earned – if it had been charging its festival partners.

But before we continue, there's something that you should know: According to Hyams, "every single movie loses money at the box office." It's a matter of the traditional marketing model, where the cost of making the 35mm prints and advertising the film's existence will eventually outweigh any box-office profit that a film might make. "The real revenue," he adds, "comes from DVDs, from television, from foreign sales, and, in some cases – when you have the *Spider-Mans*, the *Supermans*, and the *Harry Potters* – from merchandising and other things like that." Trouble was that, because a film's theatrical release was linked directly to the success of those ancillary sales, no one had yet figured out a viable way around spending the cash. It's why the industry has been such an either/or place; it's why Ceiply assumed that Swanberg's statement was a lament. And it's why B-Side might just remake at least a portion of the industry.

About a year after it was first founded, B-Side took its first crack at testing its distribution theories with *Before the Music Dies*, director Andrew Shapter's examination of the music industry. B-Side's original, theatreless release plan called for the filmmakers to get in the proverbial van and do a 10-city, rock-

style tour. But when a key sponsor dropped out at the last minute – taking \$150,000 of the budget with it – Hyams & Co. were forced to rethink their plans. "And so we basically, very quickly, made the shift ... to anyone who wants to show the film and host a screening is welcome to do so," Hyams says. "You can do it for free; you can charge whatever you want at



**"We were able to create a buzz and awareness around [*Crawford*] that would normally require a huge amount of print and advertising costs for very, very little."**

**– Filmmaker David Modigliani on B-Side's unique distribution model**

the door; you can keep all of the proceeds."

This was the key to the B-Side innovation: Once a film was ready for distribution, all an interested company needed to do – if it was the right film – was to creatively hand it off to the masses. And – if it was the right film – word would spread, DVDs would sell, and release costs would plummet. "Essentially, the idea is [still] what a traditional distributor does," Hyams says. "We partner with other organizations, individuals, people who have the ability to host their own event and who are – for whatever reason

– passionate about the subject matter of the film and let them do that work for us in exchange for letting them keep all of the proceeds."

"[That's] a radical idea."

And it's produced radical results. The next production that B-Side took a crack at, a ... chronic version of *Super Size Me* called *Super High Me*, would, on an \$8,000 budget, celebrate

Modigliani's Dubya-as-seen-by-the-small-Texas-town-he-invaded take on the latest Bush presidency. For its premiere, they turned – in what Modigliani terms a first-of-its-kind move – to online entertainment provider Hulu.

"The numbers were staggering," says Modigliani. "More people saw *Crawford* in its first three days on Hulu than saw the opening weekends of *An Inconvenient Truth* or *March of the Penguins* or all but 15 or 16 documentaries ever."

As a follow-up, Modigliani and B-Side cooked up a model-appropriate "Host Your Own Farewell to W." campaign which has, to date, used the end of the Bush administration to earn *Crawford* screenings in 39 states.

Modigliani is now a true believer in B-Side's distribution model. "We were able to create a buzz and awareness around the film that would normally require a huge amount of print and advertising costs for very, very little," he says.

Throughout our conversation, Hyams is careful to point out that his model will not work for just any film. "It only works for [something] that when people see it, they really fall in love with it," he says. "It has to be a film that has got some kind of hook – something that ... a group of people ... would care about."

"It turns out there's a huge number of those."

And, in spite of the gloomy presumptions of one *New York Times* reporter, at least one group of investors would seem to agree. Which is to say that, by all appearances, another Hyams has made his mark on the film industry. ■

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# Mr. Fix-It

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

I often lament that customer service is dead. But that was until I discovered what Dusty Granberry at KEYE is doing to help viewers who are having trouble connecting their new digital TV converter boxes to their old analog sets. He's happy to troubleshoot by phone, and if that doesn't help, he will make a house call. Yes, a house call, free of charge. You provide the DTV converter box and the TV. He'll provide the know-how, the hand-holding, and maybe a paper clip.

Granberry is KEYE's director of broadcast operations and engineering, and his public-service effort goes hand in hand with the station's decision to turn off its analog signal on Feb. 17, the original DTV transition date, instead of waiting till June 12, the new date recently approved by Congress.

"KEYE, along with around 40% of other stations in the country, will stick to the original deadline. Our technology is in place, and we've spent a lot of money and airtime informing the public about the DTV transition," said Jerry Wagley, KEYE's director of creative services, via e-mail. "We think it is time, and most people are ready."

Well, one person's "ready" is another person's consternation.

"TV Eye" reader Allison Hubbard wrote to share her frustration with her new DTV converter box last week. After a few e-mails and phone calls, Hubbard was connected to Granberry. At press time, Hubbard was on Granberry's help list, and he was confident her problems would be solved.

Granberry is one of those local TV folks who started his career in the early days of Austin TV in the 1970s. His mentor was one-time KVUE General Manager Joe Jerkins, who was a big believer in TV as a public service.

"He ingrained that in our minds,"

Granberry said in a telephone interview from his office. "Those who can't afford cable or can't get cable shouldn't have to lose their portal to the world," he said. "My mission is to get everyone able to receive free over the air [TV]. I believe in doing this."

Since KEYE announced it was going digital ahead of the new transition date, Granberry says he gets about 40 calls a day. Questions range from those starting from complete unawareness to those who have the DTV converter box but haven't opened it yet. Admittedly, Granberry says, the instructions that come with the converter boxes are unclear and lack information that would save a lot of frustration. For example, the new DTV signal is either perfect, or it's not there, Granberry says. This usually means the connection between the box and the TV is too loose or incorrect, not that you have a defective box.



Another thing he says confuses people is that the DTV converter box comes with its own remote. You turn on your TV and set it to Channel 3 (like setting up a VCR). After the initial sync up between the TV and the converter, you use the remote that comes with the converter box to change channels. The third thing that stymies viewers is the antenna.

"Buy that last," Granberry advises. Many viewers have been told that they must buy a new HD antenna if they want their new converter box to work. "I tell people if you get the analog signal with rabbit ears, you should be able to get a good [digital] signal with them, too." Viewers in outlying areas or who live in concrete buildings may need an HD antenna (the rabbit ears with the loop in the middle). Or, you might just need a paper clip. Granberry has found that with some of the newer

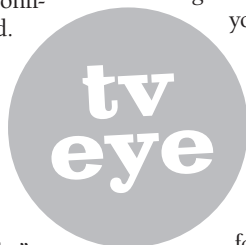
HD TVs, a paper clip can make all the difference in the world. Moving the antenna up and away from the set also helps. There are any number of quick and easy fixes to get your new DTV converter box and TV up and running, he says.

If you are stumped by your DTV converter box, give Granberry a call at 490-2103. Not only is he willing, but he's happy to help. You may get his voice mail, but he returns all messages, usually on the same day.

## WHAT TO WATCH

It's award show weekend for film fans. The Film Independent Spirit Awards, that laid-back party on the beach, airs Saturday, Feb. 21, at 4pm on IFC. The higher-wattage Academy Awards gala airs Sunday, Feb. 22, at 7pm on ABC.

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



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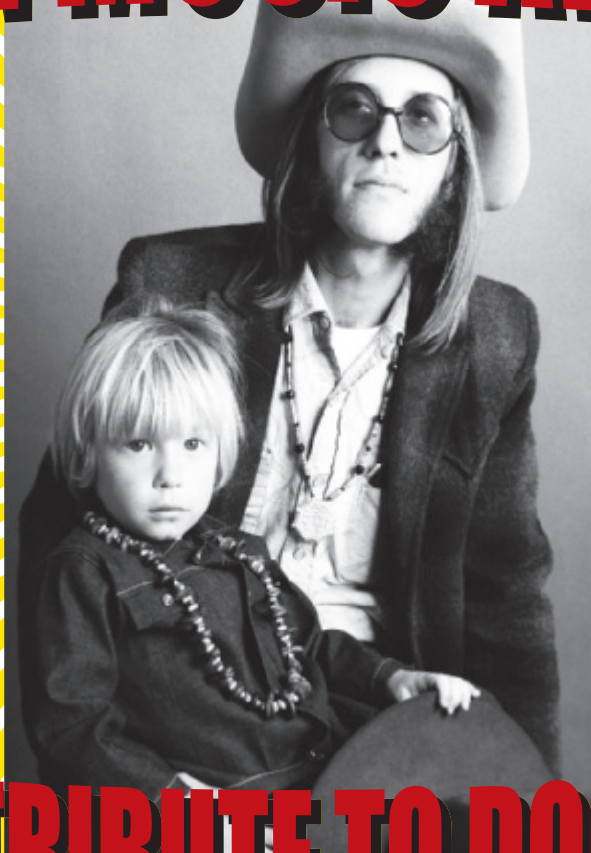
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# music

## OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell



An outtake from Sahm's second cover shoot for *Rolling Stone* (July 8, 1971), courtesy of famed rock photographer Baron Wolman: "I loved Doug and miss him; we all do."

COURTESY OF BARON WOLMAN

## Dispossessed Men and Mothers of Texas

Even by his own incomparable standards, **Doug Sahm's** *Mendocino* is the ultimate crossover album, a borderless rendering of Tex-Mex, San Francisco psychedelia, and British Invasion rock by his **Sir Douglas Quintet**. **South by Southwest** commemorates the 40th anniversary of the LP with a panel featuring the quintet's **Augie Meyers**, **Frank Morin**, and **Harvey Kagan**, along with **Shawn Sahm**. "Doug was pure magic, even more so in the studio," muses moderator **Bill Bentley**. "It's a mystery to me how he really put his music together, and this might be one of the few chances we'll have to solve it." The celebration continues with a **Texas Tornados** showcase at **Antone's** on Thursday, March 19, featuring **Jimmie Vaughan**, **Dave Alvin**, and the **Gourds**, all of whom are spotlighted on **Keep Your Soul: A Tribute to Doug Sahm**, due the following week on Vanguard Records. The previously mentioned compilation (see "Off the Record," Nov. 21, 2008) now features **Little Willie G.** with **Ry Cooder** ("She's About a Mover"), **Flaco Jimenez** alongside the **West Side Horns** ("Ta Bueno Compadre"), and **Charlie Sexton** ("You're Doin' It Too Hard"). As if that weren't enough, **Alejandro Escovedo** has been added to the special **SDQ2** showcase at the **2008-09 Austin Music Awards** on Wednesday, March 18. Tickets for the event are \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show, and go on sale Monday, Feb. 23.

## Gym Class Heroes

The **Music Gym** (815 E. Sixth) is the type of place where **White Denim** could take a proper *Workout Holiday*. Essentially a cooperative rehearsal facility and lounge, the Gym opened in December after nearly two years of renovations and features four practice rooms fully stocked with a PA system, drums, and amps. For a flat monthly fee, bands receive credit for eight hours of studio space per week (booked online), along with a guaranteed monthly show at the facility, which will be an official SXSW venue this year. Rooms are also available by the hour, perfect for those in need of a last-minute tune-up before a gig Downtown. "I felt like the ugly, corporate franchise idea could be applied to a creative business paradigm," says owner **Ryan McVinney**, who founded the original Music Gym in Boston in 2001. "This makes it easy for people to come in and create and share something."

JOHN ANDERSON



JOHN ANDERSON

## The Justice League

"I don't know if I'm ever happy," **Trail of Dead's Conrad Keely** (r) told OTR shortly before mastering *The Century of Self*. "I'm always focusing on what I should have done rather than what I've done." Commemorating the album's release at **Waterloo Records** on Tuesday, Keely appeared content as TOD steamrolled through new standouts such as "Far Pavilions." Part of this new sense of *Self* comes via the art punk institution finally making music on its own terms, the local sixpiece's new **Richter Scale** imprint branching off Houston's **Justice Records**. Originally formed in 1989 as a jazz conduit before breaking out into country and blues, Justice returned in 2007 after a near-decade-long hiatus and promptly reissued 18 titles from its vaults, including albums by **Carolyn Wonderland & the Imperial Monkeys**, **Jesse Dayton**, **Kris Kristofferson**, **Waylon Jennings**, and the underrated tribute *Twisted Willie*. The label further bolstered its local credentials with new efforts from **Bobbie Nelson**, **Nelo**, and **Electric Touch**. "We don't own the masters," explains label general manager and Austinite **Jan Mirkin**, who managed **Ian Moore** for 19 years. "We're working in partnership with the bands. We provide everything for the artist that major labels do, but we don't enslave them under the old model."



"Baron Prasil" by Karel Zeman, 1961

## Music Is Happiness

The **Octopus Project** always finds ingenious ways to illustrate its animated instrumentals. The local electronic luminaries flip the script Wednesday at the **Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz**, performing original scores written specifically for a series of short films of their choosing. "The earliest one is from the Forties, and it's hand-drawn on actual film, with watercolors and scratch outs; it's like this moving painting," reveals multi-instrumentalist **Josh Lambert**, adding that roughly two-thirds of the material will likely end up on the band's next LP. "Most of the films are between seven and 10 minutes, which was pretty challenging for us, but they're all really colorful and kind of explosive." The Octopus Project will be performing two sets, 7 & 9:30pm.

## Random Play

South Austin landmark and live-music staple **Artz Rib House** closed briefly on Jan. 25, due to owner **Art Blondin's** struggle to pay his back taxes and medical bills for his wife, **Zenobia Sutton**. Thankfully, local businesses and musicians have lined up around the block to lend a helping hand, culminating in a benefit on Sunday at **Scholz Garten**, with **Del Castillo**, **Slaid Cleaves**, **Warren Hood**, and **Carolyn Wonderland**, among others. Doors open at 4pm with a donation of \$10.

**Vallejo** has temporarily postponed all its upcoming gigs after singer/guitarist **A.J. Vallejo** suffered a mild myocardial infarction last Wednesday. He's expected to make a full recovery.

There's a bad moon rising for former **Creedence Clearwater Revivalist Stu Cook**. The longtime local is taking part in the SXSW 09 panel Woodstock: Untold Stories, and his classic rock recordings with **Jackdaw**, alongside the **Doobie Brothers' John McFee** and the late **Keith Knudsen**, are finally being released by **Sonic Past Music**, nearly two decades after their completion. The 15-song flashback includes a cover of **Roky Erickson's** "Cold Night for Alligators," fitting considering Cook produced 1981's *The Evil One*.

The **Blanton Museum of Art** opens its new exhibit, "Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury," on Sunday, celebrating the confluence of innovation that led to West Coast modernism. **Miles Davis**, **Chet Baker**, and **Dave Brubeck**, among others, provide the soundtrack at various listening stations throughout the exhibit, which also features album-cover art from the era. **Jeff Lofton** helps set the mood with his tribute to the Prince of Darkness at the **Elephant Room** on Saturday, Feb. 28. Adding further insight to the movement, *Rolling Stone* scribe **David Fricke** will moderate a panel discussion on Davis' definitive *Kind of Blue* at 50. For a complete breakdown of this year's panels at SXSW, see [www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com).

**Robert Edwards (l) and Ryan McVinney, owners of Music Gym**

# Queen Bee

Lucinda Williams' affection for bumblebees

BY MARGARET MOSER

A conversation with Lucinda Williams is never just talk. Okay, maybe it's girl talk and chitchat, but it's also an opportunity to catch up and reconnect with the Louisiana-born Grammy winner, whose formative years in Austin during the 1970s and 1980s have given way to her now sharing passionate kisses with industry veteran and producer/manager/boyfriend Tom Overby in Los Angeles. With hot press for her latest CD, *Little Honey* ("Phases & Stages," Oct. 24, 2008), Williams embarks on a tour of familiar places before heading off to Australia.

**Austin Chronicle:** Reviews seem to assign moods to your albums – *West* was about your mother's death, etc. Do you mind the focus on songs as autobiography?

**Lucinda Williams:** Well, the thing that comes up mostly is that this is the "happy" album, which is kind of a misnomer. I have to try and explain that first of all – happiness is relative, and yes, I'm in love, and I've found someone I want to be with the rest of my life. But when I was recording this album, I was in a different state of mind, even though Tom was with me when I was recording [2007's] *West*.

Let me back up: Most of the songs on *Little Honey* were written when I was writing the songs for *West*. I met Tom when I had a handful of songs and started the demo process with *West*. And as I was in there demo-ing, I was writing more.

All that happened in one year – my mother died; I found out my [former] boyfriend was strung out on heroin; he went in rehab; we broke up. And this flood of songs started coming out; "Jailhouse Tears" on *Little Honey* was written about that boyfriend. "Real Love" was written about a brief affair I had after that – before I met Tom. So the majority of the songs are before I

met Tom, except "Tears of Joy" and "Plan to Marry." Those are written about Tom and me. What people don't know is that when I went into the studio for *West*, I had enough songs for a double CD. We wanted to get all these songs out, be done with it, but the label didn't want us to do it, so we broke it down to *West*, all those songs we felt fit together.

When we went to do *Little Honey*, I had songs left over, which we re-recorded with the new band, and they took on a new spirit. They sound new and fresh. It's really kind of

*West*, Part II. But people hear *Little Honey* and say, "It's a happy album, and all the songs are about Tom," and part of that is that I was having lots of fun.

**AC:** There's a playfulness to *Little Honey*. You let your guard down. You let people hear you talk and laugh, the glitch at the beginning ...

**LW:** A lot of that is the progression of me getting more comfortable in the studio and my personal life being in a better place – feeling better because I had such a positive experience recording *West* with our engineer, Eric Liljestrang. When I went to do *Little Honey*, it was a given we'd work with Eric again in the same studio, which had become a home for us during *West*. It was familiar territory.

When I did *West*, I had Hal Willner producing, and that was the first time I'd worked with a producer who wasn't a musician like Gurf [Morlix], Steve Earle, Bo [Ramsey], or Charlie [Sexton]. I had a little room I'd go in and do vocals, and it felt comfortable and relaxed.

**AC:** That ease comes across in the songs.

**LW:** Tom and Eric worked well together as a team and encouraged that spontaneity. It was Tom's idea to do the AC/DC song. He said, "You need a really good rock & roll song on this album," and I said, "Okay, I'll write one." But I didn't have one, so we looked at cover possibilities. I was looking at a song by Leslie West of Mountain, and Tom pulled out "It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll)." I said: "I dunno. I don't know this song, and I'm not sure about this," and he said, "Let's give it a shot." So, at the end of the night, we went in and tried it out.

At first I thought it wouldn't work. I thought, "It'll be dumb." Then the band went in and

**"Memphis Minnie had that song 'Bumble Bee' or something like that. We moved into our house a year ago this spring, and outside the kitchen windows are cone-shaped purple flowers. They were covered in bumblebees, and I was transfixed by them."**



COURTESY OF LOST HIGHWAY RECORDS

worked up a really cool version. It took a few times to get the phrasing down, but once I started singing it, I went, "Hey, I can make this my own!" That's the only time I'll do a cover of a song: if I can get inside it.

It's been a whirlwind of changes for me the last few years, but I'm in a good place in my life, and I think that shows. People pick up on that.

**AC:** Where did "Honey Bee" come from?

**LW:** Oh yeah, that was written for Tom, too.

That's a new one [giggles]. **AC:** [Laughing] The boys love it as much as the girls. Every man wants his woman to think about him like that. King bees and honey drippers and all.

**LW:** I know! [Laughs] I wrote it as a sexy, fun song. I got the idea from all the Delta blues songs.

**AC:** You really tackle it vocally, with that growl you don't use except in songs like the Howlin' Wolf one you do, "Come to Me, Baby." It's in that tradition.

**LW:** And Memphis Minnie had that song "Bumble Bee" or something like that. We

moved into our house a year ago this spring, and outside the kitchen windows are cone-shaped purple flowers. They were covered in bumblebees, and I was transfixed by them. I've since learned that bumblebees are disappearing, and now I've got this affection for bumblebees, this imagery with the honey and the bee [giggles]. The bee stings, but it also makes honey, and the sweetness of the honey, that parallel ... [giggles again]

**AC:** The sexual undertones!

**LW:** Exactly, yeah [chuckles]. Part of that is growing more mature and getting comfortable with myself as a woman, giving myself permission to do that kind of stuff. I've always had that in me, even when I was younger, in my 20s and 30s. You can see me tiptoeing to that in "Changed the Locks." There have always been songs like that: "Joy," "Essence."

Another thing about this album that's unique is that I went back to earlier stuff I'd written and never recorded, like "If Wishes Were Horses" and "Circles and X's." They

CONTINUED ON P.56

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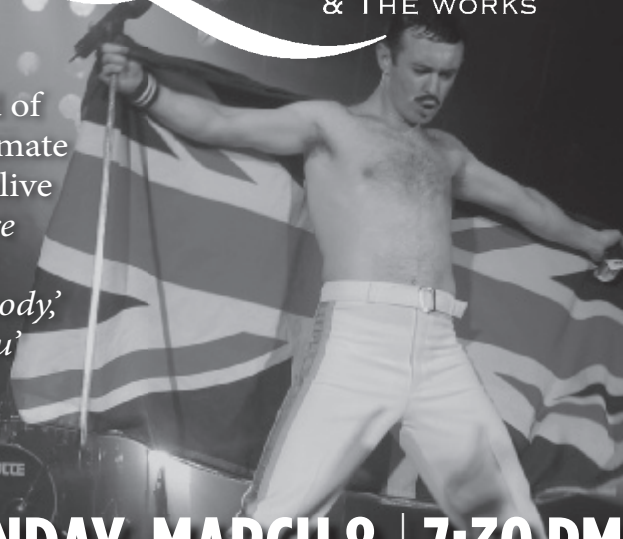
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## Randy Weeks

*Going My Way* ("Texas Platters," Jan. 23) boasts songs so good, new Austinite Randy Weeks hardly needs to play his trump card these days. To put a fine point on it, he wrote the only cover song on Lucinda Williams' tour de force, *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*, "Can't Let Go."

"I love Randy," enthuses Williams. "I'm a huge fan of his. I'm so glad he's finally getting his just due. I've championed his music for years and years. We knew each other from his Lonesome Strangers days. I opened for those guys when I first moved to California. My boyfriend then, Lorne Rall, played in the band with Randy, so we go way back. He used to send me tapes with songs on them, and that's where I got 'Can't Let Go.'"

Weeks recalls the exchange a bit different but with characteristic humor.

"I was playing it at [L.A.'s] Palomino one night, and she came up to me and said: 'I like that song. What is it?' About three years later, after 'Passionate Kisses,' she asked if I could send her a tape of it.

"Three years after that, it came out. It was the classic example of a platinum calling card. My confidence grew from that. So, I'm a songwriter now. Funny. Go figure."

**LW:** That it was maybe the simplicity and innocence of some of the songs. I was younger then and writing in sort of a folk-country vein. And after *Car Wheels*, I started branching out and doing other styles of music, which

I was always into, even during the folksinger thing. The stuff I'm doing now, though, is what I've always wanted to do.

**AC:** *It's the right music at the right time for the right audience.*

**LW:** I didn't sit down and plan it that way. It just came natural to me. It's fascinating to realize I'm one of a handful of women my age out there doing this.

**"Another thing about this album that's unique is that I went back to earlier stuff I'd written and never recorded, like 'If Wishes Were Horses' and 'Circles and X's.' They were written in the mid-Eighties, right after I moved to L.A. from Austin. I went back and got them, and they sounded brand new."**

**AC:** *It's tough to hit 50 and go, "Hey, I'm gonna chuck it all and be a rock star!"*

**LW:** Yeah, and I think there's something changing in a positive way in our society regarding that. I was flipping through *Rolling Stone* and saw a piece on the UK's newest soul star, Adele. She's 20 and breaking big, and at the beginning of the article, she talks about how she wasn't going to get anywhere because she's a fat girl. "But it's obviously not an issue. I'm selling records, aren't I?"

I saw that and went, "Fucking right on!"

**AC:** *For artists like you and, say, Patti Smith, your audience grows up along with you, so*

*they're more accepting of your flaws. But you can't sell those artists to younger audiences. They just see them as fat and bald. They want something pretty.*

**LW:** This is where talent wins out, like Patti Smith. She doesn't have to worry about that part of things, her marketing. That's a choice the artist has to make early in a career, though – to establish that. It might take longer, but if you have the talent and you're stubborn, there's something there for you.

**AC:** *There's a gifted young songwriter from Austin named Suzanna Choffel. She's 28 and goes at it any way she can – tours, MySpace, contests, YouTube. She says that it's easier to get your product out than ever before but harder to get it heard.*

The Minnesota native turned Texan in 2006, by way of a long stint in California; recently had the *Los Angeles Times* name him one of the artists to watch in 2009; and with his first locally cut CD now in stores, is unabashed about his attraction to Austin.

"It's the live music," he states. "Ever since I was a little kid, I was addicted to bands. If I heard a band around the corner, I'd have to at least go see what color the drum kit was. And Austin is so accessible! You can go out, hear music, and see people. It has a small-town element – go to the grocery, run into a couple of guitarists."

Weeks didn't run into him in a grocery store, but meeting *Going My Way* producer Will Sexton focused Weeks' Texas twang and California cool into loping Americana on the new album.

"I met Will and thought, 'Yeah, hmmm ... I could make a record here!'"

"Between some old guys, some new guys, and people I didn't even know, we put it together. It was pretty refreshing, a spontaneous way to go. It was like, work this stuff up, go into the studio, and play it! I didn't labor over it."

– M.M.

CD release: Thursday, Feb. 26, Pangaea

were written in the mid-Eighties, right after I moved to L.A. from Austin. I went back and got them, and they sounded brand new.

You can hear the difference, though, in my writing style.

There's one from the early Nineties, "Well Well Well," that was on the demos for *Sweet Old World* and never made it on that record. What prompted me to go back and review my songs was Laura Cantrell coming out with "Letters." That was written in the late Seventies, when I was living in Houston, or maybe right after I left there. A mutual friend gave her an old demo tape. Lo and behold, Laura ended up putting it on her record. I heard it and went, "Oh my God!" I never thought that song would see the light of day, but the fact that she heard something in it ....

A lot of my early stuff I feel like I've outgrown. It's not as developed as my later stuff, not as sophisticated.

One time I was in a bar in Devil's Corner in Nashville, and Nanci Griffith was in there. She said: "I just love that song 'Full Moon.' That's my favorite song by you." I said, "You've got to be kidding." I didn't take stuff like that seriously until Laura Cantrell did "Letters," and I went, "Holy shit, maybe I should take a closer look at these."

I've started going back to my earlier albums, like the *Rough Trade* one and even *Happy Woman Blues* and especially *Car Wheels*, and asking myself, "What was it about those records that people are drawn to?"

**AC:** *What conclusions have you come to?*

I discovered Andy's, a little folk bar. They offered me some nights and afternoon things – they were open till the sun came up – and different songwriters would take shifts, play for tips, and the tourists would come in. It was this cool little bohemian folk bar on Bourbon Street.

That was probably the biggest turning point of my entire career. I called my dad saying: "Dad, I just got offered my first gig, and I don't want to go back to school in the fall. I want to stay here and do this." And he said okay. I stayed with my mom for a while, and eventually I got a little shotgun apartment with this



LUCINDA WILLIAMS LITTLE HONEY

girl who was a topless dancer. It was \$85 a month. We split the rent.

But you know, that's the thing. The economy makes it too hard to live like that now. Artists always ask me, "How do I do this?" And I say: "You gotta get out there and play live and develop a following. You can't just sit around your house and put out records on the Internet."

Lucinda Williams honeycombs La Zona Rosa Friday, Feb. 20.



# THE LINEUP

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At the best merchandise table in indie music, the deluxe edition of *Noble Beast*, Andrew Bird's affecting new LP, sat a half-inch thicker than the standard issue, with different artwork that appeared hand-painted. Amid its complementary tour poster, T-shirts, and \$10 boutique live discs not available in stores, this über-Beast stood tall, like a miniature Gutenberg Bible. Inside, a bonus CD of *Useless Creatures* creeps and crawls with an album-length arc of instrumentals whistled, fiddled, and plucked by Bird in trio with double-bassist Todd Sickafoose and Wilco drummer Glenn Kotche. If *Noble Beast* houses the zoo, *Useless Creatures* must be the reptile house. Chicago's musical biologist began his long-sold-out solo appearance at the Paramount with a lengthy wordless suite of music, if not drawn from *Useless Creatures*, then perfectly at home in its scales. The huge, Victrola-like speakers Bird utilizes live, coupled with a xylophone, guitar, and his skinny tie and suit – and even his shoes quickly discarded – gave the whole stage the appearance of Sherlock Holmes' study, its mastermind meditating through his violin. A burst of whistling, hand claps, and fiddle clusters, quickly looped through foot pedals, built his classical

recital into a full-blown symphony. Not a word whispered through the full house. Finally, Bird looked up when asked how it was going. "Hi everyone. It's going pretty good," he grinned. "I like this place. I got to play Carnegie Hall last week, and I have to say this is just as good." Certainly he delivered a Carnegie Hall-worthy performance. A sock monkey made to resemble the beloved Birdman, brought out by a stagehand ("I forgot my monkey"), preceded 2007's *Armchair Apocrypha*, "Plasticities," *Noble Beast* opener "Oh No" ("arm and arm with all the harmless sociopaths"), and "A Nervous Tic Motion of the Head to the Left," which got the 90-minute set rolling, molting. New set list standards-to-be "Fitz and the Dizzyspells" and "Anonanimal" went head to head with a pair of equally fantastic alternate realities in covers of Windy City minstrels the Handsome Family, including "The Giant of Illinois." An ancient spiritual and new *Beast* "Natural Disaster" came off good and Gutenberg, as did a trio of songs in two encores that ended with the title track of early Bird turning point *Weather Systems* (2003). In the tune's complex weave of strings, hooks, and Bird's aviary cry, the evening's *Noble Beast* ruled creatures great and small.

– Raoul Hernandez

**DAN AUERBACH**  
*Keep It Hid (Nonesuch)*

Last year's *Attack and Release* gave the Black Keys a modern makeover courtesy of producer Danger Mouse that resulted in one of the most inventive blues records of recent memory. In its wake, the self-produced debut from guitarist/vocalist Dan Auerbach isn't quite the revelation it should be, though he demonstrates his keen versatility with like-minded grooves. From the Depression-era folk blues of opener "Trouble Weighs a Ton" to the haunting guitar chill of "Heartbroken, in Disrepair" and the gothic Delta blues of "When I Left the Room," Auerbach raises sand like T Bone Burnett. Same as with the wicked, snake-charming allure of "Mean Monsoon," *Keep It Hid* revels in the shadows, exploring a lonesome darkness rarely found in the Keys' garage rock grit. Bo Diddley romp "Street Walkin'" and thunderous Wayne Carson Thompson cover "I Want Some More" are Auerbach's heaviest, most blissfully psychedelic work to date.

★★★

– Austin Powell



**ANTONY & THE JOHNSONS**  
*The Crying Light (Secretly Canadian)*

Antony Hegarty's second LP, 2005's *I Am a Bird Now*, was refreshing, haunting, and unusual, a picture of struggle and self-actualization from the Lou Reed crony. *The Crying Light*, dedicated to centenarian Butoh dancer Kazuo Ohno, who graces the album's cover, is a different animal. Opener "Her Eyes Are Underneath the Ground" and "Another World" echo *Bird*, but the Johnsons misstep into lounge for "Epilepsy Is Dancing" and the repetitive "Kiss My Name." Hegarty's preternatural falsetto burnishes "Daylight and the Sun," and his Celtic roots pluck "Dust and Water" from a melodramatic sea. Piano graces the most organic of the bunch, "One Dove" and closer "Everglade," providing the soil from which the remainder grows. Far from a slump, *The Crying Light* is simply less personal, developed out of nature and stewed in Hegarty's natural showmanship and knack for the unsettling.

★★★

– Darcie Stevens



**ENRICO RAVA**  
*New York Days (ECM)*

Miles Davis' red hot and cool still melts trumpets from Berklee (Tiger Okoshi) to Poland (Tomasz Stańko), with a layover in New York (Terence Blanchard) for the red eye to Italy on Enrico Rava's thick, rich, vintage brass smear. Five years – 2004's *Easy Living* to 2009's *New York Days* – leave smoldering ash in the wake of the Italian trumpet sage, 70 this year, whose best bluster this millennium remains in partnership with Stefano Bollani (*The Third Man*) and in trio with said Milanese pianist and cymbalist extraordinaire Paul Motian (*Tati*). Rava trades four fellow countrymen from 2007's *The Words and the Days* for Bollani, Motian, bassist Larry Grenadier, and tenor sax *sympatico* Mark Turner, with whom the session leader melts into a late-night haze of horn. Backroom blues ("Interiors") as insular as Little Italy ("Certi Angoli Segreti") savor Big Apple fare both Uptown ("Thank You, Come Again") and Downtown ("Count Dracula"). Ravishing.

★★★

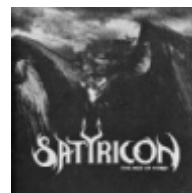
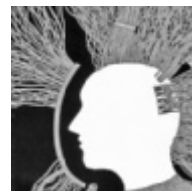
– Raoul Hernandez



metallurgy

More than any other genre, metal dialogues on a global basis with regional trappings both preserved and adopted while remaining colorblind to all but its true hue: black. Pittsburgh instrumental duo **Zombi** races Germanic per usual on *Spirit Animal* (Relapse), its second full-length since 2004's *Cosmos*, 2006 precursor *Surface to Air* solidifying a parallel to West Berlin institution Tangerine Dream. The 14-minute title track spooks open a synthesizer aria of African sweep, while the succeeding "Spirit Warrior" does what Steve Moore (bass, keys) and A.E. Paterra (drums) do best – electro pulses not flipped since the aforementioned citrus gliders scored cinematic blackouts with *Sorcerer* (1977) and *Thief* (1981), although *Miami Vice* seeps in midway. That director Michael Mann (*Manhunter*, *Heat*) connects the latter two, and by extension Edgar Froese with Jan Hammer, decodes centerpiece "Earthly Powers," after which "Cosmic Powers" gives chase. "Through Time" rumbles

seismographic for 17 minutes that segue perfectly into English prog by **Diagonal**. The Brighton septet's self-titled debut on UK indie label Rise Above bridges Krautrock to 1970s British Isle organ fries on the order of Deep Purple, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, and King Crimson, 11-minute opener "Semi Permeable Men-Brain" pure flashback to the Isle of Man, Wight, or any other landlocked tidal pools of improvisation. As Norwegian black metal standard **Satyricon** approaches the two-decade mark on the continued coalescence of Satyr Wongraven and stickman Frost (1349, Keep of Kalessin), the two-headed cloven beast shakes off its stiff 2006 predecessor, *Now, Diabolical*, for the Def Jam metal of seventh LP *The Age of Nero*. That U.S. singer-songwriter/roots imprint Koch Records has committed to an anvil division wrecks bold even without this summoning of Rick Rubin-era Danzig. Black Hawk "Commando," new black metal classic "Black Crow on a Tombstone," and "Die by My Hand" translate into any pierced tongue.



– Raoul Hernandez

sheet music

**SONGS FROM A DUTCH TOUR: THE BOOK**

by Chip Taylor

Train Wreck, 173 pp., \$33.98 (paper)

Less a book packaged with a CD than an album with extensive liner notes, *Songs From a Dutch Tour* reads like an elaborate collection of acknowledgements. Commemorating Chip Taylor's final tour of the Netherlands with acclaimed duet partner Carrie Rodriguez in 2007, the seminal songwriter ("Wild Thing") retraces his career from childhood to his discovery of Rodriguez at South by Southwest six years earlier. Scant on details, anecdotes,



or copyediting, *Songs* compensates with an elaborately designed layout of thick, photo-laden pages and some exceptional new songs. Pictures from his youth with brother Jon Voight are more enlightening than his prose, as is the glimpse into Taylor's compositional process. His deep appreciation for the country that's been his premier fan base since the 1970s shines throughout, as does his praise and affection for Rodriguez, though the complicated relationship with the latter is only suggested. The music is more personal and evocative, sparse folk and blues that linger heavy and poignant. "Down by Law (Paint Me on a Postcard)," "Song for a German Girl (Named Lisa)," and "Mema, I Miss You From Here" are stunning, as is his tribute to Rodriguez, "Jack of Diamonds/Queen of Hearts," inspired by Margaret Moser's *Chronicle* article on the duo ("Story Book Children," Dec. 20, 2002).

– Doug Freeman

# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Apparent closure was reached in 2006 in a long-running “News of the Weird” story in which, for sexual thrills, a man periodically telephoned managers of fast-food restaurants and, pretending to be a police detective, persuaded the manager to strip search one or more employees, supposedly to recover stolen merchandise, and to describe the search over the phone. In January, another man, John Brady, 49, was arrested and charged on New York City’s Staten Island for telephoning women at random and instructing them to perform digital rectal exams on themselves, claiming that he was doing research on the digestive system. At least one woman complied.

## LEAD STORY

One Industry That Needs No Stimulus: 1) Drug officials in California’s Mendocino, Humboldt, and Trinity counties (north of San Francisco) estimated in January that two-thirds of the area’s economy is based on probably illegal marijuana farming (illegal under federal law but permitted for medical use by the state). One federal agent told MSNBC, “Nobody produces any better marijuana than [they] do right here.” 2) In January, the director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime acknowledged that during the bleak banking days of September and October 2008, with panic in the economy over the shortage of cash, often the main source available to some banks was drug dealers’ steady deposits of money to be laundered.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

London’s Gymbox at Bank athletic club, recognizing that lifting weights can be a boring way to exercise, introduced human barbells recently, hiring five men of various sizes (including two dwarfs) that customers can use for weights instead of the iron. One advantage of the humans is that, on request, they shout encouragement to the customer with each lift. The largest of the five is a 37-year-old, 340-pound man.

Walter Tessier was charged with one of the pettiest of petit larceny counts in January as sheriff’s deputies in Amsterdam, N.Y., said he tried to defraud a Price Chopper store. Tessier had purchased a \$10.99 lobster but returned it, claiming that it had turned bad, and the store allowed him some crabmeat in exchange, but employees discovered that the lobster was only its empty, carefully reconstructed shell that made it appear whole. Tessier then ran from the store but was arrested later at his home, where he had just finished the crabmeat.

## FAMILY VALUES

The sheriff in El Dorado, Kan., asked in January for help from the public in locating a missing boy named Adam. According to the sheriff, Adam’s parents, Doug and Valerie Herrman, only recently reported him missing, even though they had not seen him since he ran away in 1999, when he was 11. The Herrmans’ attorney said that his clients were nonetheless “very worried about him.”

Parenting Handful: Late last year, Jack Burt, 5, of a rural area near Darwin, Australia, admitted to his dad that he had been kicked off the school bus for bad behavior (including hitting the driver in the head with an apple), provoking the father to use the episode as a teaching opportunity, according to the *Northern Territory News*. For the five-day suspension, Dad would

not reward Jack by driving him but would make Jack walk the 2 ½-hour, seven-mile distance to school and back each day. On the first day after the suspension, Dad proudly helped Jack aboard the bus, hopeful of having instilled a new maturity. However, three stops later, Jack was kicked off again for fighting.

## RECURRING THEMES

A Prosecutor’s Worst Nightmare: At a dramatic moment in the November trial of a bus driver accused of rape in Edmonton, Alberta, the prosecutor asked the victim on the witness stand to look around the courtroom and identify her attacker. The victim adjusted her glasses and scanned the room but looked past the defense table and pointed confidently to a man in the gallery later identified as a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. reporter, who in fact had nothing to do with the rape. (The judge allowed her a second chance, based on the volume of other evidence against the defendant, and she correctly identified him.)

## THE CONTINUING CRISIS

Community Property: 1) As part of a highly contentious New York divorce, surgeon Richard Batista, who in good times had donated a kidney to his wife, demanded in January that she either give it back or compensate him with \$1.5 million in consideration for the rarity of his kidney match. 2) Also in January, Thomas Rowley, 28, went on trial in Victorville, Calif., for his allegedly more direct approach two years ago after he and his girlfriend split. According to prosecutors, Rowley said that since he had paid for her breast implants, he felt entitled to recover them, allegedly by carving them out of her body (and consequently was charged with attempted murder).

Intimate Health Care: 1) A sex-education advocacy organization in Sweden complained in November about the government’s program that, finally, after years of resistance, provides prosthetic penises to newly transgendered males. The policy was nonetheless termed unfair because the devices are cosmetic only and do not “work.” (Regulations prohibit taxpayer money for sexual aids.) 2) In October, five employees of the health-care provider New Zealand Care resigned when the company ordered them to provide (as routine service to developmentally disabled patients who request it) assistance in masturbating.

Episcopal priest Gregory Malia, 43, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., buys top-dollar Champagne at New York City nightclubs, even leaving five-figure tips and treating his favorite waitresses to shopping sprees, according to a December report in New York’s *Daily News*. Said Malia (who is a hemophiliac and owns a pharmacy devoted to blood-disorder medicine): “I work hard. I make good money. How I spend it, that is my business.” Waitresses interviewed by the *Daily News* said “Father Greg” is a sweetheart, never doing anything inappropriate, but exceedingly generous, whether alone or with business clients. Said one waitress, “A bad night for him is [a tip of] \$5,000.”

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at  
[www.newssoftheweird.blogspot.com](http://www.newssoftheweird.blogspot.com)  
(or [www.newssoftheweird.com](http://www.newssoftheweird.com)).

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RICH GARZA, *Pachanga Fest, Giant Noise PR*

JOHN KUNZ, *Waterloo Records*

ALEX VALLEJO, *artist*

GRAHAM WILLIAMS, *Transmission Entertainment*

CAROLYN WONDERLAND, *artist*

MODERATOR:

DAVE SULLIVAN, *Austin Live Music Task Force*

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Jazz Legend Alex Coke

Interviewed by

Graham Reynolds

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a discussion with

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(short performance to follow)

WED 2/25, 7PM @ THE BELMONT  
(dakota lounge) 305 W 6th

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★ **AISD EFFICIENCY STUDY FEEDBACK** Check out the results of a recent efficiency study of the district on Austin ISD's website. If the results strike you as particularly insightful or downright ridiculous, take your thoughts to this meeting and give your opinion to people who can change things. Can't make the open house? Go to [austinsd.mgtamer.com](http://austinsd.mgtamer.com) to utilize the Internet as your sounding board. 5:30-8pm. *Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell. [www.austinsd.org](http://www.austinsd.org).*

**BARBARA JORDAN FORUM ON PUBLIC POLICY** PBS's Gwen Ifill keynotes this day of talks and panels with topics ranging from closing the gender gap to bipartisanship. Go to [www.utexas.edu/lbj/cpg/events/story/683](http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/cpg/events/story/683) to RSVP. 10am-3pm. *AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 404-1900.*

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS** is putting out an SOS: Send One Suit. Donate a suit for underprivileged women so they can dress to impress for their next job interview. *Thu.-Sun., Feb. 19-22. Dressbarn, 5601 Brodie, 389-3723. [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org).*

**HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS MEET AND GREET** Meet with HCO members, and greet their environmental friends the Austin Parks Foundation. Bring a nonperishable food item for the Capitol Area Food Bank, and sign up for It's My Park Day (March 7) while you're there. 6pm. *Joe DiMaggio's Italian Chophouse, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 383-1191. Free. [www.hillcountryoutdoors.com](http://www.hillcountryoutdoors.com).*

👑 **REAPPEARING DEB** Paula and Deb re-emerge from the One Fifth Griffith ashes as part of Invisible Inks, debuting smack dab in the middle of the lineup. 10:30pm. *Mohawk, 912 Red River, 482-8404. [www.myspace.com/invisibleinks](http://www.myspace.com/invisibleinks).*

**SPRING INTO FASHION** Food and music get you in the door. Belly dancing and performances by the Austin Toros Dance Team keep you entertained. The fact that Easter Seals of Central Texas gets the proceeds helps pry open those wallets. 8pm. *Molotov Lounge, 719 W. Sixth, 925-2631. Donations appreciated. [www.360taboo.com](http://www.360taboo.com).*

**TEXAS GREEN NETWORK MEETING** Meet other greens, listen to some eco-friendly speakers, and maybe say a few words on the open mic. RSVP to [rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org](mailto:rsvp@texasgreennetwork.org). 5:30-8:30pm. *State Capitol building, Rm E2.002. [www.texasgreennetwork.org](http://www.texasgreennetwork.org).*

👑 **UT-GSC FILM SERIES** "I think it pisses Feminista cinematistas off when you walk by *The Color Purple* in a field and don't bring a bag lunch and watch it." Okay, so that's not the exact film quote. So go and tell us what it is. Noon. *UT campus, SSB 3.406.*

**VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRAR OPEN HOUSE** Help get the vote out for future elections by attending any of the 16 training sessions over the next four days. Call for a complete schedule. *Through Feb. 20. Travis County Tax Office, 5501 Airport, 854-9473 x33284. [www.traviscountytax.org](http://www.traviscountytax.org).*

**WOMEN TRAVELING SOLO** Hostelling International shows you how to travel safely, on budget, and without offending foreign cultures. 7pm. *REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 444-2294. Free. [www.hiaustin.org](http://www.hiaustin.org).*

THURSDAY, FEB 19 TO THURSDAY, FEB 26

# calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's  
community  
listings

## ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

**Cafe Mundi**

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

**The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience**  
@ IMAX Theatre, 7:30pm

## MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

**The Archibalds, Nakia & His Southern Cousins**  
*Momo's*  
**Lykke Li** *Antone's*  
**Brownout** *Lamberts*

## FRIDAY 20

### 🐱 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. 10:15am. *Southeast Austin Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing, 974-7302. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).*

### ★ BEARD & MOUSTACHE COMPETITION

In its third year, *Misprint Magazine's* facial-hair contest is looking to be bigger and thicker than ever. The categories include Gnarliest Beard, Sweetest 'Stache, Best Groomed, Chops, Freestyle, and a ladies division. Live music from Cavedweller keeps the fur flying. 9pm. *Mohawk, 912 Red River, 482-8404. [www.misprintmagazine.com](http://www.misprintmagazine.com).*

**BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME** Listen to spoken-word performances of prison protest poetry as part of Freedom Weekend. 6pm. *Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809.*

### 🐱 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. 7pm. *Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. [www.wblibrary.org/events/AcademyAwards/oscar.htm](http://www.wblibrary.org/events/AcademyAwards/oscar.htm).*

**CENTRAL TEXAS RAIL WORKSHOP** Register online for this comprehensive look at our new rail and how it could fit into a larger rail system for Texas and the U.S. *Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 471-2933. Free. [www.mobilityauthority.com/rail\\_workshop](http://www.mobilityauthority.com/rail_workshop).*

## FAIRYTALE THREADS CONSIGNMENT EVENT

Bring a canned food item for the Round Rock Area Serving Center and your outgrown baby clothes, toys, and gear. Sell the old baby stuff, and get a deal on something more appropriate for your rapidly growing spawn. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 20-21. Old Settlers Association, 3300 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/850-3280. [www.fairytalethreads.com](http://www.fairytalethreads.com).*

👑 **FOODIES RAWKS - OOPS!** Did we say it was last Friday? Dang. We meant *this* Friday. Are you new to Foodies? Don't be. Join the women who love food all over their rockin' women: Liz Simmons, Midnight Frequency, and Tiffany (as Kitty says, "Yeah, but no, not that one.") 7pm. *Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. Free. [beatsagogo@aol.com](mailto:beatsagogo@aol.com).*

👑 **FRIDAY NIGHT BEARS** Where da bears (and chubs and chasers) are! Beer bust prices 'til close. 10pm. *Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. Free. [lonestarbears@aol.com](mailto:lonestarbears@aol.com), [www.lonestarbears.com](http://www.lonestarbears.com).*

**GREEN DRINKS HAPPY HOUR** Michele Hallahan with Eco-Logic Solutions keeps the booze-laden gathering green. 6pm. *Fiddler's Hearth, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 535-5008. [www.fiddlershearth.com/austin](http://www.fiddlershearth.com/austin).*

**RADICAL SCHOLARS** Scholar/activist Dylan Rodriguez presents *Prison, Disaster, Genocide: From (Anti)black Slavery to Mt. Pinatubo, and the Laya Dance Collective* brings the dignity of the Philippines' cultural legacy through dance. 8:30pm. *Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

## UNIVERSITIES MEETING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

This smorgasbord of panels and discussions puts the hot-button issues of our day (the economy, environment, etc.) in a global perspective. 8am-5:30pm. *AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 471-6267. Free. [rsccadmin@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:rsccadmin@austin.utexas.edu), [www.robertstrausscenter.org](http://www.robertstrausscenter.org).*

## WASHINGTON WINES

The Wine & Food Foundation of Texas joins forces with the Washington Wine Commission to sample wines made from the grapes of the Northwest. Local chefs will serve small bites, so you'll have something to wash down. 6pm. *Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 327-7555. \$50 (\$40, members). [www.winefoodfoundation.org](http://www.winefoodfoundation.org).*

## WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE: POWER & POLITICS

A panel of elected women officials discusses what it means to be a woman in power. 8am. *Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones, 841-4093. \$25. [www.genaustin.org](http://www.genaustin.org).*

## DRESS FOR SUCCESS (See Thursday, 2/19.)

**VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRAR OPEN HOUSE**  
(See Thursday, 2/19.)

## CLASSICAL MUSIC (See Arts Listings.)

**One World Theatre: Vienna Teng**  
*One World Theatre*

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

**Ben-Hur** @ Wells Branch Community Library, 7pm  
**Happiness Is** @ Ragsdale Center, Jones Auditorium (at St. Edward's University), 7pm  
**The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience**  
@ IMAX Theatre, 6:30, 9:30pm

## MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

**Misprint Magazine's Third Annual Beard & Moustache Competition** *Mohawk*  
**Pack of Wolves** *Room 710*  
**Vienna Teng** *One World Theatre*

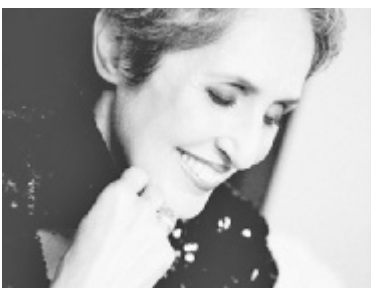
## SATURDAY 21

**ACUPUNCTURE DAY** Come and see the myriad ailments that acupuncture can alleviate. 10am-4pm. *Resonance Community Acupuncture, Dynamic Health Center, 2612 S. Lamar, 577-8654. Free. [www.resonancecare.com](http://www.resonancecare.com).*

**AIS OPEN HOUSE** This trilingual immersion school open house is for parents of pre-K through fifth-grade students, as well as the students themselves. 10am-noon. *Austin International School, 12001 Oak Knoll, 331-7806. Free. [www.austininternationalschool.org](http://www.austininternationalschool.org).*

**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](http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org).*

**BEER & CHEESE CLASS** If wine is just a bit too formal, you should know how to pair your favorite brew with the right cheese. Dare you to ask what goes with Natty Light. Call or sign up online to register. 11am. *North by Northwest Restaurant & Brewery, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969. \$35. [www.nxnwbrew.com](http://www.nxnwbrew.com).*



| L - R: BEARD EVENTS (SEE FRIDAY OR SUNDAY) | 'PLAYING THROUGH' (SPORTS, P.64) | 'CYRANO DE BERGERAC' (ARTS, P.66) | 'WENDY AND LUCY' (FILM, P.72) | JOAN BAEZ (MUSIC, P.80)

**BOB THE BUILDER** takes a break from his construction gig to help with a special storyline and math activity. Then it's back to the job site. 2-4pm. *Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50 (kids younger than 12 months, free). www.austinkids.org.*

**BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME** Activists, attorneys, community leaders, historians, and others continue the conversation about human rights and its effect as black self-determination. 12:30-6:15pm. *Eidman Courtroom of UT's School of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton.*

**CASABLANCA GALA** CASA of Travis County – which helps abused children find loving homes – celebrates the supporters who have helped along the way with a classy shindig with live music, food, blackjack and roulette tables, silent and live auctions, and more. Retiring Judge Jeanne Meurer is honored for all her work in aid of the organization. 7pm. *Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 459-2272. \$125. www.casatrasavis.org/casablanca.html.*

**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.wblibrary.org/events/AcademyAwards/oscar.htm.*

**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM** Place 5 candidate Bill Spelman discusses neighborhoods, public participation, and open government with the people he hopes to serve next term. 10am-noon. *Will Hampton Branch Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd. Free. info@billspelma.org.*

**COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY CONFERENCE** Workshops, keynotes, and more anti-death-penalty networking than you could want. Sign up online. *First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 441-1808. \$50. www.tcadp.org.*

**DESTINY BY DESIGN RECORD FAIR** Thousands of records (you know, those big, black CDs you see in old movies) will be up for a dollar a piece with the proceeds going to afterschool programs at Kealing and Bedichek middle schools. Don't get caught in the hipster stampede. 9am-3pm. *Gene's New Orleans Style Poboys & Deli, 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600. www.myspace.com/narcissebanks.*

**KITE WORKSHOP** The kids will be crafting their own kites and flying them in the park as a way of practicing for the upcoming Kite Festival. 1pm. *Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland, 458-4107. \$2 (\$1, children). www.cityofaustin.org/parks/northwest.htm.*

**KREWE OF SAZERAC MARDI GRAS SOIREE** The Mardi Gras madness includes live music (headlined by Mingo Fishtrap), illusionist Tom Coverly, body-painting, and charity poker. All this debauchery and money goes to SafePlace. 8pm-2am. *Cedar Street, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669. \$20 (\$50, VIP). krewofsazerac@gmail.com, www.myspace.com/krewofsazerac.*

**LASA ROBOTICS WII PARTII** The Liberal Arts and Science Academy High School presents a day of gaming tournaments. The glorious geekery will be complemented by robotics demos, prizes, booths, snacks, and more. Nerd is the new cool, so what's stopping you? 1:30pm. *Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 825-3208. \$5. www.lasarobotics.org/wiipartii.*

**LIVE OAK CARNIVAL** Get in on the games, prizes, food, raffles, inflatables, and a silent auction, and help out your local elementary school. 1-5pm. *Live Oak Elementary, 8607 Anderson Mill. \$10 (full admission) or 25 cents per game. www.liveoakpta.org/pta/carnival.php.*

**METRO RAIL OPEN HOUSES** The MetroRail is set to launch on March 30. Till then settle for checking out the trains, stations, schedule, and ticket kiosks at one of these open houses. 10am-2pm. *MLK station, 1719 Alexander; Crestview station, 6920 N. Lamar, 474-1200. Free. www.capmetro.org.*

**MONTHLY BIRD WALK** The folks at Travis Audubon show you how to walk and bird-watch in style. 7:30am. *Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 300-2473. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.*

**PHOENIX RISING** Following a prescribed burn in the Bohls tract near the town of Bee Caves, the black-capped vireos are returning. Register online for meeting location. 9am-1pm. *Free. www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildland/online/registration/ecowebevents.cfm.*

**RENT PARTY** Help save El Jardin Alegre community garden, which needs \$600 to pay its recently increased rent. Music from Wino Vino and the Blair Bobbjerg Theramin Explosion puts you in the charitable mood. 4-8pm. *El Jardin Alegre, 1801 E. Second, 385-0080. \$5 donation. juliamaffe@hotmail.com, www.thrivingplanet.net.*

**SECRETS TO PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS** Call to register. 3pm. *NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 892-3366. Free. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.*

**SILK-SCREENING DEMO** John Mosteller of Hairless Ape Design teaches you the basics and shows off his skills. Noon-3pm. *Jerry's Artarama, 6010 N. I-35. Free. www.ape-gear.com.*

**TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY** Get to know the different types of bamboo that thrive in Austin, and groom some bamboo yourself in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden. Hand clippers, loppers, a saw, and gloves are recommended. 10am. *Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 929-9565. Free. www.bamboocentral.net.*

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE** Get a little dirty, and help clean up the trails at Candlelight Ranch. 8:15am-2pm. *Candlelight Ranch, 4115 Firstview, 569-8861. www.trailtamers.org.*

**ULTIMATE NETWORKING CONFERENCE** Looking to jump-start your group's or organization's visibility? This is your chance to schmooze your pants off with table discussions, presenters, and an expo. 10am-6pm. *Sheraton Hotel, 701 E. 11th. \$10 (\$75, VIP). www.ultimatemixer.com.*

**VIVA LAS VEGAS** Bust out your sequin dresses and muttonchops for some fake gambling, fancy entertainment, and fabulous auctions all to benefit AIDS Services of Austin and the Capital Area AIDS Legal Project. 8pm. *Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 406-6115. \$60 (\$50, advance). betty.mitchell@asaustin.org, www.asaustin.org.*

**VOLUNTEER TREE PLANTING** Give Pease Park a chance by volunteering to plant trees in Eeyore's favorite park. Tree-loving groups from all over Austin will gather to help plant more than 100 trees. Bring work gloves and an environmentally friendly attitude. 10am-1pm. *Pease Park at 1100 Kingsbury, 440-1806. www.greengirls.net.*

**WORLD CARNAVAL** The Academicos da Ópera Samba School hosts an evening of dancing, crafts, and music, all with a Brazilian bent. See our Club Listings, p.84, for a complete lineup. 8:30pm. *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 650-9358. \$12 (\$10, students). fredericog@gmail.com.*

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS** (See Thursday, 2/19.)

**FAIRYTALE THREADS CONSIGNMENT EVENT** (See Friday.)

**PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL** (See Thursday, 2/19.)

**CLASSICAL MUSIC** (See Arts Listings.)

**Philip Glass: Book of Longing**  
Bass Concert Hall

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)  
**AMOA**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**AMC Best Picture Showcase** @ Barton Creek Square, 10:30am, 1:05, 3:45, 7:15, 9:45pm  
**Futurama: Into the Wild Green Yonder** @ Alamo Ritz, 4:45pm  
**The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience** @ IMAX Theatre, 1, 6:30, 9:30  
**The Rocky Horror Picture Show** @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)  
**Tribute to Nina Simone** Victory Grill  
**E. Static, Hotel Hotel, My Empty Phantom** Scoot Inn & Bier Garten  
**Foot Patrol, Magnifico, Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat** Red 7  
**Precious Blood, Aaron Blount, Ethan Azarian** Progress Coffee  
**Philip Glass** Bass Concert Hall

## SUNDAY 22

**ACADEMY AWARDS GALA** Get the red-carpet treatment with two film screenings and more to benefit LifeWorks. 6:30pm. *Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 485-5999. \$300. www.lifeworksweb.org.*

**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.*

**CHASE THEM CHUBS** Just to ensure that the chubs stay chub, RCC offers a free lunch buffet and \$1 drafts at its weekly Chub Chaser Bear Cub Experience. Free food! Here, Chubby, Chubby, Chubby! 1-9pm. *Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.rainbowcattleco.com.*

**COOKING WITH HERBS** Mick Vann, Food writer for this very publication, shows you how to transform your cooking with herbs from the yard. 2pm. *It's About Thyme Nursery, 11726 Manchaca Rd., 280-1192. Free. www.itsaboutthyme.com.*

**DANCING TOGETHER** World music, bare feet, and a delightful lack of self-awareness bring people together for an all-out dance jam every week. *Sundays, 10am-noon; Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 7:45-9:45pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 916-4499. \$7 suggested donation.*

# gayplace

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

**JUST THE DEVIL WITH LOVE TO SPARE** We stood with Elvis as our witness, my straight date and I, and said our vows. So you see, I have been gay married. Sure, it may have been years ago at the Austin Music Hall at **AIDS Services of Austin's Viva Las Vegas**, and our vows may have been the product of drunken revelry/reverie, but just because Elvis and the Love Me Tender Wedding Chapel no longer exist doesn't make it any less real. ASA honcho Scott Dinger assures us that the chapel's demise was not related to the escalating national gay marriage fracas. "It had just run its course," he said, along with ye ol' peanut-butter-and-banana eater. True dat. Gay folks these days want the real deal, not vows of spoof. These days, in lieu of honeymoon foreplay, the people come to lay odds. Ahem. Anyhoo, check it out this weekend, as lots of new traditions have crept into replace the old ones (like the legion of gay men with more than one – usually straight – woman on their arms and **La Zona Rosa** as the backdrop), and it's all still for a great cause. See Saturday.

Send gay bits to  
gayplace@  
austinchronicle.com.  
Visit  
austinchronicle.com/  
gayplaceblog.

GENESIS 1:26  
Trinity Street Players presents...

# Inherit the Wind

and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind, and God saw that that was good. And on the sixth day that God created man in his own image, according to his likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every

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Sunday, February 15 & 22 at 2:00 p.m.

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**



GERALD E. MCLEOD

**La Sal del Rey** does not give up its secrets easily. Surrounded by a tangled web of thick vegetation, the salt lake in central Hidalgo County is as inhospitable as it is beautiful.

In spring and fall the brush country is alive with flowers, butterflies, birds, and animals. The trails lead through a rugged wilderness of tall grass, thorny vines, and gnarly trees.

La Sal del Rey was once part of an extinct inland sea, says Bryan Winton, refuge manager for the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. "It is an integral part of the area's ecology," Winton says. With only about 5% of the wildlife habitat remaining in the region, the lake is valuable territory to endangered coastal birds and mammals such as the ocelot.

No one knows for sure how the lake was formed. The mile-long and 5-mile-wide lake covers 530 acres and averages a depth of approximately 4 feet. It can rise to 10 feet deep or become bone dry during weather extremes.

Even to untrained taste buds, the water is saltier than sea water. The lake bed is a large deposit of rock-crystal salt of undetermined depth. Estimates say that the lake holds at least 4 million tons of salt. Cargill operates a salt plant at the site.

Spanish explorers claimed the salt deposit for the king. Tracks left by heavily laden wagons headed for Mexico City can still be seen around the lake. During the Civil War, camels were used to carry the salt to Confederate troops. Soaking in the pool is said to be therapeutic for arthritis sufferers.

Today, the lake is one of 125 parcels of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge that stretches from Falcon Dam to the mouth of the Rio Grande. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service hopes to create a wildlife corridor along the last 275 miles of the river. "We're trying to connect the string of pearls," Winton says of the scattered parcels of land.

Home to 1,100 types of plants, 700 vertebrate species, and more than 300 kinds of butterflies, the region is one of the most biologically diverse in the nation. Winton says the border fence being built by another federal agency has severe implications on the refuge. "It's not the best situation," he says, "but there are still opportunities to connect the land parcels."

La Sal del Rey is a natural anomaly even for an ecological crossroads as diverse as the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Access to the salt lake is a 15-minute walk from a small parking lot off U.S. 186, four miles southeast of Linn. Winton also recommends a shorter hike on the north side of the lake from Brushline Road. Trail maps are available from the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo, 956/784-7500.

920th 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**

**RIO GRANDE MUSIC FESTIVAL** presents five days and five stages of country, western, bluegrass, and gospel music with performers coming from around the country and lots of open-mic opportunities. *Through Feb. 22, gates open at 8am. Rio Grande Valley Livestock Showgrounds, 1000 N. Texas Ave., Mercedes, 956/373-0130. www.rgvmf.com.*

**USED BOOK SALE** offers a wide variety of new and used books plus a special children's corner with proceeds going to the Roberts Memorial Library. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 19-21, 9am-5pm. Washington County Fairgrounds, Brenham, 979/836-3695. \$10 Thursday, \$1 Friday & Saturday. www.brenhamtexas.com.*

**MARDI GRAS WEEKEND** thrills visitors with concerts, parades, carnival rides, kids activities, arts & crafts, lots of food, and strolling street entertainment. *Thu.-Sun., Feb. 19-22. Procter Street, Port Arthur, 409/721-8717. www.portarthur.com/mardigras.*

**HILL COUNTRY ANTIQUE SHOW** features more than 70 vendors displaying furniture, baskets, stoneware, glassware, jewelry, textiles, toys, silver, quilts, pewter, American oak, Southwestern, and more. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 21-22. Kendall County Fairgrounds, Boerne, 830/995-3670. \$5. www.texasantiqueshow.com.*

**STAR NIGHT** gives small groups a chance to tour the night sky with Bill Tschumy and his telescope. Reservations required. *Sat., Feb. 21, 6-8pm. Westcave Preserve, southwest Travis County, 830/825-3442. \$5 (\$2, children). www.westcave.org.*

**FACIAL HAIR CLUB BENEFIT** See Club Listings, p.84, for a complete lineup of bands playing in support of Austin's best beards. If the benefit goes well, they will be traveling to Alaska for the World Beard & Moustache Championship in May. *Beerland, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625). www.myspace.com/austinfacialhairclub.*

**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.*

**GO TO L** Get yer L Word fix, yer coffee fix, and an eyel-of-ladies fix. Every Sunday 'til it's over. Time to find a new fix. *8pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.*

**GREEN GARDEN FESTIVAL** Talks and tips abound to help you keep your yard beautiful and environmentally sound. *Noon-4pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 974-2550. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/greengarden.*

**HAPPY LIVING WITH JUSTICE** Texas Jail Project Director Diana Claitor talks about the conditions of our jails and what can be done about it. *3pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809. Free.*

**HEAT WAVE FASHION SHOW** See the finest and latest in hair and fashion on the runway with the money going to Waterloo Counseling Center. Bid on items throughout the night, or just make a donation. *7pm. Cedar Door, 201 Brazos, 473-3712. Free. sara.judkins@gmail.com.*

**LAID-BACK CHURCH** God bless everybody, no exceptions. Join the progressive, all-inclusive, and laid-back God Squad at MCC at Freedom Oaks on every day of rest. *6:24pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 8601 S. First, 291-8601. office@mccaustin.com, www.mccaustin.com.*

**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.*

**OUT DANCING SALSA PARTY** Partner dance lessons where your partner will turn heads for the right reasons (not just because you are the same sex). *7pm. Go Dance, 2525 W. Anderson, 339-9391. \$5 (free with salsa series). taletha.j@godancestudio.com, www.austinoutdancing.com.*

**REALLY REALLY FREE MARKET** You think Obama's socialist? This potluck-style market will disprove the myth of scarcity and give capitalism the what for. No money will be exchanged, only goods and services. *Last Sundays of the month, 1-4pm. Chestnut Community Park, Chestnut & East 16th. www.myspace.com/freemarketatx.*

**RED TIE AFFAIR FOR WILLIE KOCUREK** Stories, photos, and memories help celebrate the life and legacy of one of Austin's community leaders. *2pm. AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611 x223. Free. www.ageofaustin.org.*

**SAVE ARTZ BENEFIT** We've got our own little stimulus package right here. Eight artists, including Slaid Cleaves and Del Castillo, band together to help the ailing South Austin barbecue joint. If that isn't enough, auction items donated by musicians and other supportive businesses will be on the block. We want our baby back. *5pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958. \$10.*

**STATE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL FORUM** Rep. Mark Strama discusses his role as the state's chair of the Technology, Economic Development, and Workforce Committee. *4pm. First United Methodist*

**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 March 6 issue is Monday, Feb. 23.** 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:

Church, 1201 Lavaca, 478-5684. Free. [www.davidhasissues.com](http://www.davidhasissues.com).

**WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM** Robert King, former Black Panther and member of the Angola 3, tells his story. *Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS** (See Thursday, 2/19.)

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)  
**The Blanton Museum of Art**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**Red Carpet Viewing Party** @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 6:15pm  
**The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience** @ IMAX Theatre, 3, 6:30pm  
**With a Warm Heart** @ Texas Union Theatre, 6pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)  
**The Texcentrics** Threadgill's World HQ

**MONDAY 23**

**AUSTIN BUTTERFLY FORUM MEETING** Members of this group gather to share their experiences and pictures of backyard insects and butterflies. *7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free. www.austin-butterflies.org.*

**CENTRAL TEXAS DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON** The mayoral candidates will be moving and shaking and, if they're lucky, accruing some votes. *11:45am. Austin Bar Association, 816 Congress #700, 320-0665. \$20. jerben@herring-irwin.com.*

**GET YOUR SCRUM ON** Do you crave full-body contact? Come train with the Valkyries women's rugby team, Mondays and Wednesdays. No experience necessary. *7pm. Burnet Middle School, 8401 Hathaway, 841-8289. alex.davenport1@gmail.com.*

**IMMIGRATION SPEAKER SERIES** What are the ramifications of increased collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and Immigration & Customs Enforcement. We'll give you a hint: Immigrants are not winning in this deal. *6pm. TICE Community Space, 1009 E. 11th. www.austinirc.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.*

**MARDI GRAS PARTY & BENEFIT** To help defray political activist Pat Crow's medical costs, local elected officials – including Lloyd Doggett, Kirk Watson, and Will Wynn, among others – will be doing their best Crow imitations. Cajun food and music spice things up even more. See "Fundraiser for Pat Crow," News, p.25, for more details. *5:30pm. Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043. \$15. www.patcrow.com.*

**MUSIC INDUSTRY BOOT CAMP** A panel of experts, including the Chronicle's own music writer Doug Freeman, dissects the strengths and weaknesses of the Austin music scene. *6:30pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. Free. www.austinmusicfoundation.org.*

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**Get Crazy** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm  
**The Big Sleep** @ Hampton Library, 6pm

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

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

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

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



# sports

BY MARK FAGAN listings

THE SCORE Your Base on Balls  
austinchronicle.com/sports



JOHN ANDERSON

BY THOMAS HACKETT **playingthrough**

Even if you're not in the least religious yourself, there's something enviable about people who are. Go to one of those holy roller, testifying kind of churches,

and you're going to encounter a lot of otherwise ordinary people who seem to have found the Answer.

You get the same exuberant certainty around marathoners. Wherever I've lived, if there's a marathon in town, I'll be there – not usually to run myself – just to soak up their zeal. The day before the race, when the runners are picking up their numbers and complimentary T-shirts, is the most festive. Not everyone who runs a marathon is in awesome shape, yet for that one day, everyone is feeling awesome about themselves. They've trained for months. They've put in countless long, lonely jogs. And now they get to celebrate. For as the novelist **John Barth** wrote: "The key to the treasure is the treasure." That is, the reward of running a marathon is the marathon.

Twenty years ago, I thought that I needed a much bigger reward. It was early October, at a party in New York, and there was this girl I wanted to impress. She was talking with some people about how they loved to cheer on the participants in the New York City Marathon. That was my in.

"Oh, I'm running in that," I said. "Really? Wow!" everyone said. "We'll come watch you!"

Until that moment, I had no intention of running so much as a 10K. But now, I had no choice.

OK. Four or five miles into the thing, my stupidity caught up with me. But somehow I finished, and girl or no girl, running has never lost its appeal. Relationships, jobs, 401ks, friends, pets – they come

and go, but running remains. "It's like being a surfer and searching for the perfect wave," says **John Conley**, race director of last week-end's Austin Marathon. "Not to get all spiritual, but the marathon changes you. After you've run one, you're not the same person you were before. You've redefined your limits."

Take **Walter Joaquin**, age 67. I met Joaquin at the Palmer Events Center while he was picking up an extra-large T-shirt. "I saw you look at my belly!" he said, introducing himself. It was an impressive belly. But here he was, running his third marathon, hoping to cut more than an hour off his previous time. In that, Joaquin didn't quite succeed, but he did finish (second to last), which, in my book, is every bit as impressive as what the other 4,024 finishers accomplished.

Wanting to join their party this year instead of watching, I ran myself, competing in the half along with another 7,187 finishers. If you do the math on that, 11,213 runners racked up just shy of 200,000 miles. Altogether, we could have circumnavigated the globe eight times, which explains why we needed a half-million cups of water and some 400 Porta Pottis.

As it happens, running 13.1 miles over a surprisingly hilly course is not the ideal way to conduct interviews. But all of those runners have stories of their own. If you get a chance, you should ask them about it. They'll be happy to offer their testimony. Not to get all spiritual or anything.

Please write Mr. Hackett at [playingthrough@austinchronicle.com](mailto:playingthrough@austinchronicle.com).

## THE MAIN EVENT

★ **BEARD AND MOUSTACHE COMPETITION** In its third year, *Misprint Magazine's* facial-hair contest is looking to be bigger and thicker than ever, if that's possible. The categories include Gnarliest Beard, Sweetest Stache, Best Groomed, Chops, Freestyle, and a Ladies division. Live music from Cavedweller. *Fri., Feb. 20, 9pm. The Mohawk, 9212 Red River, 482-8404. www.misprintmagazine.com.*

## THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** are our own professional b-ball team and S.A. Spurs' affiliate playing in the heart of Downtown. High-quality hoops for a bargain price. Vs. Colorado: *Sun., Feb. 22, 3pm. Vs. Albuquerque: Tue. & Thu., Feb. 24 & 26, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

**ROUND ROCK EXPRESS NATIONAL ANTHEM TRYOUTS** Austin Lyric Opera is teaming with the Express to search for Central Texas' strongest voices to sing the national anthem during Round Rock's 10th anniversary season. See website for entry form. *Thu., Feb. 19, 5pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock. www.roundrockexpress.com.*

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Austin College: *Fri., Feb. 20, 6pm. Vs. Colorado College: Sun., Feb. 22, noon. Women's Basketball* Vs. Austin College: *Fri., Feb. 20, 8pm. Vs. Colorado College: Sun., Feb. 22, 2pm. Baseball* Vs. Millsaps: *Sat., Feb. 21, 2 & 5pm (doubleheader); Sun., Feb. 22, 2pm. Tennis* Vs. Texas A&M: *Sat., Feb. 21, 9am. www.southwesternpirates.com.*

**TEXAS STATE Women's Tennis** Vs. Trinity: *Sat., Feb. 21, 11am. Bobcat Tennis Complex, San Marcos. Men's Basketball* Vs. Nicholls State: *Sat., Feb. 21, 4:05pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. Women's Basketball* Vs. Stephen F. Austin: *Wed., Feb. 25, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

**ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Lincoln: *Thu., Feb. 26, 8pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Lincoln: *Thu., Feb. 26, 5:30pm. Men's and Women's Tennis* Vs. Dallas Baptist University: *Fri., Feb. 20, 2pm. Men's Golf* St. Edward's Invitational: *Mon.-Tue., Feb. 23-24, noon. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.*

**HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Jarvis Christian College: *Mon., Feb. 23, 6:30pm.*

**AUSTIN TURFCATS FREE-AGENT TRY-OUT** The Turfcats of the Southern Indoor Football League are giving free agents another chance to work out for coach Chris Duliban. Must provide your own workout attire. *Sat., Feb. 21, 9am (registration). Hutto High School, 101 FM 685, Hutto. \$50 cash. www.turfcats.com.*

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Baseball** Vs. Huston-Tillotson: *Tue., Feb. 24, 2pm. Men's Basketball* Vs. Howard Payne University: *Thu., Feb. 19, 7:30pm. Vs. Sul Ross State: Sat., Feb. 21, 3pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Howard Payne University: *Thu., Feb. 19, 5:30pm. Vs. Sul Ross State: Sat., Feb. 21, 1pm. athletics.concordia.edu.*

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Tennis** Vs. Texas-San Antonio: *Fri., Feb. 20, 2pm. Vs. Lamar: Fri., Feb. 20, 6pm. Vs. Arkansas: Sun., Feb. 22, 12:30pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. Baseball* Vs. Illinois-Chicago: *Fri., Feb. 20, 3pm; Sat., Feb. 21, 12:30 & 3:30pm; Sun., Feb. 22, 1pm. Vs. UT-Arlington: Tue., Feb. 24, 3pm. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. Women's Tennis* Vs. Arizona State: *Sat., Feb. 21, 11am. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. Men's Basketball* Vs. Oklahoma: *Sat., Feb. 21, 8pm. Vs. Texas Tech: Wed., Feb. 25, 8:30pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texasports.com.*

## RECREATION & FITNESS

**AUSTIN ADVENTURE BOOT CAMP** is a women's only fitness program with each class featuring energizing activities designed to help you reduce body fat, lose inches, increase your strength, and improve your stamina. Locations throughout Austin, 626-0504. \$199 for 12-day camps, \$299 for 20-day camps. [www.abbootcamp.com](http://www.abbootcamp.com).

**HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS** Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month: hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. *Mon., Feb. 23, 6:30pm. Opal Divine's at Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 383-1191. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

**TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK** is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. This month Beth Waters will present a course on backpacking. *Tue., Feb. 24, 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Center, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm. 225 www.townaustin.org.*

**KIDS KUNG FU OPEN HOUSE** Kids ages 5-12 can see demonstrations of kung fu and try some moves themselves. *Sat., Feb. 21, 1pm. Body Business Health Club & Spa, 2700 W. Anderson #802, 323-0805. Free. www.austinkungfuacademy.com.*

**EWGA LOVE YA – MEAN IT TOURNEY** Hosted by the Austin Chapter of the Executive Women's Golf Association, this two-person partner golf tourney will be a Texas shamble format: both partners hit drives, select the best drive, then both play their own ball. *Sun., Feb. 22, noon. Lost Creek Country Club, 2612 Lost Creek Blvd., 364-8113. www.ewga-austin.com.*

## RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

**COLORADO RIVER WALKERS FALLEN WARRIORS WALK** Choose between 5K and 10K routes along mainly concrete hike-and-bike trails. *Sat., Feb. 21, starting between 8am and noon. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel, Pflugerville, 512/341-8953. www.coloradoriverwalkers.org.*

★ **PAWS FOR MARDI GRAS 5K WALK** features a walk and costume contest for doggies and their owners, a parade, a silent auction, and more, with proceeds benefiting the Georgetown Animal Shelter. *Sat., Feb. 21, 10am. San Gabriel Park, 900 N. College, Georgetown. www.paws.georgetown.org.*

**LOVE A FACE 5K** Presented by Hill County Circle of Friends, this race includes the 5K, a 10K run, and a children's fun run. All proceeds from the race will benefit the Dell Children's Medical Center, which provides care to all children in a 46-county area regardless of their families' ability to pay. *Sat., Feb. 21, 8am. Williamson County Park, 472-7463. www.childrensaustin.org.*

## BY NICK BARBARO **soccer watch**

The **Austin Aztex** are, amazingly, just a week away from opening their inaugural preseason against the **New England Revolution** of Major League Soccer. The Revs arrive in Austin on Monday, Feb. 23, and train here on Tuesday through Friday before the game, *Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:30pm, at Nelson Field*. Monday is also the deadline for a couple of Aztex **ticket packages**, including tickets to the three MLS preseason games (Houston Dynamo, March 7; Columbus Crew, March 14). See [www.austinaztex.com](http://www.austinaztex.com) for details.

The **Houston Dynamo** open the 2009 season even sooner, hosting a **CONCACAF Champions League** quarterfinal against **Atlante** of Mexico *Tuesday, Feb. 24, 9pm, at Robertson Stadium*. Tickets through Ticketmaster; also shown live on Fox Soccer Channel. In fact, FSC will broadcast all eight CONCACAF quarterfinal games, Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 24-26, and March 3-5 (full schedule online). Two of the Aztex USL-1 rivals are in the competition: the **Montreal Impact** and **Puerto Rico Islanders**.

**European Champions League** knockout stages begin Feb. 24-25 as well. ESPN2's games of the week: Manchester United at Inter Milan on Tuesday, Juventus at Chelsea Wednesday, both at 1:30pm.

Aztex affiliate **Stoke City** has a critical game Saturday, Feb. 21, hosting relegation rival Portsmouth; it's on FSC, delayed at 5:30pm.

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in *The Austin Chronicle*? Submit your sporty happening online at [austinchronicle.com/commform](http://austinchronicle.com/commform).

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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](mailto:gameplans@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).



**February 22, 3:00pm**  
**Toros vs. Colorado 14ers**

Poster giveaway courtesy of Academy Sports & Outdoors

**February 24, 7:30pm**  
**Toros vs. Albuquerque Thunderbirds**

Mardi Gras Celebration

**February 26, 7:30pm**  
**Toros vs. Albuquerque Thunderbirds**

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# arts listings

## Cyrano de Bergerac



Mary Moody Northern Theatre, through Feb. 22  
Running time: 3 hr

*Cyrano de Bergerac* demands a lot. At the top of the show, as the audience tries to acclimate itself to the verse and speech and costumes with frilly lace, lots of things happen that strike at

the heart of the play and the character who rules it. The people of 1640 Paris have come to the theatre to watch a play. They gossip before the show as they bump in to friends and share a laugh at the expense of one Monsieur Cyrano de Bergerac (the excellent David M. Long), a poet and soldier with a witty attitude bigger than his legendarily long nose. No sooner has the play-within-a-play started than Cyrano puts a halt to the action, kicks the objectionable actor offstage, pays off the company, and slays the man who challenges him. It's a busy 10 minutes.

The 1987 movie *Roxanne* may have popularized the story of Cyrano, but it never gets across the depth of feeling and contradiction within the character, the man who uses bravado to fend off the mere possibility of rejection, who pre-empts mockery with his rapier. We learn that Cyrano has spent his entire monthly income to pay off the players, to make a spectacle in his favor. The prospect of starvation is worth it. He prefers to live in poverty for the sake of what he calls "freedom" – the freedom to say and do as he wishes, no matter how many enemies he collects.

He collects a lot.

Michelle Polgar directs this three-hour symphony of language with skill. While a large company is hard to manage with consistency, watch at the edges for little gems, such as a

pilfered bread roll or a quiet game of cards.

The greatest moments in this *Cyrano* come when characters square off against one another; when Cyrano's companion, Le Bret (Greg Holt), pleads with him to watch his step; or when Christian (a talented Christopher Smith), Cyrano's rival for the love of Roxane (Julia Trinidad), begins to question Cyrano's unflagging enthusiasm for writing his love letters for him. Through these moments we see both Cyrano's self-destruction and his knack for winning fights at impossible odds.

In Austin, this city of a thousand rock stars, Cyrano is a familiar character type, for all that the play about him was written more than 100 years ago. The mirrors scattered across Stephen Pruitt's set suggest as much. While much of Austin does its best to live life decently and by the rules, there are also those here who throw aside health insurance, retirement accounts, and rent money in favor of living freely. Like Cyrano, they are awesome to watch, even as they collapse in the end.

If you hadn't guessed by now, I'm biased. I adore Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* and, in particular, the Anthony Burgess translation that is used for this Mary Moody Northern Theatre production. Cyrano's penchant for self-sabotage hits home for anyone who has ever wanted something greater than to be average.

Try to see through my bias, however. This is a production worth seeing. – Elizabeth Cobbe

## theatre

### OPENING

**OTHELLO** Japhy Fernandes and the Austin Drama Club present this Shakespeare drama fast on the heels of their just-finished *Hamlet*. What's the setting of this eight-person version? "Think Roman Polanski's *Chinatown*." E-mail for location. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 19-March 14, 8pm.* [ceasarbnice@yahoo.com](mailto:ceasarbnice@yahoo.com).

**SHERLOCK HOLMES** William Gillette's drama about Conan Doyle's beloved consulting detective is presented by Weird City Theatre under the direction of John Carroll. *Feb. 19-March 1. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm.* Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 745-2636. \$15 (\$12, students, children). [www.weirdcitytheatre.com](http://www.weirdcitytheatre.com).

**WARPSTAR SEXYSQUAD** It's a sci-fi upheaval of intergalactic proportions, brought to you by those Yellow Tape Construction folks who created *I Love My Dead Gay Son: The Musical!* a few years back. It's a world where the fate of humanity depends on "a superstar squadron of time-travelin' mavericks, committed to defending the Intergalactic Alliance and preserving the sanctity of Unborn Time." It's got a big cast, space aliens, "lezzar beams," and Yellow Tape co-jefe Jonathon Morgan onstage, and we reckon it's enough to make George Lucas and/or Jason Neulander and/or Chad Salvata twitch like Herbert Lom's left eye in the *Pink Panther* movies. (See "Rocketing Through Hard Times," p.34, for more.) *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 19-March 7, 8pm.* The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$15 (\$10, students; \$5 discount for anyone wearing "a totally excellent sci-fi costume.") [www.yellowtape.org](http://www.yellowtape.org).

**MURDER ON A TRAIN** Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players invite you to experience an interactive comedy-mystery in full locomotion as "Phillip Edward Greystone – renowned playboy, idle rich, and potential fatality – throws his annual Mardi Gras party on the Hill Country Flyer." Includes beer, wine, a boxed New Orleans-style meal, and a chance to solve the crime. *Sat., Feb. 21, 6:30pm (train returns at 10pm).* Cedar Park Depot, 401 E. Whitestone. 477-8468. \$50 per person.

**FENCES** August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning tale of a Negro League ballplayer turned trash collector in 1957 Pittsburgh is directed by Lisa Jordan for City Theatre just in time for Black History Month. *Feb. 26-March 22. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 5:30pm.* City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$15-20 (\$12, students; pay what you can, Thursdays). [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

**BOMBS IN YOUR MOUTH** This is the world premiere of Corey Patrick's dark comedy about a long-estranged brother and a sister reuniting after their father dies. This comedy stars Joey Hood and Liz Fisher. This comedy, powerfully funny, is directed by Ken Webster for Hyde Park Theatre. You saw HPT's *Dog Sees God*? You saw its *The Pillowman*? We reckon you want to see this. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 26-March 28, 8pm.* Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$18 (\$16, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you wish, Thursdays). [www.hydeparktheatre.org](http://www.hydeparktheatre.org).

### CLOSING

**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](http://www.zachtheatre.org).

**THE SHADOW BOX** Michael Christofer's Pulitzer winner about making sense of death is presented by NXNW Theatre Company. *Through Feb. 22. Fri.-Sun., 8pm.* City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$20 (\$18, students, seniors, military). [www.citytheatreAustin.org](http://www.citytheatreAustin.org).

**INHERIT THE WIND** The Trinity Street Players present this Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee classic about the Scopes "Monkey" Trial of 1925. *Through Feb. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm.* 901 Trinity, 476-2625. Free.

**CYRANO DE BERGERAC** Edmond Rostand's big-nose classic of humor, intrigue, and derring-do, as adapted and translated by Anthony Burgess, is presented at St. Ed's under the (highly capable, we daresay) direction of Michelle S. Polgar. (See review, at left.) *Through Feb. 22. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm.* Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St. Edward's University, 3001 S. Congress, 448-8484. \$18 (\$15, in advance; \$12, students, seniors). [www.stedwards.edu](http://www.stedwards.edu).

**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. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm.* *Through Feb. 21.* Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15 (\$13, seniors, students, teachers, military). [www.sambasstheatre.org](http://www.sambasstheatre.org).

**WANDA'S WORLD** Zach Theatre's youth performing troupe, Showstoppers, presents this off-Broadway hit as adapted by the show's composer, Beth Falcone, and directed by Jaclyn Loewenstein. *Through Feb. 22. Sat., 1 & 4pm; Sun., 6:30pm.* Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$14 (\$12, kids). [www.zachtheatre.org](http://www.zachtheatre.org).

### ONGOING

**THE MOUSETRAP** Those Wimberley Players to the far south of us present this classic Agatha Christie whodunit under the direction of Lee Stubbs. *Through March 1. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm.* Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle, Wimberley, 512/847-0575. \$15. [www.wimberleyplayers.org](http://www.wimberleyplayers.org).

**HEROES** No, fool, not the "Save the Cheerleader, Save the World" sort of *Heroes*, but the 2006 award-winning French comedy written by Gérald Sibleyras and translated by Tom Stoppard. Austin Playhouse's Don Toner is onstage in this one (with Michael Stuart and David Stahl, no less), and Lara Toner directs. *Through March 15. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm.* Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (half-price for students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.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](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

**SOCIAL SECURITY** is Andrew Bergman's comedic tango of sex, love, and lies - all three of which you must be familiar with by now, yes? Directed by Gary Payne for the Paradox Players. *Through March 1. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm.* First Unitarian Universalist Complex, 4700 Grover, 744-1495. \$15. (\$10, seniors). [www.paradoxplayers.org](http://www.paradoxplayers.org).

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Momentarily ditching the Immortal Bard for the Divine Oscar, Austin Shakespeare presents Mr. Wilde's classic social comedy, directed by Ann Ciccolella and featuring a score of fresh period-specific music by Michael McKelvey. *Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm.* Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. \$10-32. [www.austinshakespeare.org](http://www.austinshakespeare.org).

**GOD'S MAN IN TEXAS** Georgetown's Palace Theatre presents this powerful David Rambo play that takes a bluntly honest look at the struggle for power between two pastors at a posh Baptist megachurch. Directed by Mary Ellen Butler. *Through March 8. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm.* Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger). [www.thegeorgetownpalace.org](http://www.thegeorgetownpalace.org).

**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, like 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](http://www.patsycowgirlcafe.com).

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Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.  
[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.  
[dance-classical@austinchronicle.com](mailto:dance-classical@austinchronicle.com).

Ric Williams, litera. [litera@austinchronicle.com](mailto:litera@austinchronicle.com).

Benné Rockett, visual arts. [art@austinchronicle.com](mailto:art@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor.  
[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

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**Montana Rep's  
To Kill a Mockingbird**

THU, MAR. 12, 8PM

**Juan de Marco's  
Afro-Cuban All Stars**

FRI, MAR. 6, 8PM



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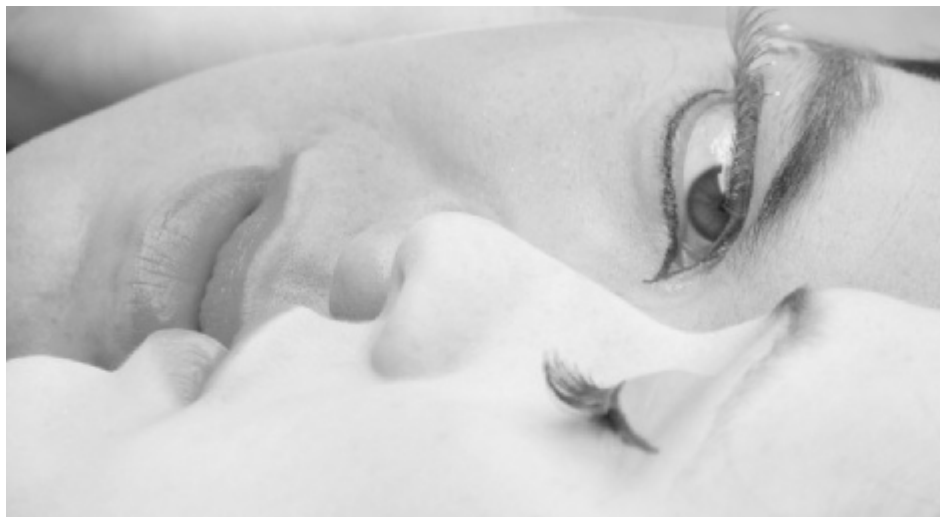
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# Iphigenia Crash Land Falls on the Neon Shell That Was Once Her Heart (a Rave Fable)

Salvage Vanguard Theater, through March 7  
Running time: 1 hr, 15 min



“Erase me,” says the girl.  
“Erase every part of me so I can  
make myself into something new.”

This is what the girl tells the warrior/singer in the fishnet hose and thick false eyelashes. She desires a new life because she's come to suspect that her old one is not her own and never has been, that all she is – the Good Girl, the Proper Daughter – has been developed and manipulated to serve the political ends of her father. And soon she may die to serve those ends, as well.

With Caridad Svich's play, the title tells the tale. This girl is Iphigenia – not the one who was sacrificed at Aulis to bring the wind that would carry the Greek warships to Troy, but her fate is the same. While it involves no stranded fleet, no mythic battle waiting beyond the blue horizon, just an unnamed, dusty little Latin American state littered with pink crosses for the murdered factory girls – think Juárez – it does include a father who is a general in a fix (he could lose his iron grip on power in the next election) and for whom his daughter's death offers an out. (Who could vote against him after he's suffered her tragic loss?) Sensing that all is not right, this Iphigenia runs away to a rave in an airplane hangar, to lose herself in the arms of an androgynous glam rocker named Achilles, to find a different heartbeat in the thump-thump-thump of a DJ's dance track, to find joy in Ecstasy.

In this Salvage Vanguard Theater production, Adriene Mishler is the picture of the Good Girl, tricked out in her pink Chanel dress and Gucci shoes, moving with charm-school poise. And she centers behind Iphigenia's honor-student smile an essential sense of trust, that unquestioning trust in others that led her to this fatal juncture and trust that her

journey to this rave will be her escape.

We know better. For the air in this production is heavy with inevitability. Whatever charge of the unpredictable is generated by the preshow activity – and the business of being led outside to the back of the theatre and into the wide-open playing space through a narrow hall, then given free rein to sit wherever, move whenever by Dustin Wills' jacked-up transvestite guide does spark an anything-can-happen buzz – it dissipates shortly after the play proper begins. In Svich's language, which sometimes rolls in weighty waves of poetry; in the ominous intonations of Mical Trejo's news anchor; in the grasping machinations of Harvey Guion's scheming father and the slurred speech and blurred gaze of Monika Bustamante's martini-willing mother; even in the deliberate steps and singing of Jude Hickey's seductively epicene Achilles, we feel the burden of the predestined, the inescapable. And none of the show's lighter bits – not Guion, Trejo, and Wills in tarted-up drag as the ghosts of murdered factory girls or the purposefully crude satyr play they stage; not the cups of Skittles handed out to us as we enter; not Lee Webster's thrillingly inventive video design – can serve as counterweight. Director Jenny Larson has assembled an enviable team of artists, and they contribute work that does them all proud, but we see where this is headed, and it isn't a party. In the end waits that preordained death, and the best one can do, Svich seems to say, is submit to it on one's own terms.

*Iphigenia* may be a rave fable, but it doesn't come with a tab of X. It's a fistful of blues with a bourbon chaser. – Robert Faïres

**IPHIGENIA CRASH LAND FALLS ON THE NEON SHELL THAT WAS ONCE HER HEART** Salvage Vanguard, under the direction of Jenny Larson, takes on Caridad Svich's "rave fable," in which ancient Greek tragedy is spun into a netherworld of gender-bending sex, drugs, and trance music. We imagine this will be a spectacle done up right and riveting, not least because it features Adriene Mishler as Iphigenia and Jude Hickey as Achilles, with music by Graham Reynolds and video design by Lee Webster. (See review, at left.) *Through March 7. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$14 (\$10, students). www.salvagevanguard.org.*

**THE SECRET LIVES OF THE INBETWEENERS** Aaron Brown's newest show, being produced by the Vortex under the direction of Bonnie Cullum is, unusually for them, a traditional sort of musical comedy. There's no nudity, no foul language, but plenty of toe-tapping tunes in this world premiere from the celebrated playwright of *The M.O. of M.I.* *Through March 7. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (two-for-one tickets on Thursday with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace). www.vortexrep.org.*

**SHOOTING STAR** This romantic comedy, written and directed by local theatre savant Steven Dietz, concerns two ex-lovers who unexpectedly reunite after 20 years – while snowed in at a Midwestern airport. Starring – hurry! – Jamie Goodwin and Barbara Chisholm. *Through April 5. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachscott.com.*

## AUDITIONS

**GILBERT & SULLIVAN: IOLANTHE** The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society is casting for this (de)light(ful) opera, to be directed by Ralph MacPhail, with musical direction by Jeffrey Jones-Ragona. All roles are open for casting; a prepared, accompanied aria; a completed audition form; a résumé; and a headshot are required. By appointment only: See website for details. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1. 733-1006. www.gilbertsullivan.org.*

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** The Georgetown Palace needs performers for this twisted Menken & Ashman musical delight about a human-eating plant, to be directed by Mary Ellen Butler. See website for details. E-mail for appointment. *Feb. 28-March 1. Sat., 2pm; Sun., 6pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

## comedy

### IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://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.*

**Bobcat Goldthwait** Yes, it's him, and he's here, and he's brought a quivering truckload of anxieties and hilarity with him. Do you need to be reminded that Goldthwait is the man who brought us *Shakes the Clown*? Does the appetizer of opener **Bryan Guttman** seal the gotta-catch-this deal? *Feb. 19-21. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

**Dwight Slade** This funny man from Houston – the life of many festivals, the childhood co-conspirator of Bill Hicks – brings his bag of chuckles to Austin, with **Chip Chantry** opening. *Feb. 24-28. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

**COLDTOWNE THEATER** 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. [www.coldtownetheater.com](http://www.coldtownetheater.com).

**This week:** The unstoppable **Parallelogramophonograph** is fabulous but not fableless while improvising ancient Germanic cautionary tales. Grimmshot! Also, **Level 5. Thu., 8pm.** **Midnight Society Sketch Show** features these fine improvisers working from a (gasp!) script. *Thu., 10pm.* Hey, it's that **Proctor** show again, now with the **Faculty** and **Tiger Beat. Fri., 8pm.** **Residencies** The improv showcase starts with **Northshore Local** and **Nice Astronaut. Fri., 9pm.** **Punchline** The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues! *Fri., 10pm.* **Stool Pigeon** features the human beat-box **John Pointer** 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 fully unified **Northshore Local. Sat., 10pm.**

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersfollies.com](http://www.estersfollies.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," **Espie Randolph 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](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**Thursday:** It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which three different troupes, drawn from the best in town, battle for improv supremacy. *8pm. \$10.*

**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.*

**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.*

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. [www.thevelvetaroom.com](http://www.thevelvetaroom.com).

**Open Mic Night** These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Chance Royce. Thursdays, 10pm.**

**Jimmie Roulette** The hardworkin' funnyman returns, like a shorter-orbited Halley's comet (with less ice and mud), to rock the Cheese Palace stage after **Matt Willis** and **Chance Royce** open. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 20-21, 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 Monday Night Mash: Improv Mondays, 8pm. Open Mic Comedy Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.**

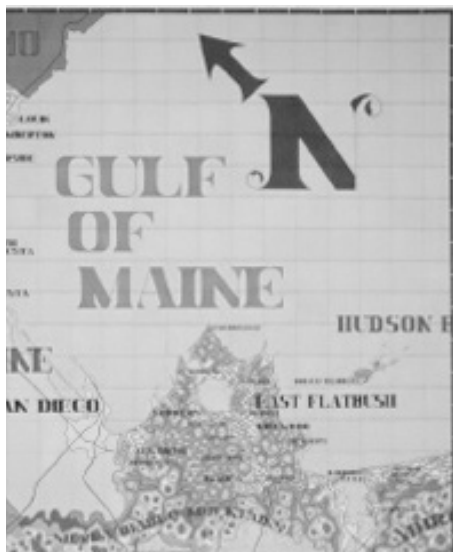
**LAST GAS COMEDY** Stand-up comedy every Saturday. *Sat., Feb. 21, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.*

**COMEDYSPORTZ** Competitive improv? Well, of course – and Maestro Les McGehee and his talented friends bring it in full force every Saturday night in this newest little coffeehouse in the 78704. *Saturday, 7pm. Cafe 04, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

**ROBIN WILLIAMS: WEAPONS OF SELF-DESTRUCTION** Yeah, you have no idea who this guy is – so you need us to write up some kind of blurp, right? Dude, please. *Thu., Feb. 19, 8pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. \$55-90. www.uterwincenter.com.*

**GNAP! THEATRE IMPROV: LOLA** A talented supergroup of Austin improvisers renders the same narrative three times, inspired by the structure of the film *Run Lola Run*, with three radically different outcomes based on the slightest changes in causal incidents. We reckon Heisenberg can't spin in his grave fast enough to drown out your amazed laughter. Recommended. *Through March 14. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.*

**SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL** Gnap! Theater Projects presents this double whammy of uncanny improv, featuring two handpicked improv troupes certain to make your Saturday sizzle. This week: **Massive** and the **Knuckleball Now. Sat., Feb. 21, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.**



LORDY RODRIGUEZ OFFERS SOME WELL-CRAFTED SUBVERSIONS OF MODERN CARTOGRAPHY AT THE AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART.

## dance

**BALLET AUSTIN: CALL FOR ENTRIES: NEW AMERICAN TALENT/DANCE** Early career choreographers are invited to submit their work for consideration for Ballet Austin's third Biennial New American Talent/Dance, a competition that brings the country's most compelling artists to Austin to showcase new work before a nationally renowned jury and live audiences. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older and be American citizens or landed immigrants. See website for details. Deadline: *March 30*. [www.balleteaustin.org/newamericantalent](http://www.balleteaustin.org/newamericantalent).

**MALE DANCE ARTIST SOUGHT** Male dance artist sought to perform cat-themed choreography with two other dancers for a performance in San Antonio. Contact Laura for details. [www.elusiveduchess.com](http://www.elusiveduchess.com).

**ODISSI DANCE WITH LIVE MUSIC** The sensational Sujata Mohapatra is among the best female performers of Odissi today. *Sat., Feb. 21, 7-9pm. LBJ High School PAC, 7309 Lazy Creek. 826-7309. \$10-50.*

**UT'S DANCE REPERTORY THEATRE: ADVENTURES IN MOTION** Inspired by tales of American folklore, the delicate form of Greek haiku, and passionate personal experiences. *Feb. 20-22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Payne Theatre, Winship Drama Bldg., 24th & San Jacinto, 471-5739. \$20 (\$17, UT faculty and staff, \$15, students). www.finearts.utexas.edu.*

**KATHY DUNN HAMRICK DANCE COMPANY: PROGRAM B** Continuing its season of highlights from the first 10 years, KDHDH reprises the best of the best from "Blurred," "Slammed," "Spin," and "Woman Smiling." Dunn Hamrick introduces each work with a talk about its genesis. *Through Feb. 21. Saturdays, 6 & 8pm. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock, 934-1082. \$10. www.kdhdance.com.*

**SALSA DANCE FESTIVAL** Salsa, merengue, and cha dancing set the Texas Union ablaze, fueled by hot live tunes from the *Brew*. *Fri., Feb. 20, 8pm-1am. Texas Union Ballroom, UT campus, 24th & Guadalupe, 232-5277. \$15 (\$12, in advance). www.informalclasses.org.*

### 1,001 NIGHTS

**MELISSA AMIRA'S CAROUSEL CARAVAN** Jeanette hosts this monthly shimmy, featuring a host of hot belly dancers in one of Austin's coolest bars. CDs, DVDs, and costumes for sale. *Every third Saturday, 8pm. Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. Free. www.carouselounge.net.*

### TWO LEFT FEET

**BEGINNER FLAMENCO WITH CHLOE BREVELLE** Learn the basics of flamenco; no dance experience required! *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1, 2-4pm. 923-3270. www.myspace.com/chloebrevelle.*

**THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES** Unique twists on standard favorites. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.*

**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.*

**ZUMBA DANCE** The Latin-inspired international music and dance steps are designed for everyone. *Tuesdays, 5-45am; Thursdays, 7pm. Brushy Creek Community Center. E-mail for details. zumbaustin@yahoo.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.*

**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. Full-time university students receive 50% discount. www.tangointexas.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.*

**DANCE CLASSES FOR BIGGER BODIES** A plus-sized professional dancer leads classes based on having fun moving your body, exploring jazz, ballet, ballroom, hip-hop, and other types of dancing. Open to anyone who is size-positive regardless of size! *Saturdays. Beginners, 2pm; intermediate, 3pm; performance team, 4:30-6:30pm. E-mail for location: danceswithfat@yahoo.com. www.danceswithfat.org.*

**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.*

**AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE** *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

**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.*

**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.*

**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.*

**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 website for details. 323-6838. [www.danceassociatesaustin.com](http://www.danceassociatesaustin.com).

**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.*

**CONTEMPORARY DANCE WORKSHOP** Yellow Tape Construction Co.'s Amanda Butterfield leads a four-week workshop of high-energy contemporary dance. All levels are welcome. *Through March 1. Sundays, 7pm. Cafe Dance, 3307-B Hancock, 466-5225. \$7 per class (\$20 for entire workshop).*

**SECOND FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING** Note the revised date for this fragrance-free event that features live music by the English Country Orchestra and calling by local and visiting callers. No partner necessary. *Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30-10pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 266-9949. \$6. www.austinnu.org.*

**SCANDINAVIAN DANCING** Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.*

**AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE** 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 per 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.kickbuttoffee.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.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

# Bobcat Goldthwait

at

CAPCITY

From

"Shakes the Clown"

"Windy City Heat"

& "World's Best Dad"

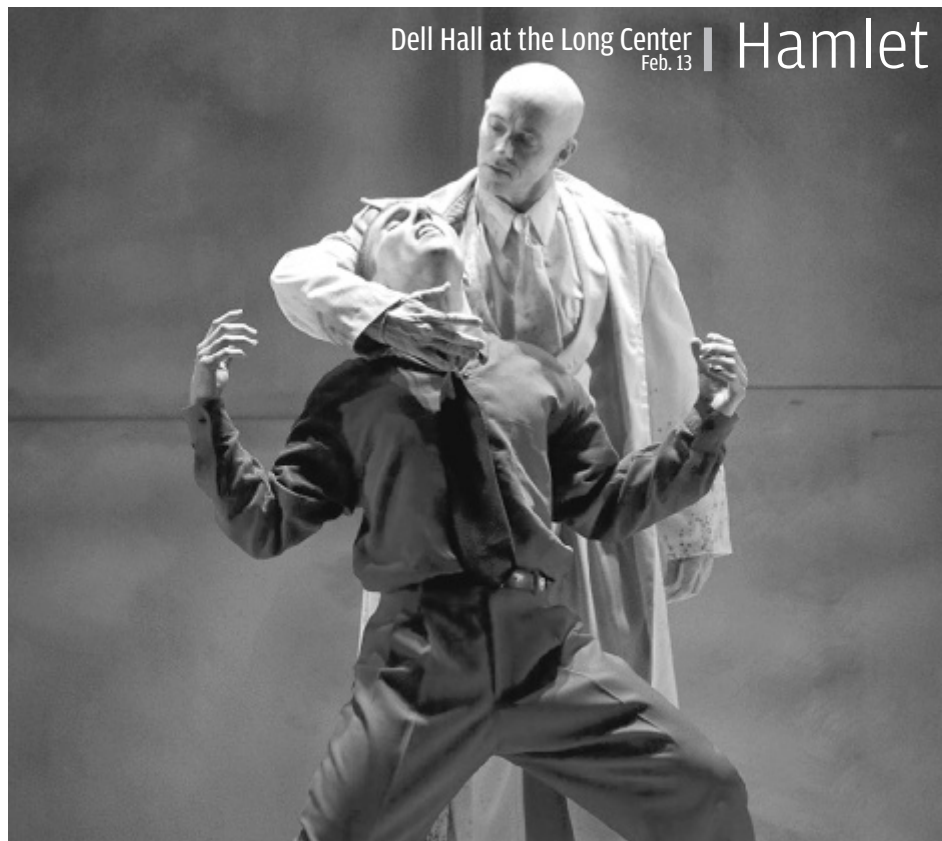
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**Feb. 19-21**



Funniest Person in Austin begins April 6th!

467-2333 [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com) 8120 Research Blvd.



Dell Hall at the Long Center | Feb. 13 | Hamlet

*Hamlet*, which premiered in 2000 as part of Stephen Mills' inaugural season as Ballet Austin's artistic director, comes back to remind Austin just what a difference nine years can make.

In this time, the company has catapulted to prominence in the ballet world, due in part to the ongoing inspiration of Shakespeare to Mills' choreography. Given the achievements of *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Taming of the Shrew* in this short time frame, it's no wonder *The New York Times* stamped Mills "the bard of the ballet."

Lest this conjure a sense of antiquity, however, Mills' *Hamlet* is nothing if not modern. Set to the music of Philip Glass and brought to life through colorful costuming and sleek scenic designs, the work opens as *Hamlet* dies, setting up the remainder of the tragedy in reflection. What follows is a visual feast, brought to life by the company's dancers and Mills' aching and passionate choreography.

In the first pairing of *Hamlet* and Ophelia, Frank Shott and Ashley Lynn gracefully evoke the great joy of new love in the night's only angst-free moments. Following the revealing visit by the ghost of *Hamlet*'s father, performed with great assurance by Mills himself, *Hamlet* begins his descent into madness and encounters three visions of himself. The scene is awesome, the four *Hamlets* struggling against one another as *Hamlet*'s psyche wages war.

Ophelia's death scene is unto itself a fully realized piece. Alone onstage, accompanied by Glass' solo piano, Lynn's performance is heartbreaking in its swells of desperate emotion and loneliness. Given a patch of water to interact with onstage, Lynn's movements succumb with aching beauty to her

character's fate, and the curtain falls as Ophelia drowns.

The collaboration with Glass is especially inspired in the second half, when the composer's *Violin Concerto* accompanies the tragedy that unravels following Ophelia's death. The *Concerto*, at times furious and tender, barrels along in perpetual anxiety, giving Mills an effective score for the action onstage. The opening image, with Ophelia entombed in midair above the throng of mourners, clad in white and black with a touch of damning red, is a stunning sight.

Ultimately, however, this is *Hamlet*'s story, and Shott digs deep for a tremendous performance. After seeing Ophelia's lifeless body, *Hamlet* loses himself to despair and rage and ultimately writhes, chest arched upward, like a spider seconds before its death. The material calls for a dancer who can display not only great precision but also deep emotion throughout, and Shott's performance is a triumph of both.

Now, I am by no definition an expert on ballet. As the final scene unfolded, I wondered, what does one have to know about ballet to enjoy a performance like *Hamlet*? The very basis of Shakespeare's endurance in our culture is due to not just the degree of his literary standard but also the universality of the human experiences he brought to life. In many ways the same is true of Stephen Mills' success with Ballet Austin. No matter what you know, you know how greatly it moves you. Judging from the audience reaction to *Hamlet*, I'm by no means alone in my sentiment. — Michael Kellerman

## classical music

### OPENING

**STEVE BERNAL: DECIBELS** New original music for solo cello and electronics. *Fri., Feb. 20, 8-10pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. \$10-30. www.cityofaustin.org.*

**ONE WORLD THEATRE: VIENNA TENG** Chamber folk and classically influenced pop meld in soprano Teng's heart-searingly gorgeous music. *Fri., Feb. 20, 7 & 9:30pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. \$20-40. www.oneworldtheatre.org.*

**UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC** DaXun Zhang, double bass Works by Misesk, Bottesini, Beethoven, Koussevitzky, and more. *Fri., Feb. 20, 8pm. Jessen Auditorium. \$15 (\$10, seniors, UT faculty, staff; \$5, students).* Bion Tsang, cello, and Anton Nel, piano Works by Mendelssohn in honor of the composer's bicentennial. *Sun., Feb. 22, 4pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$10 (\$5, students).* Bach Cantata Project Chandos Anthem No. 4 "O Sing Unto the Lord" by Handel and Bach's *Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe*, BWV 22 features conductors Timothy Workman and David Guess. *Tue., Feb. 24, noon. Blanton Museum of Art. \$7 (\$5, seniors; \$3, students; free, members, UT ID, ages 11 and younger). 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: MASTER CLASS ON CHOPIN'S RUBATOS** The Southwestern Music Department presents Jonathan Bellman, pianist and musicologist, who helps us check out Chopin. *Fri., Feb. 20, 3:30pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1504. Free. www.ssfa.southwestern.edu.*

**VIOLA BY CHOICE: THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL** Pianist Michelle Schumann joins Aurelien Petillot, viola, and Elizabeth Petillot, mezzo-soprano, for an evening of selections that showcase the magical combination of the human voice and the viola. On the bill, works by Brahms, Frank Bridge, Libby Larsen, and Russell Reed. *Fri., Feb. 20, 8pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6317 W. Bee Caves Rd., 327-1474. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$8, students; \$5, children). www.violabychoice.org.*

**PHILIP GLASS: BOOK OF LONGING** Based on the poetry and images of Leonard Cohen, commissioned by the UT PAC, this long-awaited concert work by renowned composer Philip Glass features Glass on keyboard, joined by an ensemble of singers and musicians. Cohen's recorded voice and artwork are prominently incorporated into this multimedia event. *Sat., Feb. 21, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. www.utpac.org.*

**AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: JOSEPH WILLIAMS** Williams performs a recital, and immediately prior to the concert, area middle and high school classical guitar students give the finale performance from their daylong GuitarFest. *Sat., Feb. 21, 4pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 300-2247. Free. www.austinclassicalguitar.org.*

**CHAMBER MUSIC CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH** "Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert" features the man's works and arrangements. *Sun., Feb. 22, 3-5pm. King Seabrook Chapel, 900 Chicon, 505-3000. Free.*

**SAINT CECILIA MUSIC SERIES: THE AMERICAN BOYCHOIR** Regarded as the United States' premier concert choir, the Boychoir (composed of singers from grades four through eight) offers a unique blend of musical sophistication, effervescent spirit, and ensemble virtuosity. *Sun., Feb. 22, 4pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. 345-8866 x55. \$20 (\$10, seniors, students). www.fpacastin.org.*

**CONSPIRARE: RACHMANINOFF VESPERS** An expanded choir adds weight to this, the high point of Russian church music. Rachmaninoff wrote the piece on the eve of the Russian Revolution, infusing his work with a yearning for the resolution of conflict through prayer. Get a preview of the concert at the Choral Conversation, dinner, and an open rehearsal. Choral Conversation: *Mon., Feb. 23, 6pm. The Crossings. \$35, dinner and rehearsal; \$16, rehearsal only. Performance: Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. \$26-46 (half-price, ages 6-17). 476-5775. www.conspirare.org.*

**LENTEN CONCERTS AT NOON** The lunchtime series offers inspiring music, reflective hymnody, and food for soul and stomach, featuring a different artist each week. This week: Scott Davis, organ. Free parking in the church garage at 8th & Trinity. *Through April 2. Thursdays, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Eighth. 415-5688. Free (\$8, with lunch; e-mail for vegetarian entrée). www.stdave.org.*

## visual arts

### EVENTS

**FRIENDS OF BEARDED LADY** The fierce screen-printing studio rubs a grizzled hand through its feminine whiskers and presents its seventh anniversary party, featuring a group art show (Rachel Koper! Michael Schlieffe! Others!) and all manner of celebratin'. Party: *Sat., Feb. 21, 2-8pm. Exhibition: Through March 6. Bearded Lady, 3504 E. Fourth, 389-0180. www.beardedlady.net.*

### OPENING

**AMOA DOWNTOWN: OUTSIDE REALISM AND STATES OF AMERICA** The photographer Clifford Moss uses inventive film and camera technology to produce epic, 10-foot-long photographs that re-create mountain vistas. By combining World War II-era aerial photographic equipment with contemporary digital postproduction techniques, he achieves brilliance in this "Outside Realism" show. Alternative cartographer Lordy Rodriguez presents the ink-on-paper maps of his "States of America," the culmination of 10 years of work, into which he's incorporated five original (and searingly appropriate) states. *Feb. 21-May 17. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

**BLANTON MUSEUM: BIRTH OF THE COOL** "California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury" takes a look at the broad cultural zeitgeist of "cool" that influenced the visual arts, furniture, architecture, music, and film produced in California in the 1950s and early 1960s. *Feb. 22-May 17. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

### CLOSING

**MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: TOTALLY COOL, TOTALLY ART** Annual juried art exhibition and fashion show presented by Austin Independent School District high school students. *Through Feb. 26. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**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." *Through Feb. 25. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.lauralalimer.com.*

**WOMEN & THEIR WORK: LESLEE FRASER** Suburban malls, the Bible, scientific theory, and domestic talismans provide 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.*

**MASS GALLERY: NO NATIONAL MONUMENT** This new work by Carlos Rosales-Silva is an attempt to reconnect and reconfigure a personal, cultural, and historical heritage. *Through Feb. 21. 916 Springdale. www.massgallery.org.*

**AUSTIN ART SPACE: FOR THE LOVE OF ART** *Through Feb. 21. 7739 Northcross Ste. Q, 970-1700.*

**YARD DOG FOLK ART: SCOTT GRIFFIN** Highly expressive figures in encaustic on salvaged wood and blottorch on salvaged metal. *Through Feb. 20. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

**OKAY MOUNTAIN: WARREN OATES IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008** This multiartist show is themed loosely around deceased character-actor Warren Oates. *Through Feb. 21. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B, 293-5177. www.okaymountain.com.*

### ONGOING

**DIBONA STUDIO** Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

**EYE CONTACT ART** showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. [www.eycontactart.com](http://www.eycontactart.com).

**ACCESS GALLERY: VSA OPEN HOUSE** VSA is dedicated to promoting the creative in people with disabilities. "First Impressions" features work by 10 artists from across Texas. *Through Feb. 28. 3701 Guadalupe #103, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.*

**AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS** Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.



# film listings

## Wendy and Lucy

D: Kelly Reichardt; with Michelle Williams, Will Patton, Wally Dalton, Will Oldham, John Robinson, Larry Fessenden. (R, 80 min.)

Is *Wendy and Lucy* the *Bicycle Thieves* of the New Recession Cinema? Like De Sica's neorealist tragedy about postwar Italy, *Wendy*

and *Lucy* expertly (and presciently) illustrates the current American climate by telling a very small-scale story – the micro in the macro – about the stranglehold of poverty and how bad luck begets bad decisions. It's a minimalist portrait of a girl named Wendy (played by the elfin, astonishingly un-self-conscious Williams) and her dog, Lucy. They're living out of Wendy's beat-up car, on their way to Alaska, where Wendy has heard there is work to be had at the canneries. Reinhardt and co-writer Jon Raymond (who penned the source short story) provide very little background detail (maybe too little). What we need to know is this: Wendy is untethered. A phone call to a sister in another state makes it clear that Wendy has no support system. Lucy isn't a luxury; she's a lifeline – Wendy's one tie to a normalizing routine, her one constant in an endless stream of towns. If *Bicycle Thieves* was, at least in part, about a father's pride, then *Wendy and Lucy* is about a mother's sacrifice. Them's that aren't dog people might balk at the word choice – more accurately, Wendy is master, I suppose, of Lucy the dog, but that doesn't capture the tenor of their relationship; one of *Wendy and Lucy's* marvels is the way in which it poetically evinces that bond without ever sentimentalizing it. Early on, Lucy disappears in one of those nameless gray-and-green Pacific Northwest towns, and Wendy is forced to stop in her tracks. Because *Wendy and Lucy* is so lean on plot and dialogue, there are long spaces to contemplate Wendy and her situation, and the logistics are mind-boggling: Her car goes into



the shop, and suddenly she has nowhere to sleep. Her dog goes missing, and she has no cell phone to provide as contact number for the local animal shelter. Her days become about plastering the town with homemade signs and making the long trek to the shelter, all the while carefully tracking her dwindling finances in a notebook. There is no wiggle room and no safety net. The film's prevailing sensation is one of an ever-upticking sense of being alone and trapped; at times it becomes unbearable. (*Wendy and Lucy* has none of the goofy, giddy beats of Reichardt's previous film, *Old Joy*, though they are equally lovely to look at.) There are kindnesses from strangers, to be sure – nothing movie-compone, just the small but significant gestures humans who are also hurting do for others, because they can. Character actor Patton plays one, and his appearance is distracting: *Wendy and Lucy* feels so naturalistic that his familiarity is a niggling reminder that this is only a movie. But mostly the film feels the opposite of that – like real life when you're backed into a corner. Maybe I'm more susceptible: As a single woman living with debt and a dog named Lu, *Wendy and Lucy* tapped then unfurled the knot of terror that lives in my stomach. After the frankly gutting experience of watching Reichardt's spare, savaging film, I spent a long time trying to put that knot back in its place, back in the pit of my stomach where it belongs. (See "The American Con of Bootstrap Optimism," p.47, for an interview with the director. – Kimberley Jones)

★★★★ Alamo Ritz

## new reviews

### CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC

D: P.J. Hogan; with Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter, Joan Cusack, John Goodman, John Lithgow, Kristin Scott Thomas, Robert Stanton, Leslie Bibb, Julie Hagerty, Fred Armisen, Christine Ebersole, Wendie Malick, Lynn Redgrave, John Salley. (PG, 104 min.)

The girl can't help it: The shopaholic character, Rebecca Bloomwood (Fisher), may be the invention of Sophie Kinsella's bestselling novels, but onscreen the character appears to be an immaculate conception born of Bridget Jones and the ladies from *Sex and the City*. Many have rued the luck of *Confessions's* unfortunate release date, worrying that the film's celebration of conspicuous consumption occurs just as our national consumption has fizzled into anything *but* conspicuous. That's hardly the problem with *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, however. Escapism has never been bound by the strictures of "good taste," and a chastening comedy about the catastrophic results of unbridled spending could be just what the doctor(s of finance) ordered. No, the problem nipping at the designer heels of *Confessions* is not the state of the economy but, rather, the film's predictability. When magazine writer Rebecca loses her job, she is forced to confront her out-of-control credit-card debt and accept a job she literally stumbles into as a financial columnist at *Successful Savings*. Her first clueless column turns her into an overnight sensation, and she falls in love with her cute and rich-but-would-rather-prove-his-worth-than-buy-it editor (Dancy). Simultaneously, Rebecca still tries to land a job at a prestigious fashion magazine, while also learning lessons in humility from her roommate (Ritter), parents (Cusack and Goodman), and a few deliciously amusing group sessions with Shopaholics Anonymous. Occasional voiceovers, such as the opening and closing window-shopping monologues, offer a hint of the mental processes of a shopping obsessive, and the talking, beckoning store mannequins are as hard for Rebecca to ignore as any schizophrenic's voices from God. "They said I was a 'valued customer'; now they send me hate mail," wails confused Rebecca as she opens correspondence from the stores' debt collectors. What distinguishes this movie from other interchangeable Renée Zellweger/Kate Hudson/Sandra Bullock career-girl rom-coms is the luminous presence of Isla Fisher. With her tiny frame and massive screen charisma, Fisher commands this film as ably as she

wrested comic scenes from Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson in *Wedding Crashers*. A gifted physical comedian, Fisher also walks into glass doors, pratfalls, and does battle with her accessories with all the akimbo aplomb of a seasoned star of classic screwball comedies. The giddy wardrobe on which she spends all her phantom money also helps set the tone for her fantastic adventures. (*Confession's* costuming is the work of *Sex and the City's* fashion guru Patricia Field.) The adventures in this film are, of course, unrealistic (as are those in most Hollywood comedies). However, while some decry the datedness of *Confession's* paean to financial overindulgence, there are others of us who wonder how a young journalist's credit limit could ever soar to such multifigured heights and furthermore, in these days of dwindling writing opportunities, manage to jump from one magazine to the next with little effort and even fewer skills. Ah, escapism. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### DELHI-6

D: Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra; with Abhishek Bachchan, Sonam Kapoor, Om Puri, Waheeda Rehman. (NR, 140 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. This new Bollywood film, with a score by *Slumdog Millionaire's* A.R. Rahman, recounts a man's journey from America back to the walled city of Delhi. – Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

### FIRED UP

D: Will Gluck; with Nicholas D'Agosto, Eric Christian Olsen, Sarah Roemer, Molly Sims, Danneel Harris, David Walton, Adhir Kalyan, AnnaLynne McCord. (PG-13, 94 min.)

In the interest of upping my national profile as a writer, I hereby present my first attempt at quotable movie criticism (Sony Pictures International, feel free to reprint this on any of your posters or billboards): "If you loved *Wedding Crashers*, then you'll absolutely, positively kind of like *Fired Up*." OK, I admit it may lack the primal force of a "laugh-out-loud funny!" or the poetry of an "edge-of-your-seat entertainment!" but I think there's something there. The only problem is that the sentiment isn't completely right. What it should probably say is, "If you loved *Wedding Crashers*, then, for all intents and purposes, you've already seen *Fired Up*" – because this new movie borrows from the 2005 Vince Vaughn/Owen Wilson hit with such utter shamelessness, you have to wonder if royalty checks are already

## openings & ratings

*Wendy and Lucy* (R)

*Delhi-6* (NR)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

*Fired Up* (PG-13)

*Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail* (PG-13)

- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- ◉ La bomba



in the mail. Here's the recipe: Take two best friends, one laid-back and charming (D'Agosto), the other smarmy and verbose (Olsen). Show them, in extended montage sequences, to be the unrepentant, unremitting Lotharios of their social sphere (in this case, high school), bedding women with ease and moving on without a hint of conscience, remorse, or romantic sentiment. Plop them into an unfamiliar social setting they believe will be beneficial to their lives as belt-notching philanderers (say, cheer-leading camp). Have the laid-back one fall in love, against his better judgment, with a beautiful and decent woman (cheer captain Roemer) who has an absurdly obnoxious and wealthy boyfriend who wears sweaters tied around his neck and calls people "bro." The smarmy one, meanwhile, should lecture the laid-back one about the dangers of falling in love while finding himself agitated by a gay stereotype or two. Stir in scatology, snarky observations, and a few dozen pop-culture references that pass for jokes; mix well with life lessons and some low-grade existential collapse; and voilà! a movie. Actually, *Fired Up* isn't really a movie at all; it's just the residue from assembly lines churning out copies of copies of once-successful formulas in the hopes that one in 100 touches a cultural nerve. In fact, if there's anything notable about *Fired Up* at all, it's that it somehow manages to be a sex comedy that's both sexist and prudish. It not only paints all women as hopeless dimwits just waiting to be duped into bed by the first sleazeball who comes along; it follows all their painfully awkward seduction scenes with absolutely zero nudity, robbing an entire generation of kids of the only reason to sit through movies like this in the first place. It's the same reason why my friends and I suffered through *Porky's* and *Hot Dog ... The Movie* 20 years ago, and why underage teenagers now creeping into adulthood lied, cheated, stole, cajoled, and coerced their way into *Wedding Crashers* back when George W. Bush was president and the world was still young and horny.

— Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Derek Luke, Keshia Knight Pulliam, David Mann, Tamela J. Mann, Ion Overman, Vanessa Ferlito, Viola Davis. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Entertainment artist and mogul Perry puts his new movie's delicious premise out there just as starkly as *Snakes on a Plane*. Unlike *Snakes*, *Madea Goes to Jail* will probably deliver the box-office goods, as the public seems to delight in the idea of Perry's cross-dressing grandma heading off to the clink. If that's not enough sass, how about Perry's casting of the now-grownup little Rudy from *The Cosby Show* as the jailed prostitute whom Madea befriends?

— Marjorie Baumgarten

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## first runs

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com). Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

### ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED ANIMATED SHORTS 2009

D: Various. (NR, 88 min.)

This year's five Oscar nominees total barely 40 minutes in length, so this program is filled out with an additional five cartoons that have gleaned kudos from other international awards events. These latter five are presented under the rubric "Highly Commended," and in most instances, the title is apt. Superfluous interstitials also add to the running time. Anyone who saw this summer's *WALL-E* will be familiar with "Presto" (by Doug Sweetland of the U.S.), a funny and lovingly constructed cartoon which screened before the feature film. "Lavatory – Lovestory" (by Konstantin Bronzit of Russia) and "Oktapodi" (by Julien Bocabeille, François-Xavier Chanioux, Olivier Delabarre, Thierry Marchand, Quentin Marmier, and Emud Mokhberi of France) are both classic short works that are cute and captivating. "This Way Up" (by Alan Smith and Adam Foulkes of England) is a macabre and funny film that was funded by *The Animation Show's* producers Mike Judge and Don Hertzfeldt. The only Oscar-nominated short that failed to capture my imagination was "Pieces of Love: Vol. 1" (by Kunio Kato of Japan). (02/13/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

### ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED LIVE-ACTION SHORTS 2009

D: Various. (NR, 94 min., subtitled)

Only one of the shorts in this program is in English — "New Boy" by Steph Green, based on a Roddy Doyle short story. The other shorts hail from the likes of France, Germany, and Denmark and are all subtitled. "Toyland" is both the title of Jochen Alexander Freydank's film and an unfortunate euphemism for concentration camps. The short also includes a reference to Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, which is distracting, since the Holocaust predates the play by 15 years. The title of Dorthe Warnø Høgh's "The Pig" refers to a cheap painting of a swine with a *Mona Lisa* smile, which is amusing in and of itself, and on the whole, the piece is amusing. Reto Caffi's Swiss/German co-production, "On the Line," refers to its subway setting (and also the moment at which our protagonist must decide if he'll accept a call to action). The lead, Roeland Wiesnekker, has a face that vasculates between that of a saint and a thug. He's terrific. Also terrific: Elizabeth Marre and Olivier Pont's "Manon on the Asphalt." This one's unique in that it isn't a big picture stuffed into miniature but, rather, a tone poem. No bells and whistles here, just a beautifully shot rumination on the fleetingness of our time earthbound. It's one of the shorter films nominated, and — to crib from the Dylan song it puts to such good use — I was a little bit lonesome when it was gone. (02/06/2009) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

### BILLU BARBER

D: Priyadarshan; with Irrfan Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Lara Dutta, Om Puri. (NR, 127 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The Bollywood film is based on the story of friendship between Krishna and Sudama. It is a reimagining of the hugely successful Malayalam-language film from 2007 *Kadha Parayumol*. (02/13/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

### CHE: PART ONE

D: Steven Soderbergh; with Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Santiago Cabrera, Jorge Perugorria, Édgar Ramírez, Victor Rasuk, Armando Riesco, Catalina Sandino Moreno. (R, 129 min., subtitled)

Soderbergh's legacy is his aesthetic daring, and his latest — as massive and imperfect as it is — just might be his most daring work to date. The first half of his epic about Ernesto "Che" Guevara focuses on the adventures in Cuba in the mid-

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Karen Berg, OK! MAGAZINE

“HILARIOUS!”  
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ANNALYNE MCGORD WITH PHILIP BAKER HALL AND JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS MUSIC BY WENDE CROWLEY MUSIC BY RICHARD GIBBS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS WILL GLUCK PADDY CULLEN MARCY GROSS ANN WESTON PRODUCED BY MATTHEW GROSS PETER JAYSEN CHARLES WEINSTOCK  
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## Get Crazy

**Get Crazy (1983)** D: Allan Arkush; with Malcolm McDowell, Allen Goorwitz, Daniel Stern, Gail Edwards, Miles Chapin, Ed Begley Jr., Stacey Nelkin, Bill Henderson, Lou Reed, Howard Kaylan, Mary Woronov, Paul Bartel, Franklyn Ajaye, Lee Ving, John Densmore. (R, 92 min.) **Music Monday.** Hilarious goof of the rock-concert biz shows backstage and onstage antics surrounding a New Year's Eve show. A Bill Graham-like showman is ripe for takeover by a soulless promoter, while love and sex sprouts all 'round the rock & roll mix. Reed plays a cryptic musician named Auden, and the film also counts appearances from such musicians as Fabian, Bobby Sherman, Lee Ving, and John Densmore. @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 10:15pm.



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 ★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

**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, Resa (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 ★★★ Metropolitan

**THE INTERNATIONAL** D: Tom Tykwer; with Clive Owen, Naomi Watts, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Ulrich Thomsen, Brian F. O'Byrne, Michel Voletti, Patrick Baladi, Jay Villiers. (R, 118 min.)

In this conspiracy thriller (helmed by the director of *Run Lola Run*), everyone is involved: governments, multinational corporations, military juntas, Hezbollah, drug cartels, the Mafia, the Illuminati, possibly the Masons and the Elks, and on and on. Interpol agent Louis Salinger (Owen) and his partner in paranoia, U.S. Attorney Eleanor Whitman (Watts), have scoured the earth trying to convince people that the most powerful bank in the world is really a criminal organization and get nothing for their troubles but shot at and run down by cars. It sounds like the makings of a good movie, but *The International* is just passable; it's a clock-puncher that's almost entirely free of suspense or surprise. Its action sequences provide just enough thrills to pass muster (though I have to say, whoever thought to set a shoot-out in the rotunda of the New York Guggenheim Museum deserves a drink). *The International* seems stuck in second gear. (02/13/2009) - Josh Rosenblatt ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

**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, 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-go to the final shot, all of it presented in fully immersive, well-choreographed 3-D. (01/23/2009) - Marc Savlov ★★★ Highland, Metropolitan

**NOTORIOUS** D: George Tillman Jr.; with Jamal Woolard, Angela Bassett, Derek Luke, Anthony Mackie, Antonique Smith, Naturi 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,

## AMC Best Picture Showcase

**AMC Best Picture Showcase** A day before the ceremony, prepare your picks by attending a program of all five Best Picture nominees back-to-back. An all-day pass (which allows you to come and go as you please and entitles you to a large, refillable popcorn) is \$30. Here's the schedule: *Milk* (10:30am), *The Reader* (1:05pm), *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (3:45pm), *Slumdog Millionaire* (7:15pm), and *Frost/Nixon* (9:45pm). Add in a hot dog and nachos for dinner, and no one goes home a loser. @Barton Creek Square, Saturday, 10:30am, 1:05, 3:45, 7:15, 9:45pm.



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 ★★★ 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, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

**THE PINK PANTHER 2** D: Harald Zwart; with Steve Martin, Jean Reno, Emily Mortimer, Andy Garcia, Alfred Molina, Yuki Matsuzaki, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, John Cleese, Lily Tomlin. (PG, 92 min.)

I don't care how many pieces he's written for *The New Yorker*, how often he's been honored by the Kennedy Center, or how many times he's hosted *Saturday Night Live*; Steve Martin is going to have to answer to a higher power for *The Pink Panther 2*. There's only so much mileage you can get out of a guy falling down stairs and speaking in a ridiculous French accent before the gag runs dry, and Peter Sellers pretty much got it all. Clouseau is his own odd blend of klutzy and sophisticated, constantly falling ass-backward into forensic revelations while strenuously maintaining his sense of deductive superiority and Gallic haughtiness. Which, again, was funny 40 years ago, when Peter Sellers was the guy doing all the falling and maintaining, but Martin has sucked all the wit out of Clouseau, all the carefully considered comic delusion, and turned him into a blockheaded clown. (02/13/2009) - Josh Rosenblatt ★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## Visual Music With the Octopus Project Live

**Visual Music With the Octopus Project Live** D: Various. The Octopus Project has written a series of all-new scores for experimental short films, which they will perform live. Titles include Henry Smith's "Early Abstractions," Norman McLaren's "A Phantasy," Alexei & Parker's "Le Nez," John Whitney's "Catalog," and Charles and Ray Eames' "Tops." See this week's "Off the Record" for more on the show. @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 7, 9:30pm.



**PUSH** D: Paul McGuigan; with Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning, Camilla Belle, Djimon Hounsou. (PG-13, 111 min.)

*Push*, a generically incomprehensible paranoid action disaster with cyberpunk overtones, is like *X-Men* unhinged, minus Professor Xavier's (or Bryan Singer's) guiding hand. It also sports a triple-espresso-and-LSD-laced storyline that I'm pretty sure breaks at least one of the Geneva Conventions regarding cruel and unusual mindfuckery. Is this a case of twisted genius gone awry (director McGuigan did the equally puzzling but vastly superior *Lucky Number Slevin* in 2006) or, more likely, a misstep in adolescent actor Fanning's heretofore charmed résumé? Whichever, *Push* is riveting in its ability to annoy and bewilder. Fanning plays Cassie, a precocious, second-generation mutant kid with the ability to see the future who is pursued by Hounsou's sweaty, hooded, Rolex-sporting agent of the "Division," who rightly views her as a threat to his Nazi-initiated plans for creating an unbeatable army of psychic super-soldiers. Or something. (02/13/2009) - Marc Savlov ★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**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 Fiennes. Daldry, working from a superior script by David Hare, has crafted a film about guilt, love, and history and how the three skeins create human beings or, alternately, human monsters. (12/26/2008) - Marc Savlov ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Dobie, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South





WEDNESDAY **25**

**The Girls on F Street (1966)**

D: Saul Resnick; with Ken McCormick, Toni Lee Oliver, Nick Nickerson, Althea Currier. (R, 69 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** This frank Sixties sex film exposes festering sexual deviance in the big city. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

**Horror Remix Presents: Dummy** Four killer doll features in two hours: only the very best content from *Ghosthouse* (1988), *Black Devil Doll From Hell* (1984), *PIN* (1988), and *Trilogy of Terror: Amelia* (1975). @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm.

**Lost TV @ the Alamo.** @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm; Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm.

**Visual Music With the Octopus Project Live** See p.76.

SPACES

**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. @Howson Library, 6:30pm; free.

**Half Moon (2006)** D: Bahman Ghobadi; with Golshifteh Farahani, Ismail Ghaffari, Allah-Morad Rashtian, Hedye Tehrani. (NR, 107 min.) **Iranian Film Appreciation Society of Austin: Iranian Music Films.** An old and legendary Kurdish singer encounters many difficulties on his road to performing one final concert in Iraqi Kurdistan. @CMA Auditorium A2.320 (on the UT campus), 6:30pm.

THURSDAY **26**

**Happy Birthday, Harris Malden (2008)**

D: Sweaty Robot; with Juan Cardarelli, Ben Davidow, Nick Gregorio, Eric Levy, Matthew Sanchez, Matt Walsh, Brigitte Hagerman, Susan Slatin. (NR, 80 min.) **Austin Film Festival.** This movie is the debut comedy from the film-making collective known as Sweaty Robot. It tells a story about the fallout which occurs after a moment of truth and public embarrassment. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$4, AFF members free.

**No Shame Sing-Along** @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

**Tommy Boy Quote-Along** @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm; Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

**Eyes on the Prize: "Power" (1990)** D: Henry Hampton. **The Education Collaborative.** This social network for nontraditional educators and education workers is screening episode nine of this groundbreaking documentary about the American civil rights movement. @Cafe Caffeine, 6pm.

**The Films of Charles & Ray Eames** D: Charles Eames and Ray Eames. **AIGA Austin: Reel Design Film Series.** Although this husband-and-wife team is best-known for its groundbreaking contributions to furniture and architectural design, it also made some short experimental films that reveal the breadth of the Eameses' interests, which will be screened in this inaugural program. @Domy Books, 7:30pm; \$5 suggested donation.

**Through Thick and Thin (2007)** See p.75.

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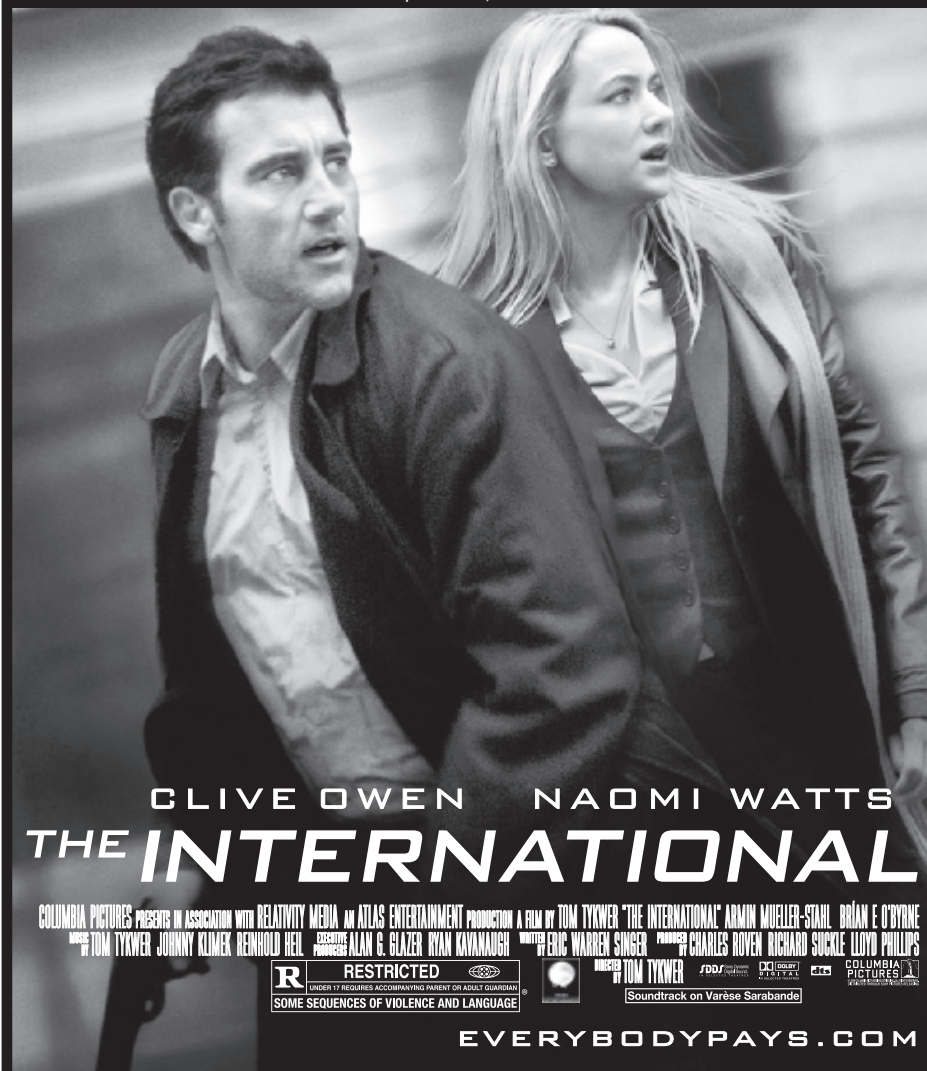


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# music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



LENNY(L) AND PHIL

## Philip Glass

Bass Concert Hall, Saturday 21

A decade ago, Philip Glass and Leonard Cohen hatched an idea: Put Glass' music to Cohen's poetry.

"It was a rather long evening," Glass recalls. "We met for dinner, and it went on into the night, just reading his pages of poetry. They weren't bound or anything. We had the outline and idea pretty much in place. That was '97, '98?"

Then, as he had for much of that decade, Cohen disappeared into the Mount Baldy Zen Center monastery in California, and Glass lost touch with him. While there, Cohen wrote more poems, which became *Book of Longing*, a collection of writings he had amassed over decades, with his own illustrations. Glass had been close friends with poet Allen Ginsberg, and when he passed in 1997, it was almost as if Cohen was sent to fill that void.

"The great thing about working with Leonard, since he's also a musician, was that he didn't want

to be involved in the music," Glass says. "He said, 'No, no, you do it.' And being a songwriter, his poetry moves easily into song. I ended up using 22 poems, but every poem could have been a song."

The pianist, who's composed music for theatre and film for close to four decades, took the selections and interpreted them as he saw fit. Since 2007, Glass has done 30-40 performances of *Book of Longing*, with singers and artwork accompanying the piece. He admits the pairing has been a fruitful one.

"Sometimes you work with someone, and you don't get along. I've done several pieces with people I didn't get along with. But when artistic partnerships turn into deep friendships, they are very deep, indeed. When it clicks, there's nothing like it." 8pm. — Audra Schroeder

## PACK OF WOLVES

Room 710, Friday 20

Trey Ramirez's At All Cost mashed up domestic metal for all ages, but Pack of Wolves goes for the throat with an almost European bent. Atop dominion death vox, the local quartet's post-Gulf war grind follows 2007 debut *Wall Crusher* with its full-length Arclight Records bow, *Betrayer*, and a marching madness into South by Southwest. High Watt Crucifixers, the Rippers, and Brink of Disaster open. — Raoul Hernandez

## TRIBUTE TO NINA SIMONE

Victory Grill, Saturday 21

Eighteen months after her Champagne toast at Bass Concert Hall, Oct. 30, 2000, Nina Simone huffed off to that great protest in the sky. Chitlin' Circuit stopover Victory Grill had a piano for the civil rights lioness all along, but this weekend hosts a local pride celebrating "The Rock." Suzanna Choffel, Laura Scarborough, Jitterbug Vipers, the Blues Mafia, and more bare teeth and soul. \$25. — Raoul Hernandez

## E. STATIC, HOTEL HOTEL, MY EMPTY PHANTOM

Scout Inn, Saturday 21

This voluminous, two-stage Texas gathering has something for all the senses. The local trifecta of E. Static, Hotel Hotel, and My Empty Phantom softens the edges with an aural mash of violin, piano, and acoustic guitar. Denton's Stumptime and History at Our Disposal poke the third eye with cosmic psych and barrels of distortion, respectively. — Audra Schroeder

## in-stores

Sunday: **Jenny Wolfe, Rick Broussard**, Antone's Records, 3pm  
Thursday: **Asleep at the Wheel**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

EORACHE!

Archie Bell sets the record straight at [austinchronicle.com/earache](http://austinchronicle.com/earache).

## MARY GAUTHIER

Cactus Cafe, Tuesday 24

If it hasn't been a particularly long leap from Mary Gauthier's 1997 album, *Dixie Kitchen*, to the more recent *Between Daylight and Dark*, that's because she arrived on the scene fully formed. The Louisiana singer-songwriter turned her hardscrabble life into tough songs that often leave the listener mildly unsettled in all the right ways. Good odds she'll have a new song or two to regale.

— Margaret Moser

## EN TU CIUDAD TOUR

Mohawk, Wednesday 25

Hosted by MySpace Latino and [www.remezcla.com](http://www.remezcla.com), the Ciudad Tour couples San Antonio's truly righteous rockers Girl in a Coma and punk accordionists Piñata Protest. Add Austin's own Este Vato, conjuring cumbia, hip-hop, reggae, y mas, and it's puro party. The Peligrosa All Stars' DJs top off the evening, and guess what? It's free! Paul Saucido hosts.

— Belinda Acosta

## JOAN BAEZ

Paramount Theatre, Wednesday 25

Since debuting at the Newport Folk Festival at age 18 in 1959, Joan Baez has helped define folk music and social justice worldwide. Her shimmering soprano still inspires half a century later, as evidenced by her 2008 Grammy-nominated album, *Day After Tomorrow*, a gentle paeon of endurance and hope that marks her first studio work in five years and completes a trilogy of collaborations with Steve Earle. — Doug Freeman

## ATX ELLE ACOUSTIQUE

Emo's, Thursday 26

This show supports Equality Texas, an organization addressing issues facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in the Lone Star State. It also highlights more than a dozen Southern female singer-songwriters, including Kristy Lee, Amanda Lepre, Ginger Doss, Britni Hoover, and One-Eyed Doll's Kimberly Freeman. \$15 at the door, but \$25 gets you VIP status. — Margaret Moser

## BY AUDRA SCHROEDER **soundcheck**

### 'MISPRIPT' MAGAZINE'S THIRD ANNUAL BEARD & MOUSTACHE COMPETITION

Mohawk, Friday 20

Cavedweller provides the soundtrack to the beardpocalypse.

### VIENNA TENG

One World Theatre, Friday 20

The pianist conquers *Inland Territory* with two shows, 7 & 9:30pm.

### FOOT PATROL, MAGNIFICO, MISTRESS STEPHANIE & HER MELODIC CAT

Red 7, Saturday 21

A night of fetish, funk, and Queen.

### PRECIOUS BLOOD, AARON BLOUNT, ETHAN AZARIAN

Progress Coffee, Saturday 21  
Caffeinated acoustic noir.

### THE TEXCENTRICS

Threadgill's World HQ, Sunday 22

Summer Erickson toasts mom Evelyn on her 85th birthday.

### FIRE WALK WITH ME

Shangri-La, Tuesday 24

Celebrate 20 years of Laura Palmer's corpsehood with a David Lynch costume contest, Black Lodge photo booth, and music from the Roadhouse Band. [www.recreationalspeculum.com](http://www.recreationalspeculum.com).

### SON VOLT

Antone's, Wednesday 25

Roots rock royalty. Doug Burr opens.

### 'CANTANKER' MAGAZINE PARTY

United States Art Authority, Thursday 26

The latest issue of the local arts catalog draws in Coma in Algiers, Many Birthdays, MVSLZ, and more.

live music venues p.82 ● roadshows + club listings p.84



L - R: PACK OF WOLVES (FRI., 2/20) | VIENNA TENG (FRI., 2/20) | MARY GAUTHIER (TUE., 2/24) | JOAN BAEZ (WED., 2/25) | GIRL IN A COMA (WED., 2/25)



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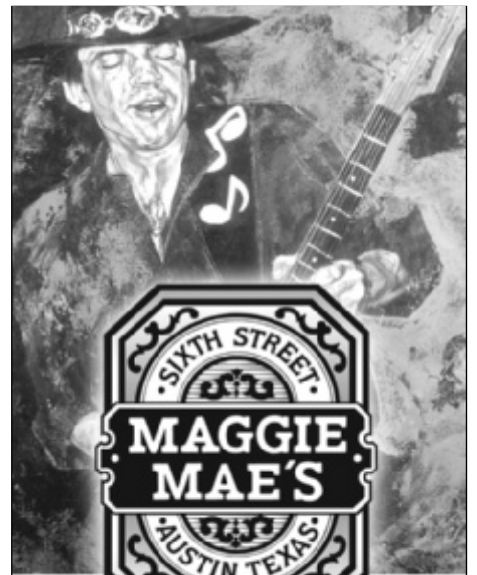


### SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS



- 1) WILLIE NELSON & ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL  
Willie & the Wheel
- 2) RUTHIE FOSTER  
The Truth According to...
- 3) BEN KWELLER  
Changing Horses
- 4) THE GOURDS  
Haymaker!
- 5) HEARTLESS BASTARDS  
Mountain
- 6) ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO  
Real Animal
- 7) LUCINDA WILLIAMS  
Little Honey
- 8) YOUR KISSES CAUSE CRASHES  
Deer in Headlights
- 9) T BIRD AND THE BREAKS  
T Bird and the Breaks
- 10) RYAN BINGHAM  
Mescalito

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MIKE MAVEN  
9PM-12 MIDNIGHT - GIBSON ROOM  
DJ FUNDAMENTAL  
11PM-2AM

SATURDAY 2/21  
MARDI GRAS  
BLACKTOOTH 10PM-2AM  
DJ DOC 10PM-2AM

SUNDAY 2/22  
8PM-12AM  
ALAN HAYNES  
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MIKE MILLIGAN  
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**H. H. GUY FORSYTH**  
**JAMES MCMURTRY**

**12AM**  
**HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN**  
SATURDAY FEB 21  
**REDD VOLKAERT**

**10PM**  
**EL TULE**  
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**10PM**  
**TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER**  
**HANK SINATRA**  
SUNDAY FEB 22  
W/ **REDD VOLKAERT** AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

**10PM**  
**CORNELL HURD BAND**

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**ANTONE'S RECORDS**, 2928 Guadalupe, 322-0660  
**ANTONE'S**, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE**, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283  
**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN**, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735**, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA**, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB**, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335  
**BASS CONCERT HALL**, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 471-1444  
**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER**, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907  
**BEERLAND**, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625)  
**THE BELMONT**, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300  
**THE BLUE THEATER**, 916 Springdale, 927-1118  
**BOOMERZ**, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373  
**BOTTICELLI'S**, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315  
**'BOUT TIME**, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339  
**BROKEN SPOKE**, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189  
**THE BROWN BAR**, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330  
**CACTUS CAFE**, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515  
**CAFE CAFFEINE**, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473  
**CAFE MUNDI**, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634  
**THE CANARY ROOST**, 11900 Metric, 836-6360  
**CANNOLI JOE'S**, 4715 Hwy. 290 W., 892-4444  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE**, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790  
**CEDAR STREET**, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH**, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH**, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE**, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777  
**CHESTER'S ICE HOUSE**, 9611 McNeil, 836-0558  
**CHEZ ZEE**, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666  
**CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR**, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900  
**CLUB DE VILLE**, 900 Red River, 457-0900  
**THE COCKPIT**, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB**, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444  
**COOL RIVER CAFE**, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010  
**COPA BAR & GRILL**, 217 Congress, 479-5002  
**CORK & CO.**, 308 Congress, 474-2675  
**COTTON CLUB**, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE**, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988  
**CUBA LIBRE**, 409 Colorado, 472-2822  
**DARWIN'S PUB**, 223 E. Sixth, 474-7399  
**DETOUR BAR & GRILL**, 1113 RR 620 N., 266-2279  
**DONN'S DEPOT**, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL**, 604 Brazos, 474-5911  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE**, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860  
**ELEPHANT ROOM**, 315 Congress, 473-2279  
**ELYSIUM**, 705 Red River, 478-2979  
**EMO'S**, 603 Red River, 477-3667  
**END OF AN EAR**, 2209 S. First, 462-6008  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**, 2205 Moffet, 476-3523  
**EVANGELINE CAFE**, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586  
**THE FIFTH GALLERY**, 305 E. Fifth, 669-6558  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA**, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE**, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE**, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646  
**FRIENDS**, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193  
**GARRISON PARK HARBOR**, 730 W. Stassney #120, 462-2664  
**GIDDY UPS**, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON**, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813  
**GREEN PASTURES**, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747  
**GRUENE HALL**, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR**, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688  
**HANOVER'S**, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617  
**HEADHUNTERS**, 720 Red River, 236-0188  
**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE**, 617 Congress, 443-3688  
**HILL'S CAFE**, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300  
**HOLE IN THE WALL**, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747  
**IGUANA GRILL**, 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439  
**INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN**, 701 Congress, 457-8800  
**J. BLACK'S FEEL GOOD LOUNGE**, 710-B W. Sixth, 433-6954  
**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA**, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829  
**JOVITA'S**, 1619 S. First, 447-7825  
**JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE**, 119 E. Masin, Round Rock, 512/310-7777  
**KEY BAR**, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389  
**LA PALAPA**, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729  
**LA ZONA ROSA**, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146  
**LAMBERTS**, 401 W. Second, 494-1500  
**LAS PALOMAS**, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889  
**LATITUDE 30**, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335  
**LOUIE'S 106**, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997  
**LUCKY LOUNGE**, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE**, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399  
**MAGGIE MAE'S**, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541  
**MANUELS**, 310 Congress, 472-7555  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS**, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261  
**MEAN-EYED CAT**, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326  
**MOHAWK**, 912 Red River, 482-8404  
**MOMO'S**, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB**, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN**, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994  
**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS**, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900  
**MUGSHOTS**, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008  
**MULLIGAN'S**, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY**, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969  
**NUOVO LEÓN**, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097  
**NUNO'S ON SIXTH**, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE**, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR**, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE**, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500  
**PANGAEA LIVE**, 409 Colorado St., 472-8882  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE**, 713 Congress, 472-5470  
**THE PARLOR**, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN**, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE**, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020  
**THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS**, 18200 Lakepoint Cove, Point Venture, 512/267-1845  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL**, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318  
**PROGRESS COFFEE**, 500 San Marcos, 493-0963  
**QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE**, 213 W. Fourth, 472-2782  
**RACK DADDY'S**, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577  
**RADISSON**, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 478-9611  
**RAINBOW CATTLE CO.**, 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288  
**RANCH 616**, 616 Nueces, 479-7616  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE**, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115  
**RED 7**, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100  
**RED FEZ**, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120  
**THE RED HOUSE**, 1917 Manor Rd., 391-9501  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL**, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626  
**RILEY'S TAVERN**, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132  
**ROADHOUSE**, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813  
**ROADHOUSE RAGS**, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797  
**ROOM 710**, 710 Red River, 476-0997  
**RUTA MAYA**, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT**, 2115 Allred, 282-0083  
**SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR**, 5900 Slaughter, 288-9994  
**SAXON PUB**, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552  
**SCHOLZ GARTEN**, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN**, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200  
**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT**, 7010 Hwy. 71 W. #180, 579-0726  
**SHANGRI-LA COCKTAIL LOUNGE**, 1016 E. Sixth, 524-4291  
**SHENANIGANS**, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL**, 1012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443  
**SHINER'S SALOON**, 422 Congress Ste. D, 448-4600  
**SHINING MOON SALOON**, 13125 Pond Springs, 219-0722  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS**, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060  
**SPEAKEASY**, 412 Congress, 476-8017  
**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 14311 Wells Port Dr., 251-0698  
**STARDUST CLUB**, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590  
**STUBB'S**, 801 Red River, 480-8341  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE**, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL**, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ**, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304  
**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL**, 2201 College Ave., 443-4200  
**TRIPLE CROWN**, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236  
**TROPHY'S**, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969  
**UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY**, 512 W. 29th, 480-9562  
**VICTORY GRILL**, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360**, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET**, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE**, 9600 S. I-35 Ste. D-100 (Southpark Meadows), 292-7900  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN**, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE**, 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007  
**WATERLOO RECORDS**, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500  
**WHIP IN**, 1950 S. I-35, 442-5337  
**Z'TEJAS**, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

# Emo's

alternative lounging

505-8541  
603 RED RIVER

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

INSIDE: **ALL THE SAINTS**  
W/ MANY BIRTHDAYS & PILLOW QUEENS

OUTFLOOR: **TOKO RI GET HIGH**  
THE MINOTAURS • SCORPION CHILD  
RIPE

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

INSIDE: **GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM**  
W/ THE LAUGHING & NEILYO

OUTFLOOR: **DISTANT SECONDS • MIDGETMEN**  
DEAF EARS • SAD ACCORDIONS

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

INSIDE: **A.A. BONDY**  
BOOHER & THE TURKEYZ  
JESSE WOODS

OUTFLOOR: **THE SECRET HANDSHAKE**  
THE TASTYDACTYLS • THE ALWAYS ALREADY  
DJ JESTER THE FILIPINO FIST

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

INSIDE: **COPTIC TIMES • STREET CLEANER**  
CHEST PAIN • BRANCH DAVIDIAN • BIG FICTION

**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 • THE DEAD SPACE

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

INSIDE: **DOORS@5:30, MUSIC@6:**  
ATX ELLE ACOUSTIQUE  
KRISTY LEE • AMANDA LEPRE • BRITNI HOOVER  
TARA CRAIG • GBMOJO • GINGER DOSS  
KIMBERLY FREEMAN • PAULINE PISANO • HOLLOW  
PLUS 10 MORE ACTS • 2 STAGES 1 COVER

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

101X CHILLVILLE & SOUNDCHECK  
MAGAZINE PRESENT:

INSIDE: **FUJIYA & MIYAGI**  
PROJECT JENNY, PROJECT JAN

OUTSIDE: **CRUISERWEIGHT • SCHATZI**  
MASONIC • WHITE SAILS

**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

## BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE\* SHOWS ARE SELLING OUT!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

INSIDE EARLY: DOORS @4PM:  
NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:  
**THE FACELESS**  
ARSIS • MISERY INDEX

TONY DANZA TAPDANCE EXTRAVAGANZA  
PREDOMINANT MORTIFICATION

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

INSIDE: **PEOPLE FOOD** CD RELEASE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

INSIDE: **KISS FM PRESENTS**  
**THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR** W/  
FURTHEST FROM THE STAR • GO ACTION TEAM

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

INSIDE: **WHEN DINOSAURS**  
**RULED THE EARTH**  
WOODGRAIN • FOLLOW THAT BIRD  
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

OUTFLOOR: **POWER SQUID • THE F & THE C**  
WATCHING THE MOON • WE'LL GO MACHETTE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

DOORS AT 6PM:

**fye** MUSIC CITY  
**TAKEACTION** TOUR 2009  
CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR

meg & dia BREATHE  
EVERY AVENUE

INSIDE: **HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS**  
IGNITOR • YEAR OF THE KID • BAT CASTLE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

INSIDE: **DOORS@7PM:** **LUDO • SING IT LOUD**  
THIS PROVIDENCE • THE MORNING LIGHT

**MONDAY, MARCH 9**

INSIDE: **DEAN STAFFORD**  
(FROM POMPEII SOLO)  
WEAVER AT THE LOOM • FOR HOURS AND HOURS  
HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP • GATLIN ARMS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10**

INSIDE: **TIM BARRY • AUSTIN LUCAS**  
JOSH SMALL • BROKEN GOLD (ACOUSTIC SET)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**

INSIDE: **THE BUZZKILLERS**  
PRIDE LIKE LIONS • DUN BIN HAD  
HEAD PANIC • A LETTER OF WARNING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**

INSIDE: **BLACK SHEEP**  
ZEALE • PHRANCHYZE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**

**A BURLIQUE CUPCAKE COOKOFF**  
**PASTRIES & PASTIES**  
INSIDE:  
**OLIVER FUTURE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

**FREE SHOW!**  
**GIGOTRON BEST OF TEXAS**  
PARTY WITH THE STRANGE BOYS  
THE HEX DISPENSERS • MANIKIN

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

EMO'S ANNEX: **HILLGRASS BLUEBILLY**  
PRESENTS... **T-MODEL FORD**  
POSESSED BY PAUL JAMES

INSIDE: **COMEDY NIGHT AT EMOS**  
**AZIZ ANSARI • EUGENE MIRMAN**  
**JOHN MULANEY • NICK KROLL**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**

INSIDE: **VITAL REMAINS • GIGAN**  
PREDOMINANT MORTIFICATION • DISFIGURED

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

**SHAPES HAVE FANGS**  
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • GOSPEL TRUTH  
A GIANT DOG

OUTSIDE:  
**TRIBUTE BAND MARATHON**  
BIG BALLS (AC/DC) • BIG MESS (DEVO)  
THE ORGASM ADDICTS (THE BUZZCOCKS)  
A JOY DIVISION COVER BAND  
THE BLACK SQUEEZE (THE BLACK KEYS)  
THE COSTELLOPHONES (ELVIS COSTELLO)  
THE LOWELIES (NICK LOWE)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

OUTFLOOR: DOORS @ 3PM:  
**STICK TO YOUR GUNS**  
SHAI HULUD • IN FEAR & FAITH  
STRAY FROM THE PATH • KATSUMOTO  
NO BRAGGING RIGHTS

INSIDE: **BABY GOT BACTERIA**  
BRASS OVARIES POLE DANCERS • CHURCHWOOD

**MONDAY, MARCH 30**

INSIDE: **DARK CASTLE**  
LIONS OF TSAVO • SPLIT HOOF

OUTFLOOR: **ABANDON KANSAS**  
**COMPANION**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**

INSIDE: **THE TANKS**  
HEARTSEXplode • THE HAPPEN-INS

\*3/18-3/20 SXSW • 3/23 KNOCK-OUT, JOHNNY HOOTROCK (IN) • 4/1 BIG JOHN BATES & THE VOODOO DOLLS / KITTY KITTY BANG BANG (IN)  
• 4/7 101X PRESENTS NEW FOUND GLORY, BAYSIDE, SHAI HULUD (OUTSIDE, DOORS AT 6:30PM, ON SALE NOW) • 4/9 SILVERSTEIN, NORMA JEAN, BLESSTHEFALL,  
BEFORE THEIR EYES (OUTSIDE) • 4/10 STEREO TOTAL AND LESLIE AND THE LY'S (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/11 ANTISEEN / JOE BUCK / ALCOHOLICS UNANIMOUS (IN)  
• 4/12 A SKYLIT DRIVE, DANCE GAVIN DANCE, ATTACK ATTACK!, IN FEAR AND FAITH AND I SEE STARS (ON SALE NOW) • 4/14 101X PRESENTS BRIAN JONESTOWN MAS-  
SACRE, THE FLAVOR CRYSTALS (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/15 ELECTRIC SIX W/ BANG CAMARO (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/17 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)  
• 4/24 101X PRESENTS THE KILLS W/THE HORRORS AND MAGIC WANDS (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 4/25 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE W/ SONIC SUICIDE SQUAD (INSIDE,  
ON SALE NOW) • 4/26 ANARCHY CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING (ACW) W/ SUMMER OF BLOOD AND GOLDEN BOYS (OUTPATIO/INSIDE) NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:  
NAPALM DEATH, KATAKLYSM, TOXIC HOLOCAUST, ABIGAIL WILLIAMS, TRAP THEM (OUTSIDE) • 4/28 MAE W/ PERSON L, BARCELONA, AND TOKYO (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW)

\*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [emosoatx.com](http://emosoatx.com), Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records

# Saxon Pub

1320 S. Lamar 448-2552  
[www.thesaxonpub.com](http://www.thesaxonpub.com)

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19**

**PAULA NELSON**  
9:30 \$8  
**JEFF STRAHAN**  
8:00 \$8  
**RELENTLESS JONES** 12:30 \$5  
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20**

**MEAGAN TUBB**  
9:00 \$8  
**KALU JAMES** 10:30 \$8  
**DERRICK DAVIS** 12:30 \$8  
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21**

**MISS LAVELLE WHITE**  
9:30 \$10  
**SHAWN NELSON & THE RAMBLERS**  
12:00 \$5  
Austin Songwriters Group 6:00  
PLATINUM SONGWRITERS SERIES 7:00 \$10  
Billy Callery, Drew Womack, & Monte Warden  
3:00 - EXIT WONDERWORLD - No Cover!

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22**

**THE BAND OF HEATHENS** 7:00 \$7  
**BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL**  
10:15 \$10  
**THE SALINGERS** 12:00 \$5

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 23**

**BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND**  
8:30 \$10  
**MATT THE ELECTRICIAN**  
7:00 \$10  
**JEFF PLANKENHORN**  
11:00 \$5  
**DEL ROSSI** 12:30 \$5

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24**

**SHURMAN** 10:00 \$5  
**AUSTIN COLLINS & THE RAINBIRDS** 12:00 \$5  
**JONNY BURKE** 8:00 \$5  
5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25**

**MONTE MONTGOMERY**  
8:00 \$10  
**JAMES HYLAND**  
FORMERLY W/ THE JUG BAND  
10:00 \$7  
**STATESBORO REVUE** 12:00 \$5  
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 - **BO PORTER**

**FRIDAY FEB 27**

**MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY & RODNEY CROWELL**  
ADVANCE TICKETS AT  
[WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM](http://WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM)

Live Music!  
Cold Drinks!  
Hot Food!  
Good Times!

# Oatsy's

**COWGIRL** all ages welcome!

**Music Line-up** CAFE

**Tues** Chicken Dog  
(super fun kids show)

**Wed** The Texcentric Show  
(music & comedy)

**Thu** Americana Songwriters

**Fri** Therapy Sisters **5001 E.**

**Sat** Noble Dog **Ben White**  
**512-444-2020**

# Dirty Dog Bar

**505 E. SIXTH ST.**

ALWAYS FREE POOL,  
SHUFFLEBOARD,  
& AIR HOCKEY

DOWNTOWN AUSTIN'S  
LARGEST INDEPENDENTLY  
OWNED & OPERATED  
LIVE MUSIC VENUE

myspace.com/dirtydogbar

## 912 RED RIVER



- 2/19 - **IDEAL SOUL MART**, Invisible Inks, Go Action Team - 10pm
- 2/20 - **MISPRINT BEARD & MOUSTACHE COMPETITION** w/ Cavedweller - 9pm
- 2/21 - **POP UNKNOWN REUNION SHOW!!!** w/ Crash Gallery, Jets Under Fire (outside) & Low Line Caller, Mocktigers (inside) - 9pm
- 2/23 - **EL GUAPOS**, The Diving Captain, Ariel Abshire - 9pm
- 2/24 - **FAT TUESDAY EVENT** w/ Carousel Cabaret - 9pm
- 2/25 - **MYSAPCA LATINO & REMEZCLA.COM PRESENT EN TU CIUDAD TOUR** w/ Girl in A Coma, Pinata Protest, Este Vato & Peligrosa All-Star DJs (feat. Hobo D, Manolo Black & Pagame) - 9pm (sponsored by La Otra Puerta Matrix)
- 2/26 - **CROOKS**, Monarchs, Western Ghost House, Tyler Jordan - 10pm
- 2/27 - **BOLLYWOOD BASH CHARITY EVENT** - 9pm
- 2/28 - Proper Entertainment Presents: **4 ELEMENTS OF HIP HOP** (DJs, MCs, street artists & b-boys) - 9pm
- 3/1 - **BRIGHT BLACK MORNING LIGHT** w/ Rio en Medio - 8pm
- 3/2 - **THE NEW MOVEMENT & STUDIO8.NET PRESENTS: OFF NIGHT ON** - 8pm
- 3/3 - **RED X RED M, THANK YOU** (Thrill Jockey), **MIAMI** (Touch & Go), The Distant Seconds - 10pm
- 3/4 - **THE DRY SEASON**, Abby Birds, The Drawing Board - 10pm
- 3/5 - **KOOL KEITH** (Dr. Doom vs Dr. Octagon) - 9pm // late night party w/ DJ Jester the Filipino Fist
- 3/6 - **QUIET COMPANY** CD Release w/ The Rocket Boys, Jets Under Fire - 9pm [OUT]
- 3/6 - **PLANTS AND ANIMALS** w/ TV Torso - 12am [IN]
- 3/7 - **AUSTINIST INDIEROKE** w/ The Eastern Sea - 9pm
- 3/9 - **SO SO DEATH**, Magnets, Red Faced Laughter - 10pm
- 3/10 - **GUEST BARTENDERS HAPPY HOUR** w/ Camp X-Ray - 5-8pm
- 3/10 - **CAMP X-RAY VS THE NO NO NO HOPES**, w/ The Altars, Glasses - 10pm
- 3/11 - **ARIEL ABSHIRE**, The Black Shirts, The Harlequins - 10pm
- 3/12 - **THE GEORGIAN COMPANY** cd release - 10pm
- 3/13 - **AMODA** (sxsw interactive edition) - 9pm
- 3/14 - **ATX EMERGE** - 9pm

## 611 E. 7TH



- 2/19 - **FRANTIC CLAM**, Muchos Backflips, La Guerrilla, The Jazzz Lizard - 10pm
- 2/20 - **DYNAMITE BOY**, Born to Lose, Buzzkiller, Say Hello To the Angels, Say When, 30 Yard Stare - 10pm
- 2/21 - **FOOT PATROL**, Magnifico, Mistress Stephanie and Her Melodic Cat - 10pm
- 2/25 - **LIONHEART** (stillborn), Fire From the Gods, For Glory, Mayans - 10pm
- 2/26 - **MAGIC JEWELS + BARON GOD**, Exeter, Honey Thief - 10pm
- 2/27 - **WEDNESDAY 13** (ex-Murderdolls), Dommin, Pickled Punks, One Good Scare - 9pm
- 2/28 - **GOODNIGHT GODDESS** CD Release
- 3/3 - **HOTEL HOTEL**, Arms and Sleepers, Chief Rival - 10pm
- 3/5 - **PAGAN KNIGHTS TOUR** w/ TYR, ALESTORM, SUIDAKRA, Ruins of Honor - 9pm
- 3/6 - **EARLY: DAMIERA**, The Urgency, Consider the Source, TBA
- 3/14 - **PUNK ROCK KARAOKE** (Eric Melvin, NoFX), Gret Hetson (Bad Religion, Circle Jerks), Steve Soto (Adolescents, Agent Orange), Derek O'Brien (Social Distortion, Agent Orange) - 9pm
- 3/15 - **WEB AWARDS AFTERPARTY** - A benefit for the Children's Music Fund featuring **BACON SHOE** - 9pm

## 611 E. 7TH



- FREE ALL THE TIME!**  
POOL, SKEE BALL, GAMES, ETC.
- 2/19 - **DJ BULLET**
- 2/20 - **DJ JAMES BRADFORD** - everything punk rock
- 2/21 - **DJ ANGEL VON RIPPER** - all things rock 'n' roll
- 2/24 - **SUPER DJ DA BOMBA DUDES NITEL** - dudes, dudes & more dudes!
- 2/25 - **THE GET \$ BROTHAZ** - old school hip-hop, freepool and \$2 wells all night
- 2/26 - **DJ QUITO** - funky ass shakin' electronic, indie & hip hop
- 2/27 - **THE SEX BROTHERS: 90s ONE-HIT WONDER SEXTRAVAGANZA**
- 2/28 - **WATERLOO RECORDS DJ NIGHT** w/ Edmund and Tracy
- 3/3 - **MIKE FOR LYMBYC SYSTEM**  
DJing

## UPCOMING

- 3/17 - **MADBALL** (RED 7 PATIO), 3/17 - **MINOR THREAT TRIBUTE SHOW** (RED 7 INSIDE), 4/4 - **SUFFOCATION** (RED 7), 4/4 - **CLEM SNIDE/BROKEN WEST** (MOHAWK), 4/7 - **BLIND PILOT** (MOHAWK), 4/9 - **THE LIFE AND TIMES** (RED 7), 4/8 - **ARIEL PINK'S HAUNTED GRAFFITI/VIVIAN GIRLS** (MOHAWK), 4/16 - **THE STARLIGHT MINTS** (MOHAWK), 4/17 - **DENGUE FEVER** (MOHAWK), 4/17 - **DAN DEACON** (LONGHORN CAVERNS), 4/25 - **ANGRY SAMOANS** (RED 7), 4/26 - **CATTLE DECAPITATION** (RED 7), 4/28 - **EDDIE AND THE HOTRODS** (RED 7), 5/3 - **SLEEPYTIME GORILLA MUSEUM** (RED 7), 5/13 - **HER SPACE HOLIDAY** (MOHAWK), 5/28 - **BOB LOG III** (RED 7), 6/2 - **MR. LIF** (RED 7), 6/5 - **BONNIE PRINCE BILLY** (MOHAWK), 6/13 - **DOUG STANHOPE** (RED 7), 6/28 - **THE BROTHER NATIVE/RELIGIOUS GIRLS** (MOHAWK), 7/11 - **THE COATHANGERS** (MOHAWK)

# club listings

## THU 19

- 219 WEST** James Speer
- 311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (9:30)
- ACES LOUNGE** Blind 6
- THE AMSTERDAM** Brother Magnum (9:00)
- ANTONE'S** Sarah Jaffe, Lykke Li (9:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Frank Meyer
- AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Bee vs. Moth, Philosopher Gun, Moonhammer
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Alan Haynes
- BEERLAND** School Police, Tiny Tin Hearts, Origami Ghosts, the Black
- THE BELMONT** Jeff Lofton Quartet (7:00), DJ Veg (10:00)
- BOTTICELLI'S** Shawn Nelson
- BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton
- THE BROWN BAR** DJ Gmau
- CACTUS CAFE** Bruce Robison, Eliza Gilkyson, Slaid Cleaves (8:30)
- CAFE CAFFEINE** Russell Scanlon, Ray Ariaga (7:00)
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Anna Krachey (7:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Rattletree Marimba (6:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Ryan James
- CLUB DE VILLE** Love Taps, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, Listen (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Woodsboss (6:30), Ted Russell Kamp, Band of Heathens (10:00)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** Newsboyz
- COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
- CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Bridge Farmers, Watching the Moon, Like Dogs, the Bread
- DETOUR BAR & GRILL** Fat Dog (9:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Rusty Tullius, Rigel Thurston (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** In These Shoes, Belltower 5 (6:00)
- ELYSIUM** The Carnys, A Crack in the Wall, Book of Shadows (10:00)
- EMO'S** Inside: Pillow Queens, Many Birthdays, All the Saints; Outside: Ripe, Minotaurs, Tokori Get High
- END OF AN EAR** All the Saints (5:00)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Fat Man & Little Boy (7:00)
- THE FIFTH GALLERY** DJ John Gomi & Beatimprint (9:00)

- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Rival City, Fuga! (9:00)
- FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** The Old Holdouts (8:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)

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](mailto: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](http://austinchronicle.com/register). Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

# roadshows

## february

### THU 19

- Lykke Li, Sarah Jaffe, Antone's Origami Ghosts, Beerland Ted Russell Kamp**, Continental Club
- All the Saints, Minotaurs**, Emo's
- All the Saints**, End of an Ear Fugal!, Flamingo Cantina
- Invisible Ink, Ideal Soul Mart**, Mohawk
- Zenith Fuzzbomb, Sabotage Manual**, Room 710
- Relentless Jones, Jeff Strahan**, Saxon Pub
- Lykke Li**, Waterloo Records

### FRI 20

- Missy Higgins, Justin Nozuka, Lenka**, Antone's
- Shat**, Beerland
- Chris Smither**, Cactus Cafe
- Eagle Claw**, Creekside Lounge
- Gil Mantera's Party Dream**, Emo's
- Long Shadows, Thunderado, Ese**, Headhunters
- White Rhino, Focus Group**, Hole in the Wall
- Lucinda Williams, Buick 6**, La Zona Rosa
- Vienna Teng**, One World Theatre

### THU 19

- Shortee C. Benefit** w/ Shorti's Ya'll Star Band, Spin Alley, Diasporic, **Ruta Maya**

### SUN 22

- Austin Facial Hair Club Benefit** w/ Baby Got Bacteria, Expensive Shit, Sweet Bandanna, **Berland**
- Artz Ribhouse Benefit** w/ Warren Hood, Carolyn Wonderland, Redd Volkaert, Del Castillo, Slaid Cleaves, **Scholz Garten**
- Groundwork Music Project Benefit** w/ Michael Fracasso, **Whip In**

### THU 26

- Equality Texas Benefit** w/ Pauline Pisano Hollow, Kimberly Freeman, Ginger Doss, Tara Craig, GBMOJO, Britni Hoover, Amanda Lepre, Kristy Lee, **Emo's**
- New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project** w/ Greg Izor & the Box Kickers, Little Elmored, My Friend Jen, Warren Hood, Milkdrive, the Belleville Outfit, **Momo's**

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com)  
for complete listings.

available for  
**PRIVATE EVENTS**  
CONTACTANTON@MALL.COM

# Antone's

AMPLIFY  
Think less. Live more.  
gonality.com



**THURSDAY FEB 19 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9**  
GORILLA VS. BEAR PRESENTS



**LYKKE LI**  
with SARAH JAFFE

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20**



**MISSY HIGGINS AND JUSTIN NOZUKA**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST **LENKA**  
DOORS 6:30

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21**  
DOORS 9 • SHOW 10



**GARY'S BIRTHDAY BASH**  
WITH **GARY CLARK JUNIOR**  
**BAVU BLAKES**  
& THE EXTRA PLAIRS  
WITH DJ BABY G

VIP TABLES • ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**MONDAY FEB 23 | 6:30-8:00**  
AUSTIN MUSIC FOUNDATION  
MUSIC INDUSTRY **BOOT CAMP**

**MONDAY FEB 23 DOORS 7 • SHOW 8**  
COME DANCE TO  
**FUNK & BLUES**  
W/ MIKE FLANIGIN • DEREK O'BRIEN  
KAZ • FROSTY • RONNIE JAMES  
ALSO **LOST SOUL REVUE**

**MONDAY FEB 23 | DOORS 7 • SHOW 8**  
DAVID SPANN BAND CD RELEASE  
**BLUE TUESDAY**, DEREK O'BRIEN  
FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST **SHAWN PITTMAN** 9:30

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25**



**SON VOLT**  
WITH DOUG BURR  
DOORS 8 • SHOW 9

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**THURSDAY FEB 26 • EARLY 6PM**

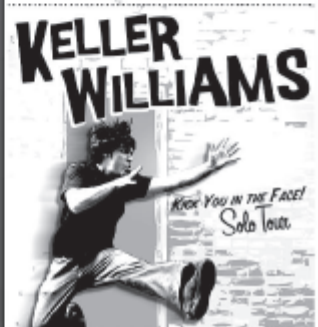
AUSTIN MUSIC VOLUME 8  
CD RELEASE • FEATURING  
DREW SMITH • KAT EDMONDSON  
GUY FORSYTH • DAN DYER  
JEFF LOFTON • RANDY WEEKS  
\$10 GETS YOU IN THE DOOR AND A FREE CD

**THURSDAY FEB 26 • LATER 9PM**

**MULHOLLAND DRIVE**  
**GOLDCURE**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

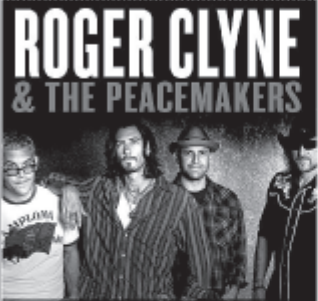
**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27**



**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
Kick You in the Face!  
Solo Tour

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28**



**ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS**  
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

VIP TABLES • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY MARCH 06 | EARLY**  
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8



**THE BLUEBONNETS**  
LOU ANN BARTON

VIP TABLES • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY MARCH 06 | 10PM**



**DEL CASTILLO**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY MARCH 07**



**JUNIOR BROWN**  
with AMERICAN GRAVEYARD  
FLATCAR RATTLETS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUESDAY MARCH 10**



**solange**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY MARCH 13**



**BOB SCHNEIDER**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY MARCH 14**



**CAROLYN WONDERLAND**

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SUNDAY MARCH 15**



**JONATHAN COULTON**  
W/ PAUL & STORM

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUESDAY MARCH 17**



**PINETOP PERKINS**  
JIMMIE VAUGHAN'S  
BLUES PARTY

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY APRIL 3RD**



**ROBYN HITCHCOCK**  
& THE VENUS 3

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY APRIL 10**



**Railroad Earth**  
SPRING 2000  
W/ SPLIT LIP RAYFIELD

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 29**



**GASLIGHT ANTHEM**  
WITH HEARTLESS BASTARDS  
A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**Cactus** 23RD & GUADALUPE  
475-6515

**Celebrating 30 Cactus Years!**

THUR • FEB 19 • 8:30PM

CACTUS SONG SWAP  
**ELIZA GILKYSON**  
**SLAID CLEAVES**  
**BRUCE ROBISON**

FRI • FEB 20

THE SMOOTH GROOVE OF  
**CHRIS SMITHER**  
GUEST STAR • SAM BAKER

SAT • FEB 21 • 7PM & 9:30PM

THE ONE, THE ONLY  
**THE AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS**  
TWO SHOWS 7PM & 9:30PM  
TIX @ THE DOOR!

SUN • FEB 22 • 7:30PM

FREE MEXICAN AIRFORCE MOBILIZATION  
**PETER ROWAN & FRIENDS**  
7:30PM SHOW

MON • FEB 23

AN EVENING WITH TEXAS LEGEND  
**RAY WYLIE HUBBARD**  
TIX \$10 @ THE DOOR

TUE • FEB 24 • 8PM

IN CONCERT  
**MARY GAUTHIER**  
GUEST STAR • GURF MORLIX

WED • FEB 25 • 7PM & 9:30PM

LIVE @ THE CACTUS  
**SHAWN MULLINS**  
TWO SHOWS 7PM & 9:30PM  
ADV TIX @ HEBs AND ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE  
477-6060 OR TEXASBOXOFFICE.COM

THUR & FRI • FEB 26 & 27

OLD FRIENDS SHINE LIKE DIAMONDS  
**GUY SOLD OUT!**

SAT • FEB 28 • 8:30PM

ALIVE ON ARRIVAL @ THE CAFE  
**STEVE FORBERT**  
GUEST STAR • TROY CAMPBELL

cactus.union.utexas.edu

3.1	RICHARD THOMPSON SOLD OUT!	3.4	BATTLEFIELD BAND
3.2	RICHARD THOMPSON TIX @ TEXAS BOXOFFICE.COM	3.5	BOB SCHNEIDER
3.3	ANA EGGE MICHAEL KINKAID	3.6	DANNY SCHMIDT
		3.7	TV2 B-DAY SALUTE WITH BUTCH HANCOCK
		3.10	KAT EDMONSEN

23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.  
23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515.

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MYSAPCE.COM/ANTONESNIGHTCLUB

213 W. 5TH STREET • AUSTIN TX • WWW.ANTONES.NET • ALL AGES WELCOME • AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES • CALL 512.320.8424

# WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

**FRI FEB 27**

**ERIC HUTCHINSON**  
 & SPECIAL SAUCE  
 WWW.PINKADELPHONIC.COM  
 WWW.MYSPACE.COM/GEVESPECIALSAUCE  
 WITH ERIC HUTCHINSON  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SUN MAR 1**

**PRETENDERS**  
 BREAK UP - DON GET ME  
 WITH AMERICAN BANG  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI MAR 6**

**CUT // COPY**  
 WITH MATT & KIM  
 AND DJ KNIGHTLIFE  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SAT MAR 7**

**BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS**  
 WITH JOAN JONES FROM SUN 60  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI MAR 27**

**CHRIS CORNELL**  
 GET THE NEW ALBUM SCREAM WITH ONLINE TICKET PURCHASE  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE MAR 31**

**NEKO CASE**  
 MIDDLE Cyclone  
 WITH SHEARWATER  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI APR 3**

**YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND**  
 SPRING TOUR 2009  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SAT APR 4**

**SLIGHTLY STOOPID**  
 WITH REBELUTION  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE APR 7**

**RATATAT**  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI APR 10 & SAT APR 11**

**BLUE OCTOBER**  
 APPROACHING NORMAL TOUR  
 2 NIGHTS!  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE APR 21**

**THE FLATT**  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI APR 24**

**Black Label Society**  
 SEVENDUST  
 TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SAT APR 25**

**PENNYWISE PEPPER**  
 TIX ON SALE SAT 2/21 @ 10AM THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE APR 28**

**CAKE**  
 An Evening With  
 TIX ON SALE FRI 2/20 @ 10AM THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

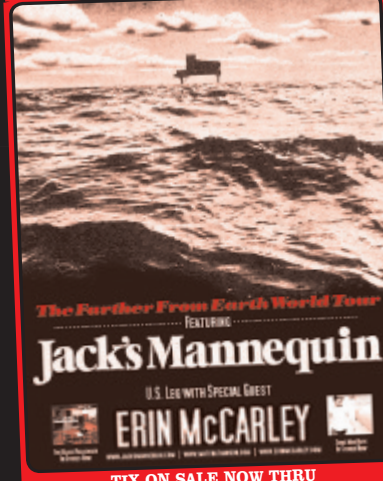
**WED APR 29**

**GEORGE CLINTON**  
 PARLIAMENT/FUNKADAMIC  
 TIX ON SALE SAT 2/21 @ 10AM THRU  
 STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

Tickets Available at Stubb's & [stubbs.frontgatetickets.com](http://stubbs.frontgatetickets.com)

★ BAR-B-Q COLD BEER LIVE MUSIC ★  
801 RED RIVER 480-8341

**SUN MAY 10**



**Jack's Mannequin**

U.S. LEG WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**ERIN MCCARLEY**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SAT MAY 16**



**TV ON THE RADIO**

TIX ON SALE FRI 2/20 @ 10AM THRU  
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI JUN 5**



**Animal Collective**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU  
STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**IN THE CLUB**

THU FEB 19 — DOORS 9PM  
**FRANKSMITH**  
WITH MOONLIGHT TOWERS  
AND THE GEORGIAN COMPANY

FRI FEB 20 — DOORS 9PM  
10TH ANNIVERSARY TEXAS ROCKFEST  
KICKOFF PARTY FEATURING  
**DREM N THE END**  
WITH MONTE MONTGOMERY  
EMBER AND VINYL DHARMA  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT FEB 21 — DOORS 9PM  
**SOUNDS UNDER RADIO**  
WITH FLAWLESSESCAPE  
AND LIVE OAK DECLINE

SUN FEB 22

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH  
**THE SHIELDS OF FAITH**

WED FEB 25 — DOORS 9PM  
**ODIS**  
WITH THE CAMPAIGN  
AND THE CUTOFF

THU FEB 26 — DOORS 9PM  
**THE BOXING LESSON**  
WITH STEREO ISALIE  
AND THE DEAD BLACK HEARTS  
TIX \$5 WITH DO512 RSVP

SAT FEB 28 — DOORS 11:30PM  
**WILLIAM ELLIOTT WHITMORE**  
WITH SAMANTHA CRAIN

WED MAR 4 — DOORS 10PM  
**BEN SOLLEE**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
DANIEL MARTIN

FRI MAR 6 — DOORS 11:30PM  
**L.A.X.**  
CUT COPY AFTERSHOW  
FREE ENTRY WITH CUT COPY WRISTBAND

WED MAR 11 — DOORS 9PM  
**NO QUARTER**  
THE LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE

THU MAR 12 — DOORS 9PM  
**REBIRTH BRASS BAND**

FRI MAR 13 — DOORS 9PM  
LUCY MAGAZINE LAUNCH PARTY FEAT.  
**SHAPE SHAVE FANGS**  
WITH AGENT RIBBONS  
THE BUBBLES AND SHEBOYGAN

for private events call 444-2001



**LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
6:30 - 9 PM  
SUNDAY  
12:30 - 3 PM

@ CENTRAL PARK  
40th and North Lamar  
call 512.206.1000 for details

@ WESTGATE  
4477 South Lamar  
call 512.899.4300 for details

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
6:30 - 9 PM  
SUNDAY  
12:30 - 3 PM



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20  
**SHINYRIBS**  
americana

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
**RATTLETREE MARIMBA**  
african

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
**RATTLETREE TRIO**  
african

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
**FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS**  
russian americana

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
**RUMBULLION**  
french gypsy jazz

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25  
**SHOTGUN PARTY**  
americana

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27  
**MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND**  
swing

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26  
**SON Y NO SON**  
cuban

**upcoming at central park:**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 4PM**

meet the  
*Kitchen Diva*

ANGELA MEDEARIS

The CM cafe will be featuring entree items from her new cookbook  
the New African American Kitchen.

music at 4pm by Rhythm & Praise Artist: **CAM**  
event sponsored by **SOULCITI**

Angela Medearis will be signing and  
selling her new cookbook the

"New African American Kitchen" in the cafe area.  
Medearis's book signing is in conjunction with  
**SOUL MOVEMENT PRESENTS: A GOSPEL CONCERT**  
celebrating **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
with music, food and family. Medearis is the author  
of more than 90 award-winning children's books  
and several cookbooks. She is also a culinary  
historian who has appeared on the Discovery  
Network, DIY, the Today Show, and Throwdown  
with Bobby Flay on the Food Network.

cafe open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations.

FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYSCAPE

**MARCH 4, 2009**  
SAN ANTONIO, TX THE MAJESTIC THEATRE

**CARDINALS**  
Featuring:  
Ryan Adams  
Neal Casal  
Chris Feinstein  
Jon Graboff  
Brad Pemberton



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW THRU TICKETMASTER.COM,  
THE MAJESTIC THEATRE BOX OFFICE, OR BY PHONE AT (210) 224-9600.

DOORS AT 7:30PM, SHOW AT 8:30PM. ALL AGES SHOW.

**WWW.RYAN-ADAMS.COM**



**THE STATESBORO REVUE  
LIVE @ LA ZONA ROSA  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH,  
11 PM**

THE MOST WELL-ROUNDED ROCK ACT TO COME OUT  
IN THE LAST DECADE. A HYBRID OF THE STONES,  
ALLMAN BROS, BLACK CROWES, & VAN MORRISON,  
BUT AS UNIQUE AS THEY COME! --HANK T MOON-92.5  
THE OUTLAW

[MYSPACE.COM/THESATESBOROREVUE](http://MYSPACE.COM/THESATESBOROREVUE)

# Hanovers

**WEDNESDAY**  
*Open Mic* 8pm-1am

**THURSDAY** 8:30pm-1am  
**KARAOKE**

**SUNDAY & TUESDAY**  
*Poker League* 5:30-8:30pm

**FRIDAY** Live Music (2/20) \$5 COVER  
**SUEDE** 80's cover band

**SATURDAY** Live Music (2/21)  
NO COVER **DRIFTER** IRON MAIDEN TRIBUTE

**MONDAY** Live Music (2/23)  
NO COVER **LEFT EAR**

**FRIDAY** Live Music (2/27)  
NO COVER **K ST. JOHN & WHISKY HAZE**

**SATURDAY** Live Music (2/28)  
NO COVER **PRIDE & JOY** STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN TRIBUTE

**FRIDAY** Live Music (3/6) NO COVER  
**JOHNNY HOOTROCK & BURLESQUE GIRL**

**SATURDAY** Live Music (3/7)  
NO COVER **ROBYN OVERALL**

**FRIDAY** Live Music (3/13)  
NO COVER **SHURFLOW**

**SATURDAY** Live Music (3/14)  
\$5 COVER **ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS  
THUNDEROSA, CHUCK COOLEY & THE DEMON**

**HAPPY HOUR**  
Happy Hour Weekdays from 2pm-7pm  
Every day: \$2 Domestic Bottles & Draft,  
\$3 Import Bottles & Draft

**VOLLEYBALL**  
Courts available 7 days a week.

**NEW BAR HOURS**  
M-F 2pm-2am; Sat/Sun 11am-2am

**OUTDOOR  
BIER GARTEN**

**670.9617 Smoking Allowed**  
**HANOVERSAUSTIN.COM**  
**108 MAIN ST. • Pflugerville**

**AUSTIN DAZE  
PRESENTS  
Ruta Maya  
WEEKENDS**

**THURS 2/19** **BENEFIT FOR 8PM-1AM**  
**SHORTEE C** DIASPORIC SPIN ALLEY AND SHORTI'S YA'LL STAR BAND

**FRI 2/20** **6PM-9PM BELAHARR** CD RELEASE & HAFFLA  
**FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE** 9:30PM-2AM W/XEMILLA KRUES CUBENSI AFRO-GENESIS LEO GUEVARA AND LATIN DJ'S

**SAT 2/21** **BRAZILLIAN WORLD CARNIVAL' CELBRATION**  
8PM ACADEMICO'S DA OPERA, FUNK BRASIL, 2AM SUZANNE SHARPE, KNIGHTS OF STEEL

[www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends](http://www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends)  
3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penna Field, South Austin,  
(Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, [Rutamaya.net](http://Rutamaya.net) for details

**Ruta Maya**

**FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY**

**SUN 2/22** **7 PM Ritmo 3**  
Live Salsa Dancing!

**MON 2/23** **No Cover! 7 PM Dub Transistor**  
Dreadbeard, Gypsyzen  
Dr. Dubbist, Mr. Brown  
Relac soundfactory, Proper Villain

**TUE 2/24** **TUESDAY OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!**  
**6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music**  
Happy Hour All Night Long!

**WED 2/25** **CUBAN DANCE NIGHT**  
**FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM**  
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

**Fresh Organic Coffee!**  
**FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar**

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

**GRUENE HALL** Josh Grider

**HEADHUNTERS** Amber Lucille, Crosswind, Local Melons, Freedom Machine, James Rider & the 4:20 Turnaround

**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Danny Britt, Tony Airoidi, Steve Carter (8:00)

**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Jonas Alvarez

**LAMBERTS** Gary Clark Jr., J.J. Moeller (7:00), Brownout, J.J. Lopez (10:30)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Phil Brown (6:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Bear & the Essentials (8:00)

**MOHAWK** Go Action Team, Ideal Soul Mart, Invisible Ink (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Dimestore Poets, Ryan McGillicuddy, Adopted Highway, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, the Archibalds

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Jamie Thomas

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Basil's Yellow Truck

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Roger Blevins (10:00)

**PANGAEA LIVE** Del Castillo

**THE PARLOR** Twangzilla (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Houston Marchman (8:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Michael Ballew

**QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE** DJ Cue

**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)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Brigitte London

**ROOM 710** Sabotage Manual, Shandon Sahn, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Blower

**RUTA MAYA** Shortee C. Benefit w/ Shorti's Ya'll Star Band, Spin Alley, Diasporic (8:00)

**SAXON PUB** James Hand (6:00), Jeff Strahan, Paula Nelson, Relentless Jones (8:00)

**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** JWW & the Prospectors, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Zee Rock (7:30)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Chris Boss

**STUBB'S** The Georgian Company, Moonlight Towers, Frank Smith

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle

**TRIPLE CROWN** Noel McKay, BB Aeroplane, Toast

**TROPHY'S** Two Hoots & a Holler

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Slackey Family Band

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE** Bob Showdown (10:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN** The Hudsons (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE** Mirage

**WATERLOO RECORDS** Lykke Li (5:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Lucky Strikes

FRI 20

**ACES LOUNGE** PK Trio, Southern Sirens

**THE AMSTERDAM** Girl Guitar, Elizabeth Wills (9:00)

**ANTONE'S** Lenka, Missy Higgins & Justin Nozuka (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** The Studebakers (7:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** The Barley Guild

**BEERLAND** Contact High Fives, the Dicks, Shat

**THE BELMONT** DJ Veg (10:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Paul Luedke Collective

**'BOUT TIME** DJ Element

**BROKEN SPOKE** Heybale!

**CACTUS CAFE** Sam Baker, Chris Smither (8:30)

**CAFE CAFFEINE** Southpaw Jones (7:00)

**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Love Vandals, the Dentones (7:00)

**CEDAR STREET** Mysterious Ways (9:30)

**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Shinyribs (6:30)

**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Flying Balalaika Brothers (12:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Nakia & His Southern Cousins

**CHESTER'S ICE HOUSE** Andrea Marie & the Magnolia Band

**CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** David Newbould

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30), Hot Club of Cowtown, Continental Graffiti (10:00)

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AND THE ROOTS BAND

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APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>  
2009**

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<b>DEREK TRUCKS BAND</b> with Gary Clark Jr.	107.1 KQR C3	<b>MAR 04</b>
<b>WHO'S BAD</b> A Michael Jackson Tribute Band	De512.com What to do in Austin C3	<b>APR 09</b>
<b>CRYSTAL CASTLES</b>	C3	<b>APR 13</b>
<b>MATES OF STATE</b> AND <b>BLACK KIDS</b>	C3	<b>APR 28</b>

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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

WED, FEB 18 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON DANCE LESSONS**  
8-9PM **LUCKY TOMBLIN** NO COVER  
9PM

THU, FEB 19 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**  
9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, FEB 20 **HEYBALE**

SAT, FEB 21 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**  
9:30PM **ALVIN CROW**

TUE, FEB 24 **DEBRA PETERS WITH THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP** NO COVER

**Cheatham Street WAREHOUSE**

Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos  
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TH **RYAN JAMES**  
FR **NAKIA AND HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS**  
SA **LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND**  
SA **ASH FAMILY** 4-8PM  
MO **BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
TU **MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR & JORDAN MINOR**  
WE **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE**  
COMING SOON  
2/26 **PAUL EASON BAND**  
2/27 **MAX STALLING - LUKE OLSEN OPENS**  
2/28 **RODNEY HAYDEN**

119 CHEATHAM ST., SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

**COOL RIVER CAFE** Radiostar  
**COTTON CLUB** Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Eagle Claw, Splithoof, Dixie Witch  
**DARWIN'S PUB** Trent Turner & the Moontowers (9:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Rigel Thurston, 34th Street Jazz (8:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Lucky Strikes  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** The Nortons, Red Young (9:30)  
**EMO'S** Inside: Neiliyo, the Laughing, Gil Mantera's Party Dream; Outside: Sad Accordions, Deaf Ears, the Midgetmen, the Distant Seconds  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** Alex Coke (7:00)  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Mardi Gras w/ the Tailgators (10:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** The Batikum, Bombasta, Hard Proof Afrobeat, Subrosa Union (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Blacktop Bend, the Lennings (8:00)  
**FRIENDS** Andy McIntyre & the Primal Groove (8:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Scott Wayne (5:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Bear & the Essentials (9:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Suede  
**HEADHUNTERS** Wolf Dog, Ese, HammerDog, Thunderosa, Thunderado, Twanguero, Nematoads, Long Shadows, Saturday Nite Satellites  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Focus Group, Fever Dreams, White Rhino (9:00)  
**IGUANA GRILL** Woody Russell (6:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)  
**JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE** Lixbox (7:30)  
**LA ZONA ROSA** Buick 6, Lucinda Williams (9:00)  
**LAMBERTS** DJ Mel, DJ Fuckin' A (10:30)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)  
**MOHAWK** Cavedweller  
**MOMO'S** Los Alquimistas, Josh Tatum, Ben Mallott, T Bird & the Breaks (8:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Jamie Thomas (6:30)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Sarah Temple, Blaze (8:30)  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Vienna Teng (7:30, 9:30)  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** America (8:00)  
**THE PARLOR** All Get Out, Sequoyah Prep School (9:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Greg Reichel, Gary R Nunn  
**QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE** DJ Mondo  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Slow Rollin' Lows

**THE Parish**

SAT 21 FEB - THE ULTIMATE 80'S JUMPOFF  
**ROCK THE CASBAH W/ DJ MEL**

THURSDAY FEB. 19TH, 2009  
RYAN ULLMAN BIRTHDAY EDITION!

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**MATT WERTZ THE ALTERNATE ROUTES**

**GAVIN DEGRAW WHERE IT BEGAN A SPECIAL INTIMATE PERFORMANCE SPECIAL GUEST: angel tawlat**

WED 08 APR  
TIX ON SALE 2/21 @ 10AM

THU 26 FEB **ILLUSIONIST ELECTRIC ORCHESTRA** WITH DJ MANNY

THU 05 MAR **EOTO ESKMO**

THU 27 FEB **MOVING MATTER** TOAST, FATTY LUMPKIN, FUNKOTRON

FRI 06 MAR **BLUETECH** OTT

SAT 28 FEB **PNUMA LIVE PA** BIG GIGANTIC

SAT 07 MAR **RING THE ALARM** DJ BABY G, JAH MIGHTY, JR. VIBES ON THE MIC

**UPCOMING SHOWS:**  
3/12: William Stidham Art /HAMM Benefit 3/13: Papa Mali Trio 3/14: Eliot Lipp w/ Michna & Raw Paw 3/16: 20x2 3/17: The Egg w/ 20:20 Soundsystem, Kraak and Smaak, & Pretty Lights PA Set 3/18-21: SXSW 3/27: LARRY Reunion Show 3/28: JFJO 4/4: Ring the Alarm w/ DJ Baby G, Jah Mighty, & Jr. Vibes on the mic 4/15: Area 512 Presents: Wax on Wednesdays 4/17: Corto Maltese w/ UME 4/18: Rock the Casbah 4/19: Fair to Midland 4/21: Dr. Dog 4/23: Thao and the Get Down Stay Down w/ Sister Suvi & Samantha Crain 4/24: Sounds Under Radio 4/25: Mr. Lewis and the Funeral 5 w/ Ruby Lamb & the ladies of Red Light Burlesque 4/29: Lez Zeppelin

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHOWS AND TO BOOK YOUR BAND'S LIVE RECORDING SESSION- GO TO: **THEPARISHROOM.COM**

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THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 9PM  
**JEFF HUGHES & CHAPARRAL**  
**JWW & THE PROSPECTORS**

FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 9PM  
**ROCKSTEADY EXPLOSION!**  
**PROPER VILLAIN SOUNDSYSTEM**  
**DOUBLE BARREL SOUNDSYSTEM & THE BANDULUS**

SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 9PM  
**HISTORY AT OUR DISPOSAL**  
**THE DOMESTICATED STUMPTONE**  
**MY EMPTY PHANTOM HOTEL HOTEL**  
**E. STATIC**

TUESDAY, FEB. 24, 8PM  
**TOM VAN DEN AVOND (WOODSBOSS)**  
**DOUG KENT**  
**JAMES BULLARD**

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 8PM  
**AUSTIN POETRY SLAM**

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 6PM \*EARLY\*  
**BRENNEN LEIGH**  
**JWW & THE PROSPECTORS**  
**JENNY & THE CORN PONIES**  
**SHOTGUN PARTY**

FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 8PM  
**AMPLIFIED HEAT**  
**IKillCars**  
**WHITE RHINO**

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 8PM  
**SIN CITY SOCIAL CLUB W/ IZZY COX**  
**CHARLIE TERRELL & THE MURDERED JOHNS**  
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**TUESDAY SPECIALS:**

99¢ TACOS TIL MIDNIGHT\*  
\$1 CORONAS (CORONITAS)  
\$2 FROZEN MARGARITAS  
\$1 JELLO SHOTS

**THURSDAY SPECIALS:**

\$3 DOMESTIC LITERS 7-11P  
\$5 DOMESTIC LITERS 11P-CLOSE  
\$2<sup>25</sup> WELLS ALL NIGHT!  
\$1 JELLO SHOTS ALL NIGHT!

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200 E. 6th St.  
CORNER OF 6TH & BRAZOS

MON-SAT 4PM-2AM

**Poodie's Hilltop ROADHOUSE** *No Bad Days*

Thursday, Feb. 19  
**MICHAEL BALLEW 8PM**

Friday, Feb. 20  
**GARY P. NUNN  
GREG REICHEL**  
tickets available at [www.frontgatetickets.com](http://www.frontgatetickets.com)  
general admission

Saturday, Feb. 21  
**TRIP RICHMOND  
BRUCE SMITH**

Friday, Feb. 27  
**MICHAEL MEYERS  
ROOM 99 (OPENER)**

Saturday, Feb. 28  
**JOHN DEERY BAND  
KINGS OF HARD LUCK (OPENER)**

Mon. **BIG ASS BEER SPECIAL: \$2 LONE STAR (24 oz)**  
Tues. **THE TROBADILLOS**  
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Thu. **LADIES' NIGHT - FREE POOL \$2 WELL DRINKS & DOMESTIC BEERS & \$1 1ST DRINK FOR LADIES w/ OUT-OF-TOWN DRIVERS LICENSES**

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THURS, FEBRUARY 19 • 7PM  
**FAT MAN & LITTLE BOY**  
**MARDI GRAS**  
AT EVANGELINE CAFE

FRI, FEBRUARY 20 • 10PM • \$5  
**THE TAILGATORS**  
special guest **EVAN JOHNS**

SAT, FEBRUARY 21  
3:30pm, from Crawfish Connection  
**CRAWFISH BOIL**  
4PM **CHARLES THIBODEAUX**  
special guest **ED POUILLARD**

SUN, FEBRUARY 22 • SHOW@8PM • \$15  
**TOMMY McLAIN**  
with **LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS**  
Advance tix at Evangeline, special hours for this show

MON, FEBRUARY 23 • 6:30PM  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX**

TUE, FEBRUARY 24  
**FAT TUESDAY**  
**BRENNEN LEIGH 5PM**  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES 7PM**  
**PONTY BONE AND THE SQUEEZETONES 10PM**

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BOMBASTA & BATIKUM

SATURDAY FEB 21 \*REGGAE\* DOORS 9:00  
**MAU MAU CHAPLAINS**  
ASHES OF BABYLON

WEDNESDAY FEB 25 \*REGGAE ROCK\* DOORS 9:00  
**GRASS WITH CHAMPAGNE & FRIENDS**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

02.27: KIRBY DOMINANT & MSG CREW  
02.28: GRIMY STYLES  
02.29: VIC RUGGIERO'S ONE MAN BAND, RYAN SCROGGINS & THE TRENCHTOWN TEXANS (ADDUSTIC SET, THE BANDULLUS, PROPER VILLAIN SOUND/SYSTEM)  
03.04: DUBB SICKS HIP HOP SHOW  
03.05: DODO, TINCAN PHONE, ROCK  
03.06: MILES OKAZAKI, NOBODY'S BUSINESS, BRANNEN TEMPLE'S TEMPLE UNDERGROUND

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009**  
**8 PM**  
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THU, FEB. 19 6PM



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FEATURING  
**'THE LEGENDARY'  
IAN MCLAGAN**  
AND THE **BUMP BAND**

**THROWDOWN THURSDAYS**  
FEATURING  
**THE EAGLE PRITCHARD**  
★ **MURRY BAND** and ★  
**MC OVERLORD**



FRI, FEB. 20 6PM



HAPPY HOUR  
FEATURING

**EVERYDUDES**

9PM

**TWILIGHT  
BROADCAST**



DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SAT, FEB. 21 9PM

**PLUMP**



DJ PROTEGE SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SUN, FEB. 22, 10PM



**AMERICAN  
ROULETTE**

MON, FEB. 23, 10PM

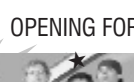


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ALL NIGHT LONG  
**THE SPOILED**

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TUE, FEB. 24, 10PM

**DJ RAPID RIC** OPENING FOR



**BOOMBOX**  
"THE INCOMPRABLE"

WED, FEB. 25 7PM



7PM HAPPY HOUR  
FEATURING  
**CHARLIE  
TERRELL**

**& THE MURDERED JOHNS**  
**LUCKY JAM SESSIONS**  
HOSTED BY LANCE & TYLER OF LOVE AT WAR FEAT  
**COMPANY OF STRANGERS & THE COUCH**

THU, FEB. 26, 10PM

★ **THROWDOWN THURSDAYS** ★  
★ FEATURING ★  
★ **THE EAGLE PRITCHARD** ★  
★ **MURRY BAND** ★  
★ and **MC OVERLORD** ★

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... THURSDAY february 19 ...

**Brazos  
Salesman**

**Saltworth Sundries**

10 pm  
Happy Hour: Jarvis Kronum's Tasty  
Treats 6:30  
outside: **NEEDLES** and **PINS** Record  
Party hosted by Angel Von Ripper 11pm

... FRIDAY february 20 ...

**Focus Group  
Fever Dreams  
White Rhino**

10pm \$3  
Happy Hour: the Spooly Show 6pm

... SATURDAY february 21 ...

**the Alice Rose  
the Demigs (Denton)  
the Sour Notes \$3**

... SUNDAY february 22 ...

**Shotgun Party  
Horse Opera  
Mike and the Moonpies**  
10pm Sweet Chariot 7:30-8:30

... MONDAY february 23 ...

**Tito and the Man  
the Something Ain't  
Rights**

**Introverb**  
Happy Hour: the McKay Brothers 6pm  
Outside: Dave Insley and friends 7:30

... TUESDAY february 24 ...

**the Bread  
Bridge Farmers  
Missy Beth and the Morning**  
Afters 9pm  
Happy Hour: Texas Mavericks 6pm  
outside: the Redneck Boys

... WEDNESDAY february 25 ...

**the Axons, Lonesome  
Heroes, and more 9pm**  
happy hour: Seth Gibbs, Bob  
Taylor's Latest Review, Brother  
Machine

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

**ROOM 710** Brink of Disaster, High Watt Crucifixers, Pack of Wolves  
**RUTA MAYA** Leo Guevara, Afro-Genesis, Krudes Cubensi, Xemilla, Fighting for Justice (6:00)  
**SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Meagan Tubb, Kalu James, Derrick Davis (9:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Bandulus, Double Barrel Soundsystem, Proper Villain Soundsystem (9:00)  
**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Drive  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Third Steele (9:00)  
**STARDUST CLUB** Weldon Henson  
**STUBB'S TX** Rockfest w/ Vinyl Dharna, Ember, Monte Montgomery, Dremnt the End  
**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Mirage (7:30)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Mark Jungers, Spank  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** David Wolfe  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE** Wynn Taylor  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN** Drawing Back w/ Daniel Conti (7:00)  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE** Tom Gilliam

**BROKEN SPOKE** Alvin Crow  
**THE BROWN BAR** DJ Gmaw  
**CACTUS CAFE** Austin Lounge Lizards (7:00, 9:30)  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Goodbye Crisis (9:30)  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** El Tule (6:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Lucky Tomblin  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Hank Sinatra, Two Hoots & a Holler (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Wall Street  
**COTTON CLUB** Smokin' Gun  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws & Outlaws  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Combo Mahalo, Patricia G. (8:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kat Edmonson  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)  
**EMO'S** Inside: Jesse Woods, Booher & the Turkeyz, A.A. Bondy; Outside: DJ Jester the Filipino Fist, the Always Already, Tastydactyls, Secret Handshake  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Crawford Boil w/ Charles Thibodeaux, Ed Poullard (3:30)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Ashes of Babylon, Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Fingerpistol (9:30)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Ukemi (9:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Glen Collins  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Weldon Henson (9:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Otis Coleman, Slickfist, Drifter  
**HEADHUNTERS** Leghorn, Los Hijos del Diablo, Splithoof, Amplified Heat, Fireswamp, Architektur, Canartic  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** The Alice Rose, the Demmings (9:00)  
**IGUANA GRILL** The Dust Devils (6:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Girl Guitar, the BanTERS, Longvacation, Texas Blues Heelers (5:30)  
**LA ZONA ROSA** David Allan Coe (9:00)  
**LAMBERTS** DJ Honeycomb (7:00), Drew Smith's Lonely Choir, Seth Sherman (10:30)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)

**MOHAWK** Outside: Jets Under Fire, Crash Gallery, Pop Unknown; Inside Later: Mock Tigers, Low Line Caller  
**MOMO'S** Bob Barney, Ginger Leigh, Dertybird (7:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Stephen Doster, Bill Carter  
**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Franklin's Blues (10:30)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Mo Robson  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Uncle Bruno (10:00)  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Beatles Tribute w/ McCallum Fine Arts Academy Orchestra, the Eggmen (8:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Bruce Smith, Trip Richmond  
**PROGRESS COFFEE** Ethan Azarian, Aaron Blount, Precious Blood  
**RADISSON** Kent Mayhew (5:30)  
**RED 7** Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, Magnifico!, Foot Patrol  
**RED FEZ** DJ Kurv (10:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes  
**ROADHOUSE RAGS** Evan Johns, Churchwood, Big Chris Gates & Gatesville (7:00)  
**RUTA MAYA** Academicos da Opera, Funk Brasil, Susanna Sharpe, Knights of Steel (8:00)  
**SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Miss Bree & Rusty (7:30)  
**SAXON PUB** Monte Warden, Miss Lavelle White, Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers (7:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** History at Our Disposal, Stumpton, My Empty Phantom, Hotel Hotel, E. Static  
**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Albanie Faleta, Tony Airoldi (8:00), The Swingsters (10:00)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Chris Boss  
**SHINING MOON SALOON** Fat Dog (8:30)  
**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Las Gabachacha, Therapy Sisters (7:00)  
**STARDUST CLUB** Unnamed Band  
**STUBB'S** Murder My Sweet, Flawless Escape, Sounds Under Radio  
**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

SAT 21

**THE AMSTERDAM** Jonathan Terrell (9:00)  
**ANTONE'S** DJ Baby G, Bavu Blakes & the Extra Plairs, Gary Clark Jr. (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Ranch Road 12 (7:30)  
**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN** Austin Banjo Club (10:00am)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Alan Haynes  
**BASS CONCERT HALL** Philip Glass (8:00)  
**BEERLAND** The Man Stamps, Dikes of Holland, Wine & Revolution, Toko-Ri Get High  
**THE BELMONT** DJ Veg (10:00)  
**BOOMERZ** Roy Heinrich & the Pickups (9:30)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Condiment Sandwich  
**BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)

Grammy-Nominated\* Jimmie Dale Gilmore in Concert at Congregation Beth Israel



\*Come On Back was nominated for a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album

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Saturday, February 28, 2009  
8:00 pm Concert in Sanctuary

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6:30 pm "Meet and Greet"  
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WHEN COUGARS ATTACK

Sun 2.22 **7 BLACK TORNADOS** CD Release  
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DICKEY BROTHERS  
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Mon 2.23 **HEART & SOUL**  
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Tue 2.24 **FATBACK CIRCUS**  
KIDS CLUB  
GLASGOW SMILE

Wed 2.25 **THUNDEROSA**  
ET AL  
BOUND 8pm: Hor & Kings County Free

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
2.26 Split Hoof, Bay of Pigs 2.27 Blood Royale, Roger's Porn Collection, Blank Generation 2.28 Turbo 350, The Beaumonts 3.1 Sick Pleasure, Buzzcrusher

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Watching the Moon, Bridge Farmers

FRI FEB 20  
10PM DIXIE WITCH  
Split Hoof, Eagle Claw

SAT FEB 21  
10PM Bluff Rat Reunion...  
Dirty Stereo, Teen Sensations  
Anthony De Los Santos, The Young Turks

WED FEB 23  
10PM OT3, Whiteside the Poet  
Thesaurus Rew, Project Dead

UPCOMING SHOWS  
2/26 In Beds, 2/27 Tornhodo  
2/28 Sons of Hercules, Transgressors

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2/19(T): 1-JAMES RYDER AND THE 480 TURNAROUND, 12-FREEDOM MACHINE, 11-LOCALMELONS, 10-CROSSWIND, 9-AMBER LUCILLE  
2/20(F): 1-THUNDERADO, 12-THUNDEROSA, 11-HAMMERDOG, 10-ESE, 9-WOLFDG  
2/21(S): 1-AMPLIFIED HEAT, 12-SPLIT HOOF, 11-LOS HIJOS DEL DIABLO (EX-AMERICAN RUSE), 10-LEGHORN, 8-J.T.HABERSTAT ALTERCATION COMEDY SHOW W/CHRIS CUBAS  
2/22(S): ATOMIC HONKY TONK: THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA 2/23(M): MELLOW MONDAY-S.I.N.  
2/24(T): 1-SLOWLY TRUTH DIES, 12-COMBAT SHOCK, 11-SLUM LORD, 10-CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, 9-HOMICIDES  
2/25(W): 12-JUSTIN BAILEY, 11-EGGSHAN, 10-DANCE LIKE ROBOTS, 9-CHRIS BEINE LOST&FOUND

CANNIBAL CLUB STAGE 2/19(T): ARARAT FOOD, HENNA, TAROT & PALM READINGS, MEDICINE MAN-HOOKAH LOUNGE  
2/20(F): 12-SATURDAY NIGHT SATELITES, 11-THE LONG SHADOWS, 10-THE NEMATODES, 9-TWANGWUERO  
2/21(S): 12-CANARTIC, 11-ARKETECTURE, 10-FIRESWAMP 2/22(S): 9-12PM MOVIE LOUNGE  
2/24(T): BILL DAVIS SINGER SONGWRITERS OPEN MIC 2/25(W): MATT'S OPEN MIC NIGHT

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FRIDAY-FEBRUARY 20 **HONKY BIG BALLS**  
VAYO  
SNAKESKIN PRISON  
BUTCHERWHITE

SATURDAY-FEBRUARY 21 **MUSIC LAB**  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS  
FIRST ROUND - DAY FOUR  
AMANDA LEPRE  
THE SCOTLAND YARDSALE  
AUTOMATIC CYCLE  
PALEHORSE  
THE EXECUTIVE LIFE

SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 22 **MUSIC LAB**  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS  
FIRST ROUND - DAY FOUR  
AMANDA LEPRE  
THE SCOTLAND YARDSALE  
AUTOMATIC CYCLE  
PALEHORSE  
THE EXECUTIVE LIFE

MONDAY-FEBRUARY 23 **FREE SHOW**  
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MUSIC STARTS AT 9PM  
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TUESDAY-FEBRUARY 24 **HEADS IN SPACE**  
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CHARLIE HURTIN & THE NECKLERS

WEDNESDAY-FEBRUARY 25 **NEXT OF SIN**  
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THURSDAY-FEBRUARY 26 **VIOLENT SKIES**  
FREEDOM MACHINE  
UNDERGROWTH  
HARDLINE FACE

FRIDAY-FEBRUARY 27 **DOWN OVER ZERO**  
DEEJER  
CURECHECK  
DROWNING MONA  
LOUDER THAN UNCLE

SATURDAY-FEBRUARY 28 **HAMMER**  
TRASHY & THE KID  
PEYTON GIN  
EL CHARCO  
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UPCOMING SHOWS  
03-06 - SIXES & EIGHTS, AGRACHCHAY, KITTINGER & MORE  
03-07 - FIVE DOLLAR FRIEND CD RELEASE SHOW WITH EVOLVED  
03-14 - WHITE DENIM, BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEY BEARS  
03-26 - SCOTTY K. BIRAM  
04-02 - UNCLE FOCKER, AMERICAN GRAVEYARD  
04-10 - HOBBERED REUNION SHOW

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**A Crack in the Wall** 11 PM  
[www.myspace.com/a crack in the wall](http://www.myspace.com/a crack in the wall)  
**The Carnys** 10 PM  
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Friday • Feb 20 **SPECIAL EVENT!**  
**DEATHROCK DISKO**  
Death Rock, Post-Punk, 80's Goth,  
Horror Punk & Minimal Synth  
WITH DJs NONE & MALEDICTION

Saturday • Feb 21 **HAVEN**  
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE  
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Feb 22 **REGRESSION**  
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's  
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday • Feb 24 **ROCK BAND**  
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Wednesday • Feb 25 **MID-WAVE**  
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth  
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thu. Feb 26 • **LIVE! FREEZEPOP**  
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Fri. Feb 27 • **Live!** subNatural 12 AM  
The Razorblade Dolls 11 PM, Chant 10 PM

Fri. Mar 13 • **ORIGIN:** Pureblood Goth  
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Neuroma 11 PM, Sullen Serenade 10 PM

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**THURSDAY, 2/19**  
**BLIND 6**



**SATURDAY, 2/21**  
**ESTHER LAVONNE AND THE ROTTENS**  
CD RELEASE PARTY!!!



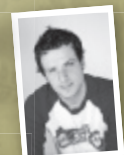
**FRIDAY, 2/20**  
**SOUTHERN SIRENS**  
w/ THE PK TRIO



**SUNDAY, 2/22**  
**ZEKE VILLARREAL**



**TUESDAY, 2/24**  
**TEXAS TUESDAYS**  
w/RYAN JAMES  
\$.75 LONE STAR TALLBOYS



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

- TRIPLE CROWN** Old Coyote, Driver F, Zlam Dunk
- VICTORY GRILL** Nina Simone's Birthday w/ Chandra Washington, the Jitterbug Vipers, Sarah Temple, Blues Mafia, Tiny Tin Hearts
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Miss Lauren Marie
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE** Bobby Kennedy (10:00)
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN** John Burkland

- HOLE IN THE WALL** Shotgun Party, Horse Opera, Mike & the Moonpies
- IGUANA GRILL** Geron Hoy (6:00)
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** Saxophonic (noon)
- JOVITA'S** The Brew (7:00)
- LAMBERTS** Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)
- LATITUDE 30** Luke Jackson (9:00)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** American Roulette (8:00)
- MANUELS** Cienfuegos
- MEAN-EYED CAT** Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
- MOMO'S** Battle of the Bands (2:00), Warren Hood & the Hoodlums (9:30)

**MON 23**

**SUN 22**

- ACES LOUNGE** Zeke Villarreal
- ANTONE'S RECORDS** Jenny Wolfe, Rick Broussard (3:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Eddie Collins (6:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Tessmer, Irish Tunes Session (8:00)
- BEERLAND** Austin Facial Hair Club Benefit w/ Baby Got Bacteria, Expensive Shit, Sweet Bandanna
- 'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Peter Rowan (8:30)
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Brian Rumbullion (12:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Ash Family (4:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Heybale! (10:00)
- COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Darin Layne Trio (9:30)
- ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Mardi Gras w/ Tommy McLain (8:00)
- 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** Gary Claxton (4:00)
- GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)
- HEADHUNTERS** Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob

- ANTONE'S** Lost Soul Revue (9:30)
- 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** Jackie Bristow
- 'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Ray Wylie Hubbard (8:00)
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Dispositions (7:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Battle of the Bands
- CHEZ ZEE** Rich Demarco (6:30)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti (6:30), Horton Brothers (10:00)
- CORK & CO.** Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Austin Jazz Band (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)
- FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Milkdrive (8:00)
- GUERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Tito & the Man, Leo Rondeau
- LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas
- LUCKY LOUNGE** The Spoiled (10:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)
- MOHAWK** Ariel Abshire, the Diving Captain, the El Guapos
- MOMO'S** Jesse Sublett w/ Jon Dee Graham, Freedy Johnston, Jack Valen, the Eastern Sea (7:00)
- MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson & Joley Flowers
- MUGSHOTS** Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)
- NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Franklin's Blues
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie
- RED FEZ** Komson (10:00)

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BB Aeroplane, Toast 10pm
- Fr 20 Mark Jungers 6pm  
Spank 9pm
- Sa 21 Zlam Dunk, Driver F, Old Cayote 10pm
- Su 22 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
- Mo 23 Beth Lee 6pm  
Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm
- Tu 24 everyday a hollyday 6pm  
Lonesome Heroes, Shotgun Party,  
Leo Rondeau 9pm
- We 25 Erickson 6pm  
Trippin' Out West 9pm

**Riley's** SINCE 1933  
**TAVERN**

- THU 2/19 **BRIGITTE LONDON**
- FRI 2/20 **THE SLOW ROLLIN' LOWS**
- SAT 2/21 **JEFF HUGHES & CHAPARRAL**
- SUN 2/22 **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**
- MON 2/23 **FREE POOL & JUKEBOX**
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**TUESDAY, FEB. 24 KARI K**

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# MYSTERIOUS WAYS

FRIDAY 9:30

FUNDRAISER

# KREWE OF SAZERAC

SATURDAY 9:30

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU	19	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	<b>suede</b>
FRI	20	WESTON SMITH	<b>mysterious WAYS</b>
SAT	21	FUNDRAISER <b>THE KREWE OF SAZERAC</b> OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	
SUN	22	<b>UNNAMED BAND</b>	
MON	23	IN THESE SHOES	<b>JO HELL &amp; THE RED ROOSTERS</b>
TUE	24	GRAND HOTEL	<b>THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION</b>
WED	25	JOSH & JASON	<b>SPAZMATICS</b>

**CEDAR  
STREET  
COURTYARD**

208 W.4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

### CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

**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)  
**SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn, Del Rossi (7:00)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Brent Wood  
**SPEAKEASY** Jonathan Terrell  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Beth Lee (6:00)

### TUE 24

**ACES LOUNGE** Ryan James  
**THE ALLIGATOR GRILL** Fat Tuesday w/ Drawing Back w/ Daniel Conti (9:00)  
**ANTONE'S** David Spann Band CD Release (8:00), Shawn Pittman (10:00)  
**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)  
**BEERLAND** Crazy, Betaplayer, Dirty Stereo  
**THE BELMONT** Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Joe Faulhaber  
**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup  
**CACTUS CAFE** Gurf Morlix, Mary Gauthier (8:30)

**CAFE MUNDI** Amy Zamarripa, Jamie MacLaggan (7:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Blue Squeeze Box, Lili & Walter CD Release (7:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Midnight River Choir, Jordan Minor  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Toni Price (6:30), Frogleg (10:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Will Sexton & Randy Weeks, Bill Carter & Stephen Doster (8:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Brannen Temple Quartet (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus  
**EMO'S** Big Fiction, Branch Davidian, Chest Pain, Streetcleaner, Coptic Times  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00), Mardi Gras w/ Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (9:30)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)  
**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** The Homicides, Criminal Mischief, Slumlord, Combat Shock, Slowly Truth Dies  
**HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** The Bread (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Geron Hoy, Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30)  
**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LUCKY LOUNGE** DJ Rapid Ric, Boombbox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)  
**MAGGIE MAE'S** Karaoke w/ Claus Von Blomie (10:00)  
**MEAN-EYED CAT** Damon Bramblett (8:00)  
**MOMO'S** Wisebird, Sea Legs, Goldcure, 100 Flowers, Melodic Drifters (7:00)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Singer-Songwriter Series w/ Wayne Sutton, Darrell Phillips, Craig Marshall (8:00), Karl Morgan (10:00)  
**POODIE'S HILTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos  
**RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Forest Wayne Allen  
**RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)  
**SAXON PUB** Robbie & the Rogues (5:00), Jonny Burke, Shurman, Austin Collins & the Rainbirds (8:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** James Bullard, Douglas Kent, Tom Vandenvond (9:00)  
**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Gypzee Heart, Leeann Atherton, Zhenya Rock (7:00)  
**SHANGRI-LA COCKTAIL LOUNGE** Fire Walk With Me w/ Roadhouse Band  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Eastside Band (9:00)  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Paul  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Leo Rondeau, Shotgun Party, the Lonesome Heroes  
**TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Will Dunlap (7:00)

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 W/ IMMIGRANT KREW**

FRI 2/20, 8P  
**PHILLIP'S SONGWRITER  
 & STORYTELLERS ROUNDTABLE**

SAT 2/21  
**TONY AIROLDI &  
 ALBANIE FALETA 8P**  
**THE SWINGSTERS 10P**

TUE 2/24, 7P  
**LEEANN ATHERTON'S  
 GYPZEE HEART**

WED 2/25, 7:30P  
**JESSIE LEE  
 MILLER**

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**CORNELL HURD BAND** 8-10pm

**FRIDAY, 2/20** \$8 COVER!  
**OUCH!** 6-7pm  
**THE EGGMEN** 7-10pm

**SATURDAY, 2/21** NO COVER  
**GIRL GUITAR** 5:30-6:30pm  
**THE BANTERS** 7-8:30pm  
**LONGVACATION** 9-10pm  
**TEXAS BLUES HEELERS** 10:30-11:30pm

**EVERY SUNDAY!**  
\$5 COVER  
**THE BREW** 7-10pm

**MONDAY, 2/23** CLOSED

**EVERY TUESDAY!** NO COVER!  
**GERON HOY** 6:30-7:30pm  
**MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND** 8-10pm

**WEDNESDAY, 2/25** NO COVER!  
**LUNA DE PLATA/HAYDN VITERA** 7-10pm

# WATERLOO

## Ice House

★ ★ **THIS WEEK** ★ ★

**6TH & LAMAR**  
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 7PM  
**THE HUDSONS**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 7PM  
**THE DRAWING BOARD**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 7PM  
**JON BURKLAND**

**38TH & MEDICAL**  
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 7PM  
**SLACKERY FAMILY BAND**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 7PM **DAVID WHITE**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 7PM **MISS LAUREN MARIE**  
SUNDAY, FEB. 22 **JAZZ BRUNCH WITH THE JEFF LOFTON QUARTET** 11AM  
**WILL DUNLAP'S JAM** 7PM  
TUESDAY, FEB. 24, 7PM **WILL DUNLAP**  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 7PM **PTARMIGAN**

**9600 ESCARPMENT**  
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 7PM **MIRAGE**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 7PM **TOM GILLAM**

**SOUTHPARK MEADOWS**  
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 10PM **BOB SHOWDOWN**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 10PM **WYNN TAYLOR**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 10PM **BOBBY KENNEDY**  
SUNDAY, FEB. 22, 10PM  
**SOUTHPARK MEADOWS SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS W/ THE JUKEBOX HEROES**  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 10PM **KARAOKE!!!**

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# THREADGILL'S

**South** 512.472.9304  
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World Headquarters

SUN. 2/22 Gospel Brunch w/ **Bells of Joy**  
11:00am Indoors/Free

SUN. 2/22 **The Texcentrics**  
6:00pm Birthday Tribute for Evelyn Erickson  
Donations Welcome!

*Coming Soon/On Sale Now*

SUN. 3/1 **The Asylum Street Spankers**  
5:00pm \$10 adv/\$15 door

SAT. 3/7 **James McMurtry**  
9:00pm \$15 adv & door

FRI. 3/13 **T-Bird & the Breaks**  
9:00pm \$8 adv/\$10 door

SAT. 3/14 **Ray Wylie Hubbard**  
9:00pm \$15 adv & door

THUR. 3/19 **Roky Erickson's Ice Cream Social**  
1:00pm \$25 adv & door

FRI. 3/20 **Bob Schneider**  
9:00pm \$15 adv & door

SAT. 3/21 **Bob Schneider's TX Bluegrass Massacre**  
9:30pm \$15 adv & door

**THREADGILL'S North** **Old NO. 1**  
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SUN. 2/22 Bluegrass Brunch with **The Double Eagle String Band**  
11:00am Free

*Coming Soon/On Sale Now*

SAT. 3/7 **Warren Hood**  
10:00pm \$10 adv & door  
Sittin', Singin' & Supper Sessions w/

WED. 3/11 **Colin Gilmore w/ Jimmie Gilmore**  
10:00pm \$10 adv & door

FRI. 3/13 **Gary Glark Jr.**  
10:00pm \$10 adv & door  
Sittin', Singin' & Supper Sessions w/

THUR. 3/19 **Darlin' Blunderhand w/ Cole El-Saleh**  
10:00pm \$10 adv & door

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**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19**

**NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS** 10  
**AVIATION BLONDE** 12:45  
**THE ARCHIBALDS** 11:45  
**ADOPTED HIGHWAY** 8:30  
**DIME STORE POETS** 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR RYAN MCGILLICUDDY 5:15  
**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20**

**T-BIRD & THE BREAKS** 12  
**BEN MALLOTT** 10:45  
**JOSH TATUM** 9:30  
**OS ALQUIMISTAS** 8

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21**

**DEITYBIRD** 12:15  
**GINGER LEIGH** 10  
**AMY ATCHLEY** 8:45  
**BOB BARNEY** 7  
**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22**

**WARREN HOOD**  
**& THE HOODLUMS** 9:30  
**INFINITE PARTIALS** 12:15  
**GORILLA MUSIC BATTLE OF THE BANDS** 2-8

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 23**

**FREEDY JOHNSTON** 8:30  
**JESSE SUBLETT** 7  
**THE EASTERN SEA** 12  
**JACK VALEN** 10:30

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24**

**MELODIC DRIFTERS** 12  
**ONE HUNDRED FLOWERS** 10:30  
**GOLDCURE** 9:30  
**SEA LEGS** 8:15  
**WISEBIRD** 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR MATT GRAVES 5:15

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25**

**DAN DYER** 10  
**ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS** 8  
EVERY WEDNESDAY!!  
**ALLEN DANIELL** 1  
**KALU JAMES** 11:45

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

**FEB 26** THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORY PROJECT  
OF NEW ORLEANS W/ THE BELLEVILLE  
OUTFIT, WARREN HOOD & MANY MORE

**FEB 28** **JON DEE GRAHAM**

**SUN MARCH 1** **K8 BENEFIT** FEAT: SUZANNA CHOFFEL  
DAN DYER, BAND OF HEATHENS, PATRICE PIKE  
BOB SCHNEIDER, WARREN HOOD, DREW SMITH  
DUSTIN WELCH, AMY COOK, KACY CROWLEY & MORE!

**B.D. Riley's**  
**Irish Pub**  
6TH STREET FOR GROWN UPS

**It's the Irish Month of Ramadan!**

**FRIDAY Feb 20 - Kickoff the St Pat's Season!**  
**THE GREAT GUINNESS TOAST!**  
Join Us In Time For The Toast @ 11pm  
**Sean Orr & Black Dagger 10:30**

◆ LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY - NO COVER!  
◆ IRISH TUNE SESSION SUNDAY 9-ISH  
◆ KITCHEN OPEN TILL MIDNIGHT FRI & SAT

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**DEL CASTILLO**



**WITH VITERA**  
**FRI FEB 20 & SAT FEB 21**  
**DJ VERTIGO**

**THURS FEB 26 \$10 COVER**  
**THE STONE RIVER BOYS**  
**FEAT. DAVID GONZALEZ**  
(HACIENDA BROTHERS, PALADINS)  
**MIKE BARFIELD**  
(THE HOLISTERS)  
**RANDY WEEKS**

**FRI FEB 27**  
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**CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS**

**WED 25**

**219 WEST** Señor Gato  
**THE AMSTERDAM** Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)  
**ANTONE'S** Doug Burr, Son Volt (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King (7:30)  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Suzanne Smith  
**BEERLAND** The Pelicks, Monument to No One, Beautiful Supermachines  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Aaron Franz  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Tony Harrison, Bo Porter  
**CACTUS CAFE** Shawn Mullins (7:00, 9:30)  
**CANNOLI JOE'S** Alex Coke (6:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Shoemaker Brothers, World Racketeering Squad (7:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Shotgun Party (6:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)  
**CHESTER'S ICE HOUSE** The Detentions  
**CHEZ ZEE** Jacinta (7:00)  
**THE COCKPIT CLUB** Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Guy Forsyth (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:00)  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Project Dead, Thesaurus Rex, Whiteside the Poet, OT23  
**CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)  
**DARWIN'S PUB** Johnny Austin (8:00)  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Jackie Bristow & Chip Dolan, Anthony Farrell (8:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kat Edmonson (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Megasaurus Big Band (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister  
**EMO'S** Inside: The Diving Captain, the Authors, Built by Snow; Outside: Dead Space, Red Leaves, Cry Blood Apache, Ringo Deathstarr  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Danny Britt (7:00)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Champagne With Friends, Grass (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Cleve & Sweet Mary (8:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Sohan Fan (8:00)  
**FRIENDS** Andy Mcintyre & the Primal Groove (10:30)  
**GIDDY UPS** Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Roger Wallace (9:00)  
**GRUEN HALL** Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Open Mic (8:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found, Dance Like Robots, Eggshan, Justin Bailey  
**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** Erin Ivey (6:00), Erin Ivey & Eddy Hobizal (7:30)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** The Axons, the Lonesome Heroes (9:00)  
**J. BLACK'S FEEL GOOD LOUNGE** Patrick Fleming (9:30)  
**JOVITA'S** Luna de Plata, Haydn Vitera (7:00)  
**KEY BAR** Jukebox Heroes (7:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas  
**LAMBERTS** The Moonhangers (7:00)  
**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Red Young (6:30)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem (9:00)  
**MEAN-EYED CAT** Rosie Flores (8:00)  
**MOHAWK** Peligrosa All-Stars, Este Vato, Pinata Protest, Girl in a Coma (8:00)  
**MOMO'S Asylum** Street Spankers, Dan Dyer, Kalu James, Allen Daniels Band (8:00)  
**MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** 80H Project (10:00)  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Joan Baez (8:00)  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)  
**RED FEZ** Atash (10:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Nashville Reunion, 3-Way Street  
**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D.  
**RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)  
**SAXON PUB** 3rd Try Lefty (6:00), Monte Montgomery, James Hyland, Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue, Jodi Adair (8:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** The Space Rockers  
**SHINER'S SALOON** Jeremy Steding (10:30)  
**STUBB'S** The Cut Off, the Campaign, Odis  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Erickson, the Gougiers  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Ptarmigan (7:00)  
**ZTEJAS** Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kat Edmonson (8:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Violet Crown Revue w/ Liz Morphis, Stephan Karlsson (6:00)  
**EMO'S** Equality Texas Benefit w/ Pauline Pisano Hollow, Kimberly Freeman, Ginger Doss, Tara Craig, GBMOJO, Britni Hoover, Amanda Lepre, Kristy Lee  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Craig Toungate (7:00)  
**THE FIFTH GALLERY** DJ John Gomi & Beatimprint (9:00)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** MSG Crew, Kirby Dominant (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Hudson Mueller (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Brewer Nation  
**LAMBERTS** Gary Clark Jr., J.J. Moeller (7:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Phil Brown (6:00)  
**MEAN-EYED CAT** Johnny Cash's Birthday w/ Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)  
**MOHAWK** Tyler Jordan, Western Ghost House, the Monarchs, Crooks  
**MOMO'S** New Orleans Neighborhood Story Project w/ Greg Izor & the Box Kickers, Little Elmore Reed, My Friend Jen, Warren Hood, Milkdrive, the Belleville Outfit (8:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Philip Gibbs (6:30)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Ray Primm, Kalu James (8:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Reverend Glasseye, Wino Vino (9:00)  
**QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE** DJ Cue  
**RAINBOW CATTLE CO.** Dad's Happy Hour w/ DJ Bobbie & Mary (3:00)  
**RED 7** Honey Thief, Exeter, Baron Grod, Magic Jewels (10:00)  
**RED FEZ** DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)  
**THE RED HOUSE** Uncle Lucius (8:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Michael Wren  
**SAXON PUB** Porter Davis, Patrice Pike & Joy Davis, James Bullard, James Hand (6:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Shotgun Party, Jenny & the Corn Ponies, JWW & the Prospectors (6:00)  
**SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Zee Rock (7:30)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Ember  
**STUBB'S** Dead Black Hearts, Stereo Is a Lie, the Boxing Lesson  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Bill Passalacqua, Silver Pines, This Will Destroy You  
**TROPHY'S** Two Hoots & a Holler  
**UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY** Cantanker Party w/ MVSCLZ, Many Birthdays, Coma in Algiers  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN** The Hudsons (7:00)  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Asleep at the Wheel (5:00)  
**ZTEJAS** Tameca Jones

**THU 26**

**219 WEST** James Speer  
**311 Club** Joe Valentine (9:30)  
**ACES LOUNGE** Blind 6  
**THE AMSTERDAM** Bob Cheevers (9:00)  
**ANTONE'S** Drew Smith, Guy Forsyth, Kat Edmonson, Goldcore, Mulholland Drive (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Danny Britt (7:30)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Tessmer  
**BEERLAND** Send Help, the Anchor, Pretty Boy Thorson & the San Diego Changers  
**THE BELMONT** Jeff Lofton Quartet (7:00), DJ Veg (10:00)  
**THE BLUE THEATER** No Idea Festival w/ Cooper-Moore & Tatsuya Nakatani, Jason Kahn, Chris Cogburn, Nick Hennies, Annette Krebs & Bonnie Jones (8:00)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Mary Beth Mary Lou  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton  
**THE BROWN BAR** DJ Gmau  
**CACTUS CAFE** Graham Weber, Guy Clark (8:00)  
**CANNOLI JOE'S** Alex Coke (6:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Joshua Bain, Alex Dupree & the Trapdoor Band, Narrow Escapes (7:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Son y No Son (6:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Paul Eason  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Woodsboss (6:30), El Tule, Salero (10:00)  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** In Beds  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) for complete listings.

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\$4.99 Burgundy Marinated Steak and Shrimp Special till 1 PM

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**BIG BAD WOLF THURSDAYS: \$15 (w/THIS AD) PACKAGE INCLUDES:  
NO COVER, ANY MENU ITEM AND DRINK OF CHOICE 12PM-7PM**

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MEN'S CLUB

Free Friday Super Buffet  
WITH THIS AD BEFORE NOON

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Late Night Menu 10PM-1AM

1/2 lb Steak + Fries \$5

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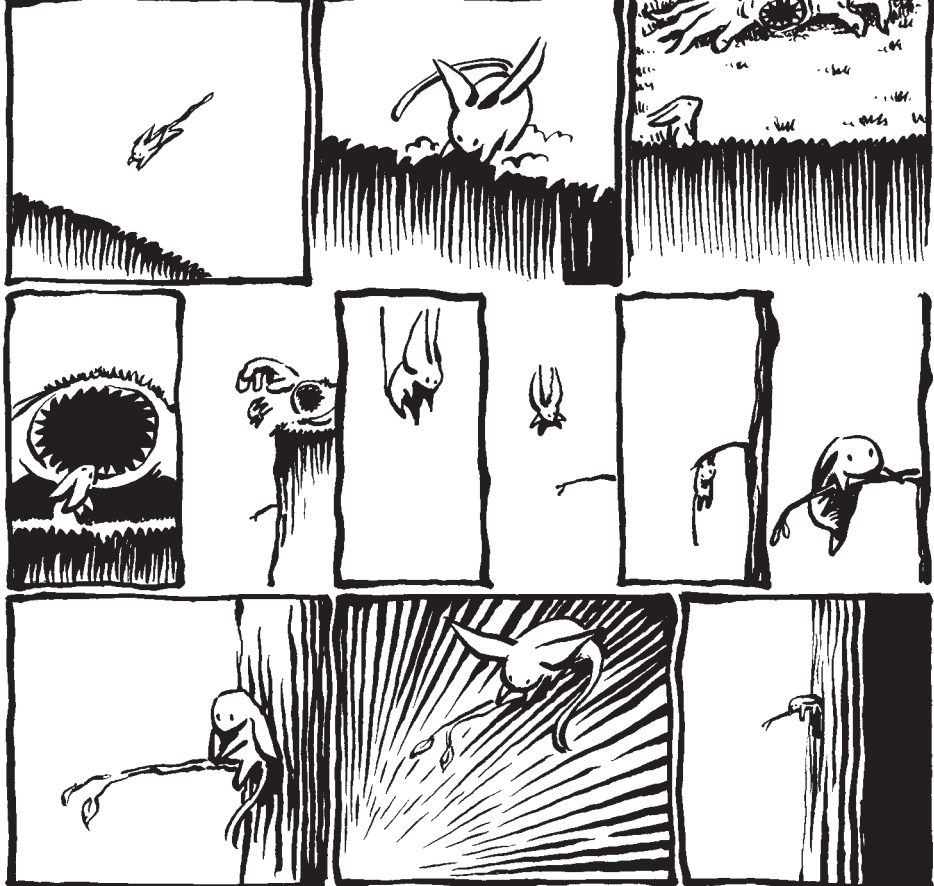
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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



February is mating season for squids off Southern California.

Valerian root smells like dirty socks.

On Darwin's 200th birthday, which was Feb. 12, only 39% of Americans believed in evolution.

All pure blue-eyed people have a genetic mutation, according to a study by the University of Copenhagen. By comparing the DNA of Danes with that of people from Turkey and Jordan, scientists calculated the mutation happened about 6,000-10,000 years ago in a particular individual somewhere around the Black Sea.

Olivia Newton-John likes to use a clothesline rather than a dryer, because it "makes your clothes and linens smell so good, and it is very eco-friendly."

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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