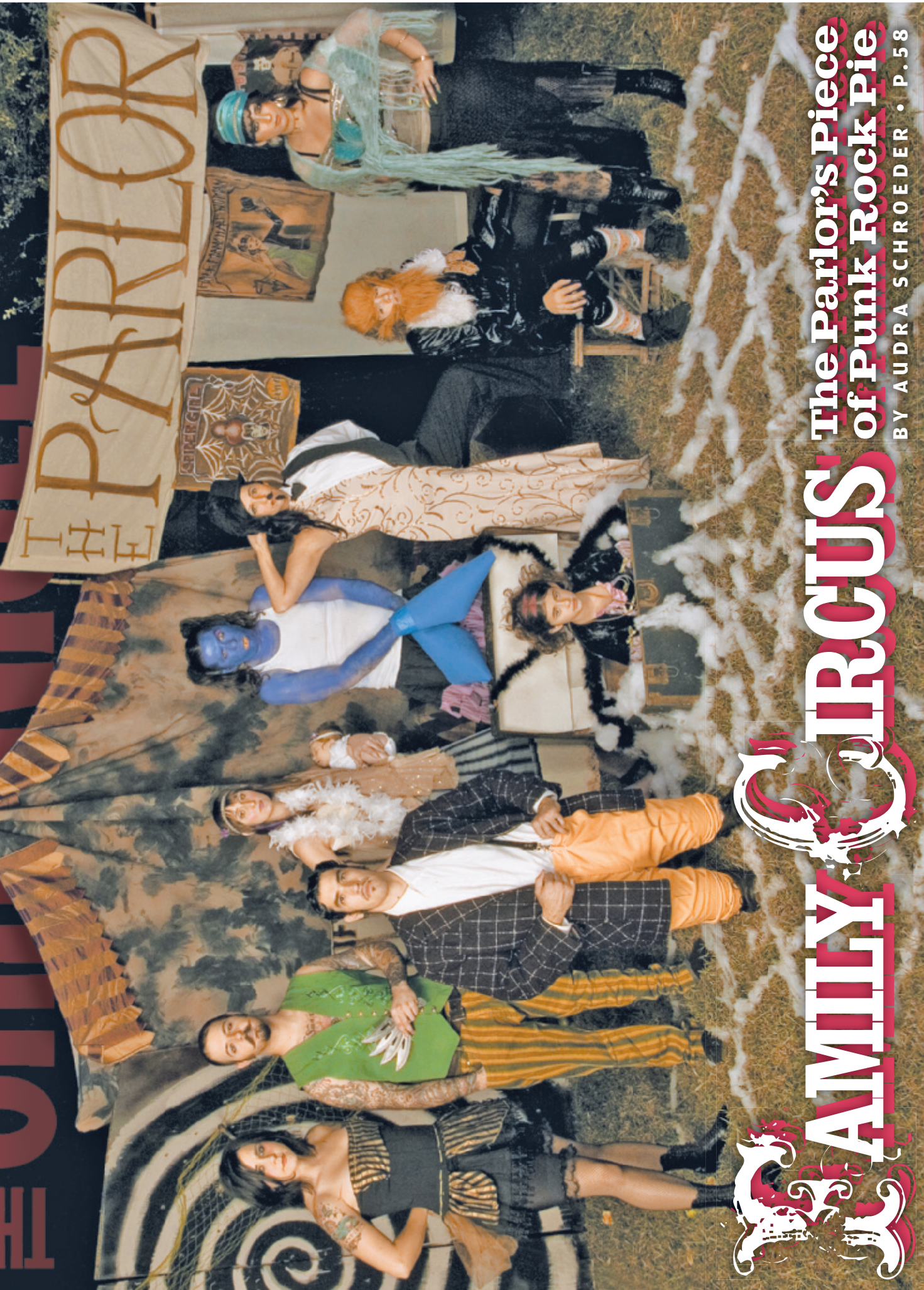


THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

VOLUME 28 ★ NUMBER 26
FEBRUARY 27, 2009



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of Punk Rock Pie

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER • P. 58

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City Hall Hustle's lounging with **LEFFINGWELL**, waxing with **MCCRACKEN**, and hanging with **STRAYHORN** > Earache's **DAY TRIPPIN'** > Picture in Picture hearts **MAX FISCHER** and so does the Texas Film Hall of Fame > Chronique's mesmerized by **SHINY GOLD THINGS** > The Score on **A-ROID** and more

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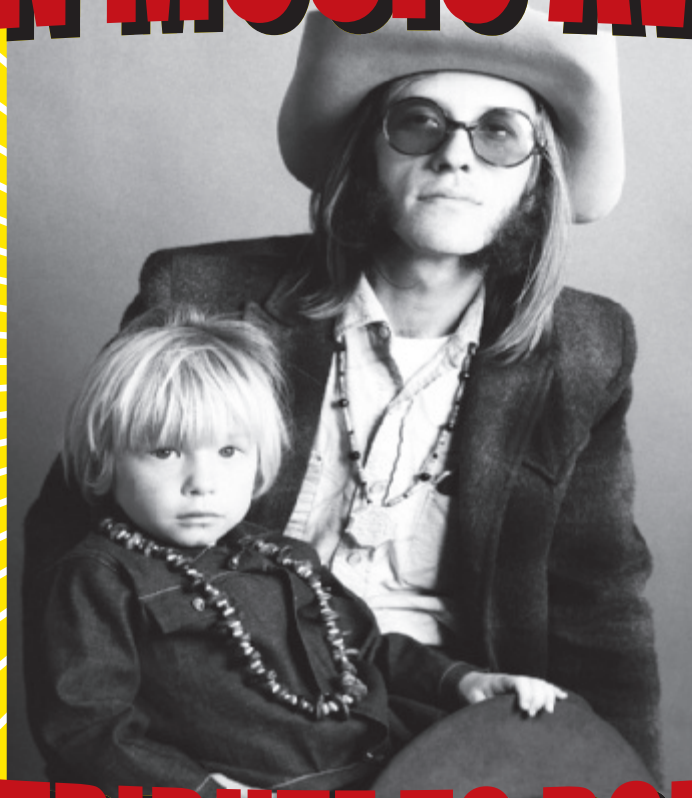
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UPDATED SXSW FILM 2009 SCREENINGS & PANEL SCHEDULES ONLINE!

Here's another choice sampling of the 2009 Film lineup, just the tip of the iceberg of the over 130 features playing. Visit sxsw.com/film for the complete lineup!

SXSW FILM FESTIVAL

The internationally-acclaimed, nine-day SXSW Film Festival boasts some of the most wideranging programming of any US event of its kind, from provocative documentaries to subversive Hollywood comedies, with a special focus on emerging talents.

SPOTLIGHT PREMIERES



I Love You, Man

I Love You, Man (SXSW Opening Night)

Paul Rudd, Jason Segel and Rashida Jones star in this sharp romantic comedy about a man who, upon getting engaged, realizes he has no close male friends and must find someone to be the Best Man at his wedding.

Winnebago Man

After cursing his way through a Winnebago sales video, Jack Rebney's outrageously funny outtakes became an underground sensation and made him an internet superstar. Filmmaker Ben Steinbauer journeys to the top of a mountain to find the recluse who unwittingly became the "Winnebago Man."

EMERGING VISIONS

Four Boxes

"Weeds" star Justin Kirk heads up this snarky social thriller about three suburban nobodies watching a creep named Havoc on a website called fourboxes.tv – a modern-day *Rear Window* on the internet.

My Suicide

An isolated, media obsessed teenager announces he's going to kill himself for his high school, video production class final project.

24 BEATS PER SECOND

Anvil! The Story of Anvil

At 14, Toronto school friends Steve "Lips" Kudlow and Robb Reiner made a pact to rock together forever. They meant it.

RiP: A Remix Manifesto

A documentary featuring remix artist Girl Talk explores issues of copyright in the information age, mashing up the media landscape of the 20th century and shattering the wall between users and producers.

MIDNIGHTERS

Lake Mungo

A mystery, a thriller and a ghost story weaved into a 'documentary' that illustrates how the dead can forever haunt the living.

Lesbian Vampire Killers (SXSW Presents Fantastic Fest at Midnight)

Matthew Horne and James Corden, the comedy duo behind the award-winning BBC comedy series "Gavin and Stacey", are two hapless losers whose idyllic country holiday is shattered by the arrival of an army of thirsty lesbian vampires.



Lesbian Vampire Killers

SX GLOBAL brings International films to town!

Two Danish films by the same director, Janus Metz, are *Ticket to Paradise* and *Love on Delivery*, both U.S. Premieres. They deal with two separate towns, one in Thailand, one in Denmark, linked by roughly 600 marriages of Thai women to Danish men. From sex-bars in Pattaya to factory jobs in a remote fishing community on the north coast of Denmark, love born of necessity takes on interesting forms and makes for unexpected unions.



Ticket to Paradise

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

The Snake

The funniest movie about dating a bulimic... possibly ever.



Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo

Sweethearts of the Prison Rodeo

Texas filmmaker Bradley Beesley journeys with his cameras to the only remaining U.S. prison rodeo that is actually located on penitentiary grounds – and watches, cameras rolling, as ill-prepared male and female convicts risk their lives for the promise of cash and a brief spotlight.

LONE STAR STATES

Exterminators

Jennifer Coolidge and Heather Graham star in this dark comedy about a group of women who meet in court mandated rage therapy and decide to form a traditional business with very untraditional methods.

Sunshine

In 1975 rural Texas, the local mayor's daughter grapples with an unplanned pregnancy finally deciding to have her baby in secret before giving her away in a hidden adoption. Twenty-three years later, the adopted child also has an unplanned baby out of wedlock. The film tells the intimate story of these two single mothers, while exploring the times and circumstances that afforded them very different options.



SXSW film festival 2009

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Artois the Goat

Director: **Cliff Bogart and Kyle Bogart**

Lab technician Virgil Gurdies embarks on an epic quest to craft the greatest goat cheese the world has ever known and reclaim the heart of his beloved Angie. *Cast:* Mark Scheibmeir, Sydney Andrews, Stephen Taylor Fry, Dan Braverman



Bomber

Director: **Paul Cotter**

A bittersweet comedy about love, family and dropping bombs on Germany. *Cast:* Shane Taylor, Benjamin Whitrow, Eileen Nicholas

Breaking Upwards

Director: **Daryl Wein**

A young New York couple who, desperate to escape their ennui, but fearful of life apart, decide to intricately strategize their own break up. *Cast:* Daryl Wein, Zoe Lister-Jones, Julie White, Peter Friedman, Andrea Martin, Pablo Schreiber, La Chanze, Olivia Thirlby, Ebon Moss-Bachrach

It Was Great, But I Was Ready to Come Home

Director: **Kris Swanberg**

A woman tries to get over her recent breakup by backpacking in Costa Rica with her best friend, and through traveling together, the two women realize they may be on separate trips. *Cast:* Kris Swanberg, Jade Healy

Made in China

Director: **Judi Krant**

Lost in Shanghai, an inventor discovers that it takes more than a bright idea to succeed. *Cast:* Jackson Keuhn, Dan Sumpter

The Overbrook Brothers

Director: **John Bryant**

Jason brings his girlfriend home for Christmas... and bad things happen. *Cast:* Nathan Harlan, Mark Reeb, Laurel Whitsett, Steve Zissis, John Jones



That Evening Sun

Director: **Scott Teems**

A ruthless grudge match between two old foes. Lines are drawn, threats are made, and the simmering tension under the Tennessee sun erupts, inevitably, into savagery. *Cast:* Hal Holbrook, Mia Wasikowska, Ray McKinnon, Walton Goggins, Carrie Preston

True Adolescents

Director: **Craig Johnson**

Aging indie rocker Sam Bryant takes two teen boys on an ill-fated hiking trip that forces everyone to grow up, and fast. *Cast:* Mark Duplass, Melissa Leo, Bret Loehr, Carr Thompson

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

45365

Director: **Bill Ross**

An inquiring look at everyday life in middle America, the film explores the congruities of daily life in an American town Sidney, Ohio.

Garbage Dreams

Director: **Mai Iskander**

Filmed over four years, the film follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world's largest garbage village. Each boy chooses a different path when their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of their trade.

MINE

Director: **Geralyn Pezanoski**

After Hurricane Katrina, thousands of pets were rescued and adopted by families around the country, leading to many custody battles. Through these stories, the film examines issues of race, class and animal welfare in the U.S.

Say My Name

Director: **Nirit Peled**

A story is built around the lives of entrepreneurs, mothers and artists fighting to be themselves in a society that offers few opportunities for women.

Severe Clear

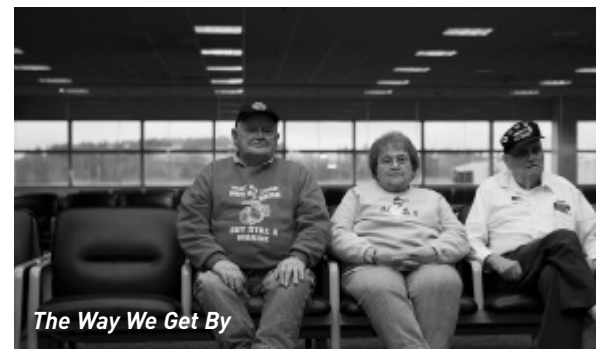
Director: **Kristian Fraga**

Armed with the world's most lethal ordnance and his home video camera, First Lieutenant Michael T. Scotti captures the chaos and complexity of war.

Sons of a Gun

Director: **Rivkah Beth Medow and Gregory O'Toole**

A family of 3 schizophrenic men and their alcoholic caregiver/Dad get evicted, move into one motel room, argue, joke around, and find a new home.



The Way We Get By

Director: **Aron Gaudet**

On call 24/7 for the past 6 years, a group of senior citizens transform their lives by greeting nearly one million U.S. troops at a tiny airport in Maine.

Trimpin: The Sound of Invention

Director: **Peter Esmonde**

A wild ride through the sonic world of an eccentric creative genius of Artist inventor/engineer/composer Trimpin.

SXSW FILM PASSES ON SALE NOW

Parties and panels not your thing? No problem, the SXSW Film Pass is a great option for the casual filmgoer! SXSW Film passes now on sale at Waterloo Records and area Alamo Drafthouse box offices for \$70. Pick up your bargain-priced (**less than \$10 a day**) SXSW Film Pass now!

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Music + Film + Interactive
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it's south buy sell trade!

A buy-sell-trade expo featuring records and guitars...

Saturday, **March 21** 10am-6pm

Sunday, **March 22** 10am-6pm

THE AUSTIN RECORD CONVENTION & TEXAS GUITAR SHOW

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER
Exhibit Hall 4 (Trinity & 4th Street entrance)

FREE FOR ALL AGES!

The Austin Record Convention

AN AUSTIN MUSIC TRADITION FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS

More than 30 years strong, the Austin Record Convention brings together dealers and buyers from around the world. With titles from as far back as the 1930's, you'll find countless 78s, 45s, LPs, CDs, cassettes, 8-tracks, posters and collectibles. For the inaugural year at SXSW, we'll begin with a scaled down version.



Also garnering 30 years of respect and success, the Texas Guitar Show is a true buy-sell-trade event. Bring your musical instruments to sell, trade, or have appraised. Buyers will find everything music (new - used - vintage) from guitars, amps, banjos, mandolins, effects, memorabilia, sound gear, parts, drums, violins, books and accessories.

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WHAT IS IT? A Concert Poster Exhibition & Collector Show

Thursday, March 19 — Sunday, March 22

Show up early and be ready to be overwhelmed with amazing posters (you might want to bring some dough too since you won't want to leave empty handed.)



SCREENBURN
AT SXSW

SCREENBURN AT SXSW ARCADE

March 13-15

ScreenBurn at SXSW brings the excitement of the video game industry to the mix of Music, Film and Interactive that is Austin in March.

Admission to the ScreenBurn Arcade is **FREE!** It's a public space to explore the newest innovations in video games as well as participate in casual and advanced tournaments.

Check out the semi-finalists from the 2009 ScreenBurn at SXSW Game Design Competitions at:

screenburnatsxsw.com



at the carver

INTERACTIVE MEDIA EVENT HOSTED BY OGLIVY

FRIDAY March 13th 6pm-9pm
SXSW Blacks in Tech Meetup

Celebrate the first B.I.T. Meetup with some of the nation's top technology talent who are in Austin for SXSW Interactive. A networking event for professionals as well as those hoping to break into the new media industry. Light refreshments served.

FILM EVENTS

SATURDAY March 14th 9am-5pm
Stop Motion Workshop

SUNDAY March 15th 9am-5pm
Stop Motion Workshop

A free two day Youth Filmmaking Workshop on stop motion animation conducted by the Austin School of Film and Detroit stop motion aficionado Gary Schwartz. Kids age 13 to 19 will be both cast and crew as they animate themselves to hip-hop group The Cypher's spoken word song "Erupt".

SUNDAY March 15th 6pm-8pm
SXSW Texas High School Shorts

On Sunday evening the SXSW Texas High School Shorts program will screen 17 short films by Texas students.

MUSIC EVENTS

FRIDAY March 20th 6pm-11pm
Gospel Concert
Teresajenee, Eric Moore and Resonate, Kathy Taylor, Kenny Wayne Band, Elizabeth Hunnicutt

SATURDAY March 21st 1pm-5pm
Holy Hip Hop

The Much Luvv Fam - Tre?, S.O.M., Cy, Von Won, Gifted, DJ Primo and Laden, Syntax Records - Braille, and more!

SATURDAY March 21st 6pm-11pm
Gospel Concert
Seven Day Slumber, Zie'l, Keith Newton

free concerts!

AUDITORIUM SHORES STAGE CONCERT SERIES AT LADYBIRD LAKE

Don't miss it - three nights of **FREE** concerts at the SXSW Auditorium Shores Stage on Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin. Festival food, arts and craft vendors, and free music with Austin's magnificent skyline as a backdrop. Is there a better way to spend a beautiful March evening? **Brought to you by:**



Thursday, March 19

5:00 pm Gates Open

Cold War Kids

M. Ward

Elvis Perkins in Dearland

Friday March 20

5:00 pm Gates open

6:00 pm Bob Schneider

7:00 pm Raul Malo

8:00 pm The ARC Angels



The Arc Angels

Saturday March 21

SXSW Children's Stage Acts for the whole family!



The Biscuit Brothers

The Biscuit Brothers

Jambo

Astrograss

The Telephone Company

Daddy a Go-Go

Joe McDermott

Evening Showcases:

6:00 pm Beach House

8:00 pm Explosions in the Sky

All information is subject to change



GO TO SXSW.COM/FREE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES TO ALL THREE CONFERENCES & FESTIVALS.

5XSW Music Festival International 2009

Sounds from Colombia Wednesday March 18th

SPEAKEASY

Verde 3
Ratón Perez
Monareta
Poper
Bomba Estereo
Doctor Krapula
Choc Quib Town



Ratón Perez

Brazil Night Wednesday March 18th

THE RIO

Telerama
Nancy
Vandex
Oxé
Erika Machado
Tita Lima



Telerama

Music From Ireland Thursday March 19th

THE RIO

Fight Like Apes
The Mighty Stef
The Lost Brothers
One Day International
The Guggenheim



The Mighty Stef

Heavy Metal Islam Friday March 20th

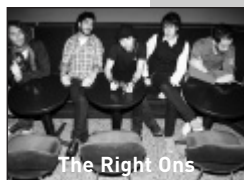
CLUB 115

The Kordz
Lazywall
The Kominas
TarantisT

Sounds from Spain Wednesday March 18th

ESTHER'S FOLLIES

Nacho Vegas
Underwater Tea Party
La Habitación Roja
The Right Ons
Los Coronas
SFDK



The Right Ons

Canada House Thursday March 19th

EL SOL Y LA LUNA

Priestess
King Khan & the Shrines
Two Hours Traffic
Sebastien Grainger
The Wet Secrets
FemBots
Caracol



King Khan & the Shrines

Sounds Australia Thursday March 19th

FRIENDS

The Hot Kicks
The Boat People
Red Riders
Birds of Tokyo
The Fumes
Closure in Moscow



Birds of Tokyo

Japan Night Part 1 Friday March 20th

ELYSIUM

detroit7
Grapevine
Sparta Locals
Honey Sac
Dirty Old Men
FLiP

ARGENTINA

Banda de Turistas
Debayres
Pedro Menendez
JazzTango
Ensemble
Peter's Songs
Valerio Rinaldi
Superlasciva
AUSTRALIA
An Horse
Birds Of Tokyo
Blue King Brown
The Boat People
Andy Bull
Loene Carmen
Closure In Moscow
Dappled Cities
The Drones
The Fumes
Kara Grainger
The Grates
Hell City Glamours
The Hot Kicks
Infusion
The Kin
Lenka
Miami Horror
The Morning After
Girls
My Disco
Naked On the
Vague
Josh Pyke
Red Riders
The Resignators
Anthony Snape
Angus & Julia
Stone
The Temper Trap
Youth Group
AUSTRIA
Igudesman & Joo
BARBADOS
David Kirton
BELGIUM
Arsenal
The Black Box
Revelation
Milow
NID & SANCY
White Circle Crime
Club
BRAZIL
Alexandre Grooves
Black Drawing
Chalks
Cafe Funque
Canja Rave
Cassim & Barbaria
Garotas Suecas

Holger
La Pupuna
Tita Lima
Los Pirata
Erika Machado
Nancy
Valeria Oliveira
Oxe
Pato Fu
The River Raid
Kristoff Silva
S.O.M.B.A.
Telerama
The Twelves
Vandex
Vinil Lanarja
CANADA
AIDS Wolf
Anvil
Arkells
Melissa Auf der
Maur
Aun
Azeda Booth
Jill Barber
BEAST
Bedouin
Soundclash
Kim Beggs
Birds of Wales
Black Diamond Bay
(formerly Krief)
Boats
Bonjour Brumaire
Elliott Brood
Buck 65
Cancer Bats
Caracol
Classified
The Coast
Alex Cuba
Jesse Dangerously
DD/MM/YYYY
Deadmau5
The Deep Dark
Woods
Delhi 2 Dublin
The Details
D.O.
Julie Doiron
Luke Doucet
The D'Urbervilles
Emma Lee
Empire Isis
The Evaporators
Felix Cartal
FemBots
Final Flash
Gentleman Reg
The Golden Dogs
Sebastien Grainger
Grand Analog

Jenn Grant
Handsome Furs
Hey Ocean
The High Dials
Hollerado
Hot Panda
Human Highway
Immaculate
Machine
Inward Eye
The Johnstones
Jokers of the Scene
The Joys
Katie Stelmanis
Keys N Krates
K'naan
Jon Lajoie
Jen Lane
Les Handclaps
Lights
Lions In The Street
Little Miss Higgins
Magna Lane
Dan Mangan
The Mark Inside
David Martel
Josh Martinez
Lorrie Matheson
Melissa McClelland
Mishka
Moka Only + Def 3
Colin Moore
More Or Less
Mother Mother
MSTRKRFT
Krista Muir
Colin Munroe
Ninjasnik
No Kids
NQ Arbuckle
Ohbijou
Oh Susanna
One Hundred
Dollars
The Orchid Highway
Lindi Ortega
The Pack A.D.
The Painted Birds
Paper Lions
Peer Pressure
The Perpetrators
The Pink Noise
Jefferson Pitcher
Po' Girl
Codie Prevost
Priestess
Steve Reynolds
Sam Roberts Band
Ruby Coast
The Rural Alberta
Advantage
Sagapool

Jay Semko
Shad
Shout Out Out
Out Out
Skavenjah
Slim Twig
Smokekiller
Social Code
Gavin Stephens
Mark Sultan
The Telepathic
Butterflies
Gordie Tentrees
Pat Thornton
Thunderheist
Tornat
Twilight Hotel
Two Hours Traffic
Ann Vriend
The Wet Secrets
We Were Lovers
Winter Gloves
Wintersleep
Women
The Wooden Sky
Woodhands
Young Galaxy
Zaki Ibrahim
COLOMBIA
Bomba Estereo
Choc Quib Town
Diva Gash
Doctor Krapula
Monica Giraldo
Monareta
Poper
Ratón Pérez
Don Tetto
Verde3
CZECH REPUBLIC
Bloodgroup
Sprengjuhollin
Steed Lord
INDONESIA
The S.I.G.I.T.
White Shoes & The
Couples Company
IRAN
The Plastic Wave
TarantisT
IRELAND
Wallis Bird
Dirty Epics
Fight Like Apes
The Guggenheim
Cuca

FAROE ISLANDS

The Ghost
FINLAND
Jaakko & Jay
The Latebirds
FRANCE
Asa
Binary Audio
Misfits
Bogart and the
Addictives
Dead Sexy Inc
Don Rimini
Empyr
Eol Trio
Gunslingers
Herman Dune
Kap Bambino
Medi And The
Medicine Show
Moriarty
Olympus Mons
Tahiti Boy and the
Palmtree Family
The Toxic Avenger
& Franki Chan
GERMANY
Booka Shade
Boys Noize
Brian Cares
CLP
Damero
Tim Exile
Kamikaze Queens
King Khan & the
Shrines
M.A.N.D.Y.
Popular Damage
Two Dollar Bash
HUNGARY
The Moog
Neo
Amber Smith
Supersonic
ICELAND
Bloodgroup
Sprengjuhollin
Steed Lord
INDONESIA
The S.I.G.I.T.
White Shoes & The
Couples Company
IRAN
The Plastic Wave
TarantisT
IRELAND
Wallis Bird
Dirty Epics
Fight Like Apes
The Guggenheim
Cuca

Grotto
Lisa Hannigan
Kiernan McMullan
The Mighty Stef
One Day
International
Republic of Loose
SICKBOY
The Brothers
Movement
The Urges
We Should Be Dead
ISRAEL
Midnight Peacocks
Monotonix
ITALY
A Classic Education
Afterhours
Belladonna
The Electric
Diorama
Les Fauves
Sylvie Lewis
Paolo "Apollo"
Negri
sorry-ok-yes
JAMAICA
Kingman and
Jonah
JAPAN
Asakusa Jinta
BO-PEEP
Cubismo Grafico
Five
detroit7
Dirty Old Men
The Emeralds
FLiP
Flower Travellin'
Band
Futomomo
Satisfaction
GAGAKIRISE
Geeks
Grapevine
Honey Sac
Natccu
ok city ok
Quaff
Maki Rinka
Sa
Sonpub
SPARTA LOCALS
SpecialThanks
Stereo Pony
MEXICO
Afrodita
Allison
Bam Bam
Chikita Violenta
Cosmopolitan
Cuca

Descartes A Kant
Division Minuscula
Finde
Hello Seahorse
Insite
La Gusana Ciega
LECHE
Los Claxons
Los Fancy Free
Los Llamarada
Natalia Lafourcade
Niña Diaz
Pato Machete
Leon Polar
Polka Madre
Ratas del Vaticano
Ruido Rosa
Satin Dolls
Selma Oxor
SIMPLIFIRES
60 Tigres
Songs For Eleonor
Juan Son
Toy Selectah
Ximena Sariñana
XXY
Yokozuna
Zoe
MOROCCO
Lazywall
NEW ZEALAND
Bang! Bang! Eche!
Bleeders
Jackie Bristow
Cut Off Your Hands
David Dallas
Rodney Fisher
Kylie Harris
Ladyhawke
Midnight Youth
The Renderers
Ross Royce
White Swan Black
Swan
NIGERIA
Beautiful Nubia
Glorious Voice
Gospel Singers
NORWAY
Arabrot
Blood Red Throne
Casiokids
The Cocktail
Slippers
Datarock
Deleted Waveform
Gatherings
Grande
Love:Fi
The New Wine
The Shitsez
Son of Light

Tommy Tee
Ungdomskulen
PORTUGAL
Cla
Nicole Eitner
David Fonseca
Legendary Tiger
Man
Rita Redshoes
ROMANIA
Dekadens
RUSSIA
Intuitive Music
Orchestra
Mumi Troll
SINGAPORE
I Am David Sparkle
SLOVENIA
Volodja Balzalorsky
& Brett Bachus
Volodja Balzalorsky
& Michelle
Schumann
SOUTH AFRICA
BLK JKS
Chiwoniso
The Partotones
SPAIN
Capsula
Delco
Elastic Band
Guillamino
Hyperpotamus
It's Not Not
La Habitación Roja
Los Coronas
Nacho Vegas
The Pepper Pots
Plouen Catximbres
Poet In Process
Raydibaum
The Right Ons
SFDK
Standstill
This Drama
Aaron Thomas
Tokyo Sex
Destruction
Tom Cary
Underwater Tea
Party
We Are Balboa
We Are Standard
SWEDEN
Abalone Dots
Baskery
Dag for Dag
Dmitry Fyodorov
Adam Helderling
Kaka
Loney Dear
Marching Band

Ida Maria
Mixtapes &
Cellmates
Peter Bjorn and
John
Kristoffer
Ragntam
Steso Songs
The Tallest Man On
Earth
Sofia Talvik
The Tiny
Wildbirds &
Peacedrums
SWITZERLAND
Choo Choo
Navel
Round Table
Knights
THE NETHERLANDS
Arts The Beatdoctor
Awkward I
In Stereo
(perCeptie &
Kapel)
Kraak & Smaak
Le Le
Lucky Fonz III
The Moi Non Plus
Monokino
Pete Philly &
Perquisite
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Coreysan
UGANDA
Maurice Kirya
UK-ENGLAND
AnchorSong
Angry Vs The Bear
Aqualung
Artefacts For Space
Travel
Baddies
Mike Badger
Beans on Toast
Bearsuit
Bishi
Black Acid
Black Cherry
The Blue
Aeroplanes
Marcus Bonfanti
Bring Me The
Horizon
David Thomas
Broughton
Lee Burridge
The Chap
The Cheek
Chris T-T

Gabriella Cilmi
Conil
The Crimea
Laura Critchley
Dan Le Sac Vs
Scroobius Pip
Rob da Bank
The DeBretts
Tina Dico
Dirtblonde
Dlugokecki
The Duke Spirit
Ebony Bones
Echo and The
Bunnymen
The Egg
The Electric City
The Elysian Quartet
Enter Shikari
Esser
Evil Nine Live
John Fairhurst
Fanfarlo
fiN
FREELAND
Fuckshovel
Futurecop!
The Gala Band
Benny Gallagher
Gallows
The Gin Riots
GoldieLocks
Gomez
Liz Green
Ed Harcourt
PJ Harvey &
John Parish
Hatcham Social
Hey Negrita
Tom Hickox
The Higher State
Tom Hingley and
Kelly Wood
The Homosexuals
Honey Ryder
Hot Leg
The Hot Melts
The Hours
Ipso Facto
Sam Isaac
Jack Beats
Nate James
Jay Jay Pistolet
Denis Jones
Jon Kennedy Live
Vijay Kishore
Kissy Sell Out
Lady Sovereign
Late Of The Pier
Alessi Laurent-
Marke
Let's Wrestle

Litt'ans
Little Boots
Little Thief
Longview
The Lost Brothers
Lovers
Polly Mackey & the
Pleasure Principle
Manhattan Love
Suicides
Mariachi El Bronx
Marli
Laura Marling
Paul Marshall
John Matthias &
Nick Ryan
Max Tundra
Eugene
McGuinness
Micachu
Gabriel Minnikin
The Miserable Rich
Tony Moore
Mumford & Sons
My Federation
My Sad Captains
Ocelot
General Fiasco
In Case Of Fire
Ski bunny
Andy White
UK-SCOTLAND
Camera Obscura
Come On Gang!
Dananananaykroyd
Flood Of Red
FOUND
Glasvegas
My Latest Novel
National
Our Lunar Activities
The Pictish Trail
Primal Scream
The Proclaimers
Alex Smoke
Sandi Thom
Twin Atlantic
We Were Promised
Jetpacks
Astrid Williamson
UK-WALES
Eugene Francis Jnr
& The Juniors
Friends Electric
Future Of The Left
Incerity Pirates
Pre
Christopher Rees
Toy Horses
Amy Wadge
VENEZUELA
VINILOVERSUS
TAT

Temposhark
That Petrol
Emotion
Theoretical Girl
Neil Thomas
Rod Thomas
To The Bones
Pete Tong
The Transpersonals
Turbowolf
Frank Turner
2020Soundsystem
Virgin Passages
Wave Machines
Jane Weaver
The Webb Sisters
The Week That Was
We Have Band
The Whip
White Lies
Wild Beasts+
You Me At Six
Your Vegas
UK-N. IRELAND
The Beat Poets
Fighting With Wire
General Fiasco
In Case Of Fire
Ski bunny
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Grand Schemes and Enthralling Documents

Film, conspiracy theories, and conspiracy theories on film coalesce as SXSW looms

BY LOUIS BLACK

Two weeks from today, on Friday, March 13, South by Southwest kicks off, with SXSW Film's opening movie screening that night. The excitement level keeps rising, as it usually does at this point, and – as in most good years – it still charts slightly higher than the anxiety level as the event looms closer. It is the culmination of a full year's work for a one-time, 10-day event, so everyone is working as hard as they can, all focused on the bigger picture and the smallest detail, determined to get everything right.

There are a few films on this year's extraordinary schedule for which I'm going to bang the drum not terribly slowly, as well as awfully loudly. I get to praise one in particular to the skies, because basically I had almost nothing to do with it.

I'm pretty sure I'll be going on a lot about *The Promised Land*. I had to look at the film for a number of reasons, one of which was to be dutiful, but it proved to be enthralling. Route 10 cuts across the bottom of Louisiana; a little north of it and as far south as New Orleans is the country of Cajuns and Creoles. A world unto itself, it has its own languages, customs, food, ways of celebrating, and music. I've spent as much time as I could hanging out there – in Lake Charles, Jennings, Lake Arthur, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge – whenever I've had any kind of excuse.

The film is about a supergroup of local musicians that comes together to make extraordinary music. Now, some of the musicians that live around there have regularly played with Philip Glass; their groups have toured the world, but come Friday and Saturday night, you can find even the biggest names playing at clubs where the locals come to dance, so they had better be playing great dance music.

There is something about the way folks live there, their style and sense of life. They hunt, fish, play instruments, cook, drink, and eat. This style, the culture, the food, and the music all seem to come out of the land directly. One of the reasons I'm not in favor of gun control is due to the time I've spent with hunters in Louisiana and Vermont, in Maine and North Carolina. They have the most natural, honest relationships with the world around them that I've ever come across. Their views are not polluted by Walt Disney imagery; the way they are of the land, and the land of them, owes more to nature than to poetry, more to the intuitive than to philoso-

phy. In so many ways, this sense of continuity stretches far beyond hunting, into the whole lifestyle. There is more to say about *The Promised Land* – don't worry; it will be said.

In 1974, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, directed by Tobe Hooper, was released, changing horror and independent filmmaking forever. It had an impact in a lot of other ways as well, but that's another story. It is still regarded as one of the great classics of American horror films.

A few years before *Chainsaw*, in 1969, the first film Tobe Hopper directed, *Eggshells*, was released. Aside from a number of screenings at the time, it's been rarely seen and long regarded as a lost film. *Eggshells* will be screened at SXSW 09, and you can bet there will be more about it in this column.

Another new documentary from much beloved Canadian filmmaker Ron Mann is always cause for celebration. *Know Your Mushrooms*, his new film, should be especially welcome in these parts.

"You talk about the people of the United States as though they belonged to you. When you find out they don't think they are, you'll lose interest. You talk about giving them their rights as though you could make a present of liberty. Remember the workingman? You used to defend him quite a good deal. Well, he's turning into something called organized labor, and you don't like that at all. And listen, when your precious underprivileged really get together – that's going to add up to something bigger than – than your privilege, and then I don't know what you'll do – sail away to a desert island, probably, and lord it over the monkeys."

– Leland to Kane after he loses his race to be governor, *Citizen Kane*

I was being interviewed for a documentary about conspiracy theories. I represented, of course, the voice of dissent in the piece, with most of it being given over to conspiracy theorists themselves. The interviewer was much more sympathetic toward conspiracy theories and theorists than I. He asked some excellent, probing questions, coming at the topic from a number of unique angles.

In passing, we were talking about Nazi Germany. He used that as a leaping-off place for a really excellent question. He

Oops! In "Dumping the Water Pump," Feb. 20, we mistakenly cited the Austin Water Utility water and wastewater residential charge as \$61.67 a year; the correct figure is \$61.67 a month.

talked about a concentration camp that was in an abandoned quarry surrounded by mountaintops and small, mostly affluent villages that looked down directly on this camp. One of the ways inmates in the camp would be killed was by being thrown off the edge of the sheer stone cliffs created by the quarry. After the war, everyone who was interviewed in these surrounding towns claimed he or she had no knowledge of what was going on in the camp. Yet, of course, there was no way they could have avoided seeing the camp. He asked me if, in such a situation, conspiracy theorists wouldn't have been of value.

I thought about this a long time and have thought about it since. In a totalitarian society, there are not conspiracy theorists. Such theories, in order to flourish and gain momentum, need open dialogue and a readily accessible exchange of information. Dictatorships usually quickly kill or imprison people who openly express such views. There can be underground resistance movements, though in Nazi Germany there was very little in that regard. People can be organized to try to resist the government militarily and to spread suppressed literature and censored stories.

A widespread, nationwide conspiracy-theory movement, however, requires a free, open, and tolerant society to at least some degree in order to exist, much less to flourish. I am not proposing that if there is a conspiracy-theory community, ipso facto they are wrong. There are always subtleties and exception. Still, in this continuing discussion, I hope I've made it more than clear that I neither agree nor sympathize with the 9/11 and New World Order conspiracy theorists. If I'm wrong, then I am a dupe, an enabler, an enemy of democracy, and a facilitator of fascist oppression.

There is a lot of historical precedent for incidents being staged or propaganda spread to get nations to go to war. In this context, the idea of 9/11 as an inside job has precedent, which neither validates nor dismisses it. On the other hand, the only precedent for a conspiracy of a small group secretly dominating the country, taking it over, enslaving its people, and wiping out much of the population are other conspiracy theories. Yes, the French attacked the Huguenots, the Jews were exiled from England and Spain, and the Knights Templars were suppressed by the church. Yet each of these examples is a case of the dominant majority of the population turning on a minority of it.

Now, if you believe conspiracy theories – that Lenin was part of the international Zionist movement or Mao was serving the international bankers – well there you are.

I believe that Mao sincerely started out wanting to free the Chinese people from an often-callous monarchy. The long years

continued on p.12

page
two

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of revolutionary fighting and the need to control the population led to Mao's regime being a totalitarian, oppressive dictatorship that in the end was responsible for many more deaths than were the emperors.

Similarly, Lenin, Trotsky, and the other Russian revolutionaries started out with an honest desire to end the oppressive government and empower the people. There were different dissenting groups among the small number of Russian revolutionaries, with the Bolsheviks being one of the smaller groups. Still, they came to dominate the revolution. One can argue that things began to fall apart as soon as the 1917 Revolution occurred. A more definitive and agreed-upon date for marking the loss of the revolution's ideals would be the Red Army's suppression of the Kronstadt uprising in 1921. This was a mutiny of sailors, many of them contributors to the Bolshevik victory of 1917. The Red Army violently stamped out this mutiny, killing many of the sailors at the time and later executing more of them as traitors.

Again, if you believe that international conspiracies were manipulating these leaders or that they themselves always operated with evil intentions, okay. I think what happened was that they came across one of the most disturbing situations of all for revolutionaries – when the people empowered decided they didn't completely agree with what the revolutionary leaders wanted but actually desired something quite different. Saving the revolution in such circumstances requires military might and a certain number of executions in the very populations being liberated. This is organic to most revolutions, especially those conducted by a small group of true believers dominated by charismatic leaders. Usually, there is widespread agreement on the evils of the current regime that unites the revolutionaries and the people. After the revolution, however, when actual changes need to be implemented and policies formed, is when the intense disagreements begin, often leading to violent solutions.

There are a few exceptions, including the American Revolution, but the outcome of so many insurrections should give pause to would-be revolutionaries. Our conspiracy brethren, of course, believe they know better; they are well aware that all history has been controlled by the conspiratorial elite – be they the Freemasons, Tri-Lateralists, the Illuminati, the papal conspiracy, the New World Order, the international Zionists, the British first family, international bankers, or the Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and his Company C co-conspirators. This means all revolutions that ended up corrupted did so because they were secretly directed by the elite from the beginning. Since believing in conspiracies essentially makes you a better, more aware, and more knowledgeable person than the rest of us, according to such theorists, they are wrapped in the cloak of purity and bathed in the blood of the lamb. In general, I worry a lot more about the theorists than I do about the conspiracies they are so busy documenting. ■

Postmarks

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

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LAKE TRAVIS IN TROUBLE

Louis,

I have lived on Lake Travis since 1999, when my husband and I moved up here from Houston to fulfill our dream of owning a waterfront home. We have now seen our cove dry up three times since we built; our boat dock is sitting on the ground as of last July. The Lower Colorado River Authority is in the business to sell water and puts recreation at the bottom of its priority list, but many, many families rely on this lake for summer activities, and surrounding communities rely on the lake for business revenue ["Dumping the Water Pump," News, Feb. 20]. If LCRA allows the deep-water intakes to suck more and more water out to be sold, Lake Travis will no longer be a sought-out destination for vacationers or homeowners. When lake levels are as low as they are now, weekend and summer traffic is at a minimum because cautious boaters know the lake becomes a hazard. The selfish revenue the LCRA seeks in the sale of our precious water will in the long run hurt tax values of our properties, weaken vacation destinations, and put local businesses that depend on that traffic out of business. Please help us get the word out to save the beautiful lake that Austin is most famous for!

Thank you for your time,
Tina Cargill

DON'T SPLURGE ON WATER

Dear Editor,

In this week's issue, Wells Dunbar reports that some council members are balking at a solar-power purchase agreement that would cost the city \$10 million per year starting in 2011 ["City Hall Hustle," News, Feb. 20]. They believe that the resulting increase in electric rates of 1.5% will damage the energy-intensive semiconductor industry in a time of economic peril.

In the same issue, Katherine Gregor reports that the city's water department is planning to embark on a massive capital project that would cost the city \$494 million starting in 2010 ["Dumping the Water Pump," News, Feb. 20]. They believe that the resulting increase in water rates of 10%-12% won't damage the water-intensive semiconductor industry in a time of economic peril.

I hope council members will understand the causes of the cynicism with which their policy rationales are received.

Kedron Jerome Touvell

CONTINUED ON P.14

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Julius Shulman, Case Study House #21 (Pierre Koenig, Los Angeles, 1958), 1958 (detail). © J. Paul Getty Trust.

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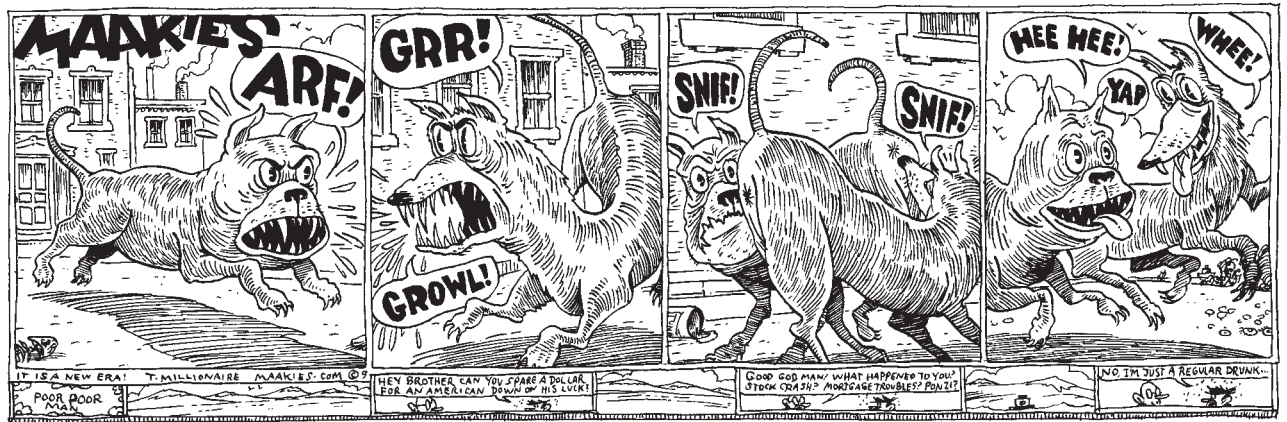
Dear Editor,

As a former member of the Lower Colorado River Authority Lake Travis Advisory Panel and a Lake Travis fan for many years, I want to register my extreme concern for the continued and increasing pressure on our lake as competing interests seek ever more water ["Dumping the Water Pump," News, Feb. 20]. We are now witnessing a very easy to understand phenomenon with the lake, as follows: Lake Travis will fall further and faster (than in the past) between the infrequent rainfalls that return it to a full level. So, while the LCRA will argue that there is still enough water to meet additional needs, the use and desirability of the lake will now and forevermore be greatly impacted.

If we do not suspend the actions that are placing greater demands on the resource, we will quickly move from the current deteriorated state to an even more significant scenario which will render the lake useless for recreation and enjoyment for extended periods of time. In the final phase of unbridled development of the resource, we will then discover that we are unable to depend on the lake for its primary function, to supply water for residents in the watershed of the Colorado River.

Please remember that the LCRA is a quasi state agency that is allowed to lobby the Texas Legislature. The agency mission is to increase development and use of the resource and thus line the pockets of the LCRA, its board, and its employees with financial rewards. The mission of the LCRA is not to preserve our beautiful lake but to increase its usage to the maximum possible level, for development interests only. Please understand that when their models turn out to be in error and the development and water commitments have been made, we will have moved past the time and opportunity to solve the problem, and our only option will be to live with the result. We must create a moratorium on further development until a mission and a board for the LCRA that is more favorably focused on every aspect of preserving the resource, not using it, becomes the goal.

Thanks,
Steve Lesem



NEGLECTED BY THE 'CHRONICLE'

Dear Editor,

On Saturday night, *In Search of a Midnight Kiss* won the John Cassavetes Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards (best independent film of the year made for less than \$500,000). As Austinite Alex Holdridge (director) approached the podium, Austin band Sybil's version of "Wind of Change" played in the background, heard by such attendees as Mickey Rourke, Penélope Cruz, Alec Baldwin, Lucy Liu, etc. In addition to being played before a hall full of L.A.'s glitterati, Sybil's cover was being broadcast across the globe by the AMC channel.

Matt Brunson of the *Charlotte Observer* had this to say: "And while we've come to expect our indie-flick soundtracks to be suitable for the occasion, the one featured here is a real treat, highlighted by Sybil's remake of Scorpions' power ballad 'Wind of Change.' Tactfully employed in both the final scene as well as the end credits, it truly allows audiences to head home with a song in their heart."

What did *The Austin Chronicle* have to say about this up-and-coming Austin band that has been heard around the world by literally hundreds of thousands of listeners? Nothing. Raul Gonzales flatly refused to even listen to our CD, *Cold Drink*, citing that it was "a matter of space and taste."

Gordon Kahan
Lead guitar, Sybil

[Editor's note: No relation between Raul Gonzales and Chronicle Music Editor Raoul Hernandez.]

GOING AFTER MARATHON IS UNCOOL

Dear Editor,

To quote Jed Clampett, "Weee doggie!" Lady, you may have unleashed a shitstorm upon yourself like no other ["Marathon Community Needs to be More Considerate," "Postmarks"]

CONTINUED ON P.16



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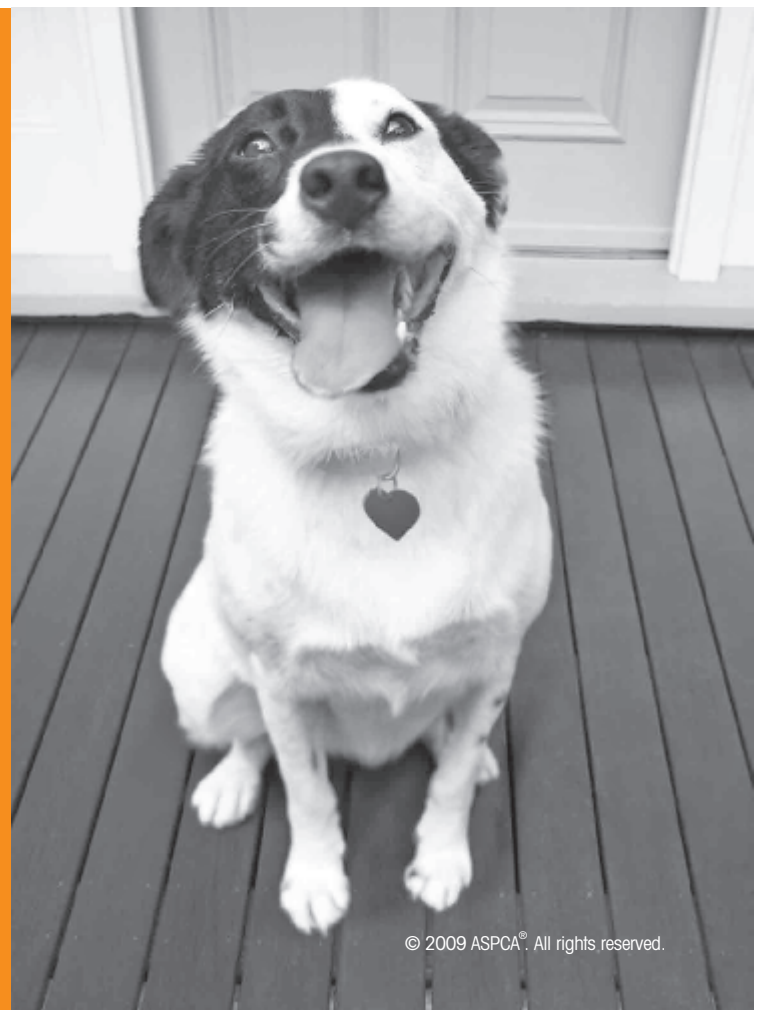
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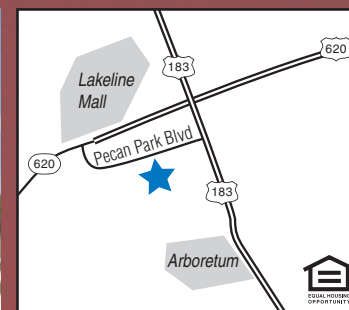
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online, Feb. 15]! Going after our beloved Austin Marathon is very uncool. I am anxious to see whether the running community will be gentle with you, rip you a new one, or simply ignore you.

What I know is that the marathon is a 26.2-mile race, and there is only one marathon per year in Austin. It happens like clockwork every year. You should plan accordingly or continue to be frustrated. Better yet, sign up to finish one yourself! The marathon changed this average Jane's life, and I know it will do the same for you. You walked home, didn't you? Well, that's where it begins.

The Austin Marathon is so beloved, spectacular, powerful, and produces so much positive energy that if this city crumbled down around us, thousands would still show up, around the second Sunday in February, to participate. Also, it shouldn't be moved to some remote location. That's absurd. Rather, I think it should be expanded to an ultramarathon!

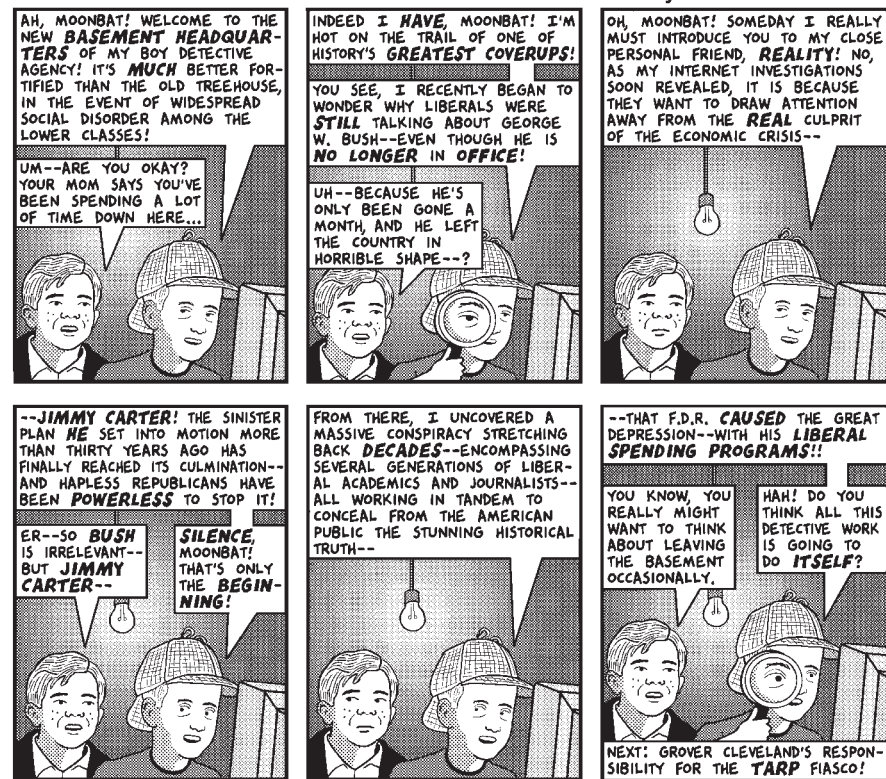
We watched from the sidelines this year. We saw the leaders, the final finishers, and everyone in between. I know I gained a pound of muscle just watching the darned thing. For sure my heart was made stronger seeing all those people achieve the dream!

Finally, in regard to who gets listened to in this town, it better be *this* taxpaying citizen. I will take it to the streets if anyone tries to take away my Austin Marathon! Heck, I'm already planning for 2010, and I expect the marathon to be there, the second Sunday in February, when I show up. If not, there will be hell to pay!

Kinaya Ulbrich
Three-time marathon finisher

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



MORE COLLABORATIVE ATTITUDE FOR THEATRE COMMUNITY

Dear Editor,

While I agree with much of what Mr. Daigle writes ["Postmarks," Feb. 20] regarding paying

artists for their work, I violently disagree with the notion that "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."

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Not only is that an elitist point of view; it's flat wrong. To say you are an artist and in the same breath call for a "purge" within the artistic community is counterproductive in its reasoning. The incredible gift of art comes from its subjectivity, whether one is paid or it's done for free. Why is it necessary to "purge" artists within this community so a select few receive the funding and recognition they feel they deserve?

We are all suffering financial disappointments, but art in any variety is already viewed as dispensable by communities, school districts, and even our local, state, and national governments. One look at government funding for the arts (abysmal) and the number of fine-arts teachers out of work (reprehensible) illustrates how art and artists are already vastly undervalued.

I serve on a committee which affords me the opportunity to see all Austin theatre has to offer, from large Equity houses with million-dollar budgets to tiny theatre companies skimming by on a shoestring, and I can tell you: Good work is good work, regardless of how much money is invested. Money, marketing capability, and reputation do not necessarily a good production make.

I agree the Austin arts community is splintered, and I believe a more collaborative effort *should* permeate the theatre scene. I believe the intent of Karen Sneed's initial letter ["Postmarks," Feb. 13] was to foster a more collaborative attitude within Austin theatre, which, quite obviously, is needed.

Andrea Smith

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IT SHOULD BE UP TO THE VOTERS!

Dear Editor,

Last week's article about Water Treatment Plant No. 4, "Dumping the Water Pump" [News, Feb. 20], has missed several major points. The largest is that it should not be up to the City Council or the Water Utility as to whether the plant gets built. It is up to the voters.

The Austin City Charter, Article 7, Chapter 11, clearly states, "All revenue bonds issued by the city shall first be authorized by a majority of the qualified electors voting at an election held for such purpose."

I refuse to buy into the myth that Austin has become too big to allow voters a stake in decisions like a half-billion-dollar water plant. If the city government is so confident that building this plant is the best thing for Austin, it should have the courage to make its case to the public.

As the City Council election nears, one of the questions that should be asked of all prospective candidates is: "Will you respect the citizens' right to approve or disapprove of Water Treatment Plant No. 4?"

Paul Robbins

... BUT DICK CHENEY IS EVIL

Dear Editor,

Thank you for a great article ["Page Two," Feb. 13] — chock-full of ideas. The writing was so exciting, I did not even taste the Chinese food I was eating while reading the prose. I do, however, take issue on one point: Dick Cheney is evil. Wishing you the best.

Curtis Chubb



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Sabina Kelley



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news

Headlines

- **City Council** will hear the city manager's final recommendations on \$20 million in proposed **budget cuts** today (Thursday). See "City Counseling," p.25.
- Veteran campaign guru **Pat Crow**, recovering from a stroke, was the life of the party Monday, greeting 500-plus guests at a benefit on her behalf; the event, combined with online donations, raised a whopping \$85,000 to pay off medical bills and help her transition back to living independently.
- The first **mayoral debate** went down Monday, and the words on everybody's lips were, "Where's Carole?" (The **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** campaign insists they never confirmed, but that's not what organizers say.) See "City Hall Hustle," p.20.
- A flurry of new endorsements: Police and EMS unions lined up behind **Chris Riley** in the Place 1 City Council race, while firefighters broke for **Perla Cavazos**. Also this week, **Lee Leffingwell** has landed the endorsement of several Central Texas politicians: state Reps. Eddie Rodriguez and Donna Howard and Sheriff Greg Hamilton.
- Hurry up and wait: The **Austin Independent School District** may at last be on the verge of announcing a finalist (or finalists) to replace Superintendent **Pat Forgione**, who announced his retirement more than a year ago. See "Looking for a School Chief," p.30.
- At the Lege, House committees are finally kicked into high gear, but Speaker **Joe Straus** is still facing tough criticism from leading Dems about his committee appointments and ambiguous rules. See more Lege coverage on p.22.
- The **Texas Department of Transportation** has announced it will delay committing \$1.2 billion in federal economic stimulus funding until after consulting with lawmakers on project selection. It's a radical idea, but it just might work.
- New polls about the 2010 elections give Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison** a 56%-31% lead over Gov. **Rick Perry** among likely Republican primary voters, while Attorney General **Greg Abbott** and Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** are front-runners to replace Hutchison.



- President **Barack Obama** delivered a rousing, State of the Union-esque address to Congress this week, calling for reform on health care, energy, and education. Louisiana Gov. **Bobby Jindal** (l) delivered the Republican response, drawing comparisons to 30 Rock's **Kenneth the Page** (r) across the blogosphere.



JOHN ANDERSON

Supporters of midwives arrive at the Capitol Feb. 23 to lobby for passage of House Bill 1107, which would give advanced-practice nurses, including certified nurse-midwives, the authority to diagnose and prescribe under their own license. Supporters include (l-r) Marcela Billing, Bridget Brown, and Amy Nylund, who each had her baby delivered by a midwife.

Board Games

The AISD trustees play superintendent poker – by uneven rules

BY MICHAEL KING

It's a minor municipal mystery why anybody at all signs up to be a school board member. It's not only an unpaid and largely thankless job, but the bitter truth is that no matter what decisions the board makes – on budget, curriculum, hiring, and most especially on school boundaries – it's a good bet that more people will be mad than happy. And it's definitely the angry ones who show up at citizens communication.

That said, the Austin Independent School District board of trustees seems to have gone out of its way to piss people off this month, as it drags its bureaucratic feet toward hiring a new superintendent to replace the retiring Pat Forgione and attempts to keep the interviewing and hiring process confidential – more or less. That is, even while the announced board policy is to keep the process private, it's clear that at least some members have been leaking like sieves, much to the delight of the *Austin American-Statesman*. The daily has been simultaneously denouncing the board for secrecy while it cheerfully amplifies and distorts any rumor it can extract from its unnamed favored board members – most specifically and dishonestly, claiming that there is a local conspiracy ("pressure tactics from some Hispanic leaders") to enforce the hiring of a Hispanic superintendent.

point
austin

The background is reported at length this week by Richard Whittaker ("Looking for a School Chief," p.30). At least the daily can claim a certain amount of consistency. Back in 1999, when the board was looking to replace Jim Fox, the editors thundered,

"AISD secrecy breaks trust" (June 4, 1999), and denounced the "callous and contemptuous process," even provoking then-Mayor Kirk Watson to attempt to stick his nose in, unsuccessfully. The editorials featured lots of manufactured high dudgeon over an irreparably broken search – one that eventually yielded a successful superintendent who stayed on for, oh, a measly decade. So here we are again, 10 years later (*Statesman*, Feb. 13): "The search for Austin's next school superintendent has lost all integrity."

Double-Edged Secrecy

Board President Mark Williams and District 7 trustee Robert Schneider (the two members who returned my calls) conceded that a half-public process (in which some board members have leaked candidate names or backgrounds to the *Statesman*, for example) is somewhat worse than no public process at all. But both said the board had not made a formal decision to impose

CONTINUED ON P.21

QUOTE of the WEEK



"(T)he safest place for a woman to live is married to a man."

– Texas Freedom Network's "Just Say Don't Know" report quoting one of various abstinence-only sex-ed programs taught in Texas public schools

Naked City

► **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT FOISTED ON LOCAL COPS** On Feb. 26, activists from across the state will gather at the Capitol to protest a mounting trend: **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement** deputizing local cops as federal enforcers. According to a report released this week by the Border Network for Human Rights, ICE is piloting its national **287(g) program** (the legal clause allowing the agency to pawn immigration enforcement downward) in Texas, namely in Harris Co. and north of Dallas, in Carrollton and Farmers Branch. Moreover, the Texas Legislature may make 287(g) statewide policy. Opposed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, 287(g) targets noncriminal day laborers and traffic violators and forces local governments to foot the bill when ICE leaves detainees to languish in their jails, the report states. “We can’t afford to sign a blank check to ICE,” says Caroline Keating-Guerra of the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition. But Texas activists fear even worse: rampant detainee abuse, like that found in Phoenix, where the sheriff conducts “indiscriminate street ‘sweeps’ of Latinos” without evidence of criminal activity, then detains “hundreds ... in his ‘Tent City’ desert jail,” according to the report. “The statute requires that ICE ‘supervise and direct’ all local partners,” the report adds, “yet ICE has failed in this duty.” — *Patricia J. Ruland*

► **CITE-AND-RELEASE IN (ALMOST FULL) EFFECT** On Feb. 22, the **Austin Police Department** implemented the so-called cite-and-release program, which authorizes police to forgo arresting individuals for certain misdemeanor offenses. The law allows an officer, under specific conditions, to decline to book a person into jail for initial processing, thereby saving time, money, and police manpower. The law does not eliminate the possibility of eventual jail time for the class A and B offenses covered. APD will implement the policy in both Hays and Travis counties. The Travis County Sheriff’s Office — whose top cop, Sheriff Greg Hamilton, along with County Attorney David Escamilla, helped write the law in 2007 — has been using the option since late 2007. They say it has been a good way to keep deputies in the field. Notably, Williamson Co., into which a small portion of the city stretches, is not yet on board with the program, though APD Chief **Art Acevedo** said he hopes WilCo County Attorney Jana Duty will eventually agree to implement the measure. (WilCo District Attorney **John Bradley** has been outspoken against it; sources say that is what’s holding up implementation, even though Bradley’s primary duty is to prosecute felony crimes, not the misdemeanors covered by the new law.) For more, see “APD,” July 25, 2008. — *Jordan Smith*

► **BOOKSTORE FOR THE CASH POOR** On Feb. 28, the **Austin Public Library** will open **Recycled Reads**, a store selling gently used items for \$1 and \$2 each at 5335 Burnet Rd. The stock — books, videos, record albums, and assorted media — will be donated or withdrawn from the library’s collection. The all-volunteer staff will sell higher-priced collectables as well. Proceeds benefit the library system. As a “go green” effort, all unsold items will be donated to **Books Beyond Borders** (which assists schools and libraries in developing countries) or recycled into building material — so simpatico with the city’s Zero Waste Plan. At the Saturday grand opening, festivities include Jon Dee Graham and Jesse Sublett performing literary tunes at 2:15pm. The store is open Tuesday, 10am-4pm; Thursday, 3-9pm; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5pm. To donate items, drop by or call 323-5123; to volunteer, call 974-7400. What a find for Austin’s literary recessionistas! — *Katherine Gregor*



NORA ANKURUM

NEWS

HUSTLER’S DIARY

While you were watching your 401(k)

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Wednesday, Feb. 18: To mark his one-year anniversary as city manager, **Marc Ott** invited the City Hall press corps into the offices behind the dais (“the bullpen,” as staff calls it) for coffee and breakfast tacos. Fact sheets listing Ott’s accomplishments (“City response to Hurricanes Ike and Gustav”) and fun facts (“What is your favorite restaurant? Sullivan’s”) lined the tables. Ott sat and spoke while we ate. While hitting several expected notes — opening the budget process, filling several vacancies, lauding the hire of **Rhoda Mae Kerr**, the Fire Department’s first female chief — Ott also said he didn’t “have any regrets about decisions I made in the last year.” Asked about the line between policy execution (his job) and policy creation (the council’s), he said management isn’t a science but “more of an art,” that there were instances where the “manager needs to participate” in council discussions and instances where council “needs to have a hand in implementation.” He also spoke to remarks he made at the previous evening’s **State of the City** dinner, where he spoke about “the other Austin” — that is, east of I-35’s “hard line of demarcation.” The city needs to intensify its efforts there. “They want the city to pay greater attention, and we need to do this.”

Thursday, Feb. 19: Ott rambled around the **Mexican American Cultural Center**, not east of I-35 but just west of it, on the shores of Lady Bird Lake. A community meeting had been scheduled by the city to discuss more than \$20 million in proposed cuts to the city budget, necessitated by the shrinking economy. After starting a half-hour later than the scheduled 6pm, an audience of maybe 45 people had arrived — maybe one-fourth media. Combined, the reporters and city staffers at least equaled the citizens present, a shame for such a sobering presentation. Budget officer **Ed Van Eenoo** said, “We’re not seeing this to be a short-term problem” — raising the prospect of broader budget gaps to come. A majority of speakers opposed further reducing library hours, to which Ott said, “What we’re talking about today is a menu, not a set of reductions which is fait accompli.”

Monday, Feb. 23: An entirely different scene, on the seventh floor of the Austin Bar Association offices at 816 Congress: the Democrat-sponsored mayoral forum, the first of the campaign. **Lee Leffingwell** and **Brewster McCracken** were there; **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** was not. Moderator (and former chair of the Travis County Dems) **Chuck Herring** claimed, “Clearly her campaign is disorganized and discourte-

ous and/or fearful of an open Democratic forum.” That’s the biggest news; a late start and lengthy speeches allowed for only a handful of questions, the first also pertaining to bridging Austin’s East-West divide. Leffingwell cited the city’s African American and Hispanic Quality of Life initiatives, McCracken the affordable-housing requirements included in vertical-mixed-use provisions. On the budget generally, Leffingwell said library cuts are “not etched in stone”; McCracken again hammered public-safety salaries, a tangential dig at Leffingwell, who has garnered the public-safety union endorsements. In return, Leffingwell called McCracken’s tech-heavy digital and energy proposals a “high tech trickle-down” stimulus, arguing, “We need to take a step back” and “figure out how to make growth pay for itself.”

Tuesday, Feb. 24: Not to vanish entirely from the media cycle, Strayhorn held a presser outside the **Downtown library**. Despite blustery winds threatening to drown her out, she continued her populist assault on the city budget, this time against an overstuffed city bureaucracy and “an army of high-paid lobbyists.” Saying the mayor and council needed to “tighten their own belts,” she derided the five staff members in the mayor’s office and three with each council member as bloat. “Why so many in a council-manager form of government?” she asked.

Strayhorn said when she served as mayor, she had two aides; neither Austin’s population explosion since her tenure nor the fact that with only seven at-large officials, aides basically serve as defacto council members had figured into her consideration. Her case against the city’s lobbyist team was less assailable, noting the city’s \$830,000 in expenses for lobbying the Texas Legislature is highest in the state. “We should not farm out the job of our city leaders to high-paid lobbyists to walk across the street [to the Capitol] and hold meetings with legislators,” she said. But who will staff the office in her absence? Asked about her absence from the Democratic forum, she excitedly replied, “I was busy,” citing time out “running with the people.” (Campaign coordinator Kevin Brown said he spoke with the organizers about an appearance but never confirmed she would appear.) About then, a young woman, apparently one of the library’s homeless denizens, asked Strayhorn a question; the candidate left the makeshift microphone stand, and the press conference came to an unscripted end. ■

See austinchronicle.com/hustle for video of Leffingwell, McCracken, and Strayhorn; see more council news in “City Counseling,” p.25.



res publica

FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE **COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.64.**

FRIDAY 27

CAPITAL METRORAIL OPEN HOUSE Check out the new passenger rail line set to begin service March 30. 2-7pm. *Downtown Station (Fourth Street, between Neches & Trinity).* www.capmetro.org.

DESIGN WITH CLIMATE: BUILDING FOR A COOLER PLANET A Hot Science — Cool Talks discussion from **Werner Lang** (pictured), associate professor of architecture in sustainable design at the UT School of Architecture. 7pm. *UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224.* www.esl.utexas.edu.



SATURDAY 28

AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERITAGE FESTIVAL brings Black History Month to a close with a day of free health screenings, food, vendors, live music, kids activities, and more. 1-5pm. *Houston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 472-9599.* Free.

HISPANIC FUTURES CONFERENCE

10am-2pm. *Eastside Memorial High School, 1012 Arthur Stiles Rd., 414-0884.*

PEOPLE, PLANNING, AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: YOUR 25-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN Join the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** in developing Austin’s mobility plan for 2035. 9:30-11:45am. *Round Rock Library, 216 E. Main Ave.* www.campotexas.org.

RECYCLED READS GRAND OPENING See “Bookstore for the Cash Poor,” above, in “Naked City.” Noon-4pm. 5335 Burnet Rd., 974-7400.

ST. JOHN/CORONADO HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN KICKOFF MEETING

9:30-11:30am. *Pickle Elementary School, 1101 Wheatley.* www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/sj_ch.htm.

WINTER SOLDIER HEARINGS (See “Winter Soldiers Bear Austin Witness,” p.24.) 1-5pm. *Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth.* www.austininav.wordpress.com.

SUNDAY 01

EQUALITY TEXAS LOBBY DAY RECEPTION & TRANSGENDER CAUCUS gets you revved to lobby your legislators for LGBT equality on Monday. 5:30-9pm. *DoubleTree Hotel, 1617 N. I-35.* www.equalitytexas.org.

STATE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL FORUM **Deece Eckstein**, Gov. Ann Richards’ senior policy adviser, talks about the ins and outs of the Legislature and how to get your voice heard. 4-6pm. *First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca, 478-5684.* Free. www.davidhasissues.com.

TEXANS AGAINST REAL IDS 3-5pm. *Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe.* www.beatthechip.org.

MONDAY 02

CAMPO WORKSHOP (See Saturday.) 6:30-8:45pm. *Bastrop High School Cafeteria, 1614 Chambers, Bastrop.* www.campotexas.org.

COMMUNITY PLANNING IN TURBULENT TIMES

Learn how to plan for the future despite the problems of the present at the National Association of Planning Councils’ annual conference. *Mon.-Wed., March 2-4. Hyatt Regency, 208 Barton Springs Rd.* www.communityplanning.org.

EQUALITY TEXAS LOBBY DAY features training to prep you for your lobbying team’s session with a legislator. See www.equalitytexas.org for the full schedule of events. *Breakfast: 8am, First United Methodist, 1201 Lavaca. Lobbying activities: 9am-3pm, Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress.*

HOW WILL THE NEW CENSUS AFFECT YOU? 9am-noon. *Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second.* E-mail to RSVP: vsarria@austinisid.org.

TUESDAY 03

JUNTO IN AUSTIN gathers to discuss Michael Pollan’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*. 6:30-8:30pm. *Howson Branch Library, 2500 Exposition.*

secrecy. Rather, as Williams put it, the board had decided “to let the process itself drive it.” Schneider said personally he would welcome a more public process and more “public engagement with the candidates,” although that might require a change in state law.

On the other hand, Williams said the board found that sitting superintendents – especially currently successful ones in comparable urban districts – would rather not risk creating backlash in their home districts by engaging in a public search process that might well come to nothing and thus are inclined to reject public inquiries. Last fall’s public “superintendent profile” feedback strongly recommended hiring an academically and administratively experienced candidate, Williams said, and “if you want a sitting superintendent, then you need to have a confidential process.”

Even the *Statesman* editors (who may have looked for another job once or twice themselves) might understand that, especially after they revealed the name of one potential (unconfirmed) finalist (St. Paul Superintendent Meria Carstarphen, the *Statesman*’s designated “rock star”), and the St. Paul media/Internet rumor mill went into overdrive with charges of disloyalty, fortune-hunting, etc. (The daily blamed the board for that, too.) Should Carstarphen not get the Austin job, she can look forward to plenty of suspicion and fence-mending back home. The *Statesman*’s self-righteous demands that candidates “face the heat” from stakeholders in Austin should at least acknowledge it’s not that simple, if the board indeed wants to consider a range of the most experienced candidates.

Nothing up Our Sleeves

The *Statesman*’s charges of a Hispanic power play are rather more insidious. In addition to the repeated editorial claim that the search has been irretrievably corrupted by secrecy, the paper has referred darkly to an organized e-mail campaign “pressuring board members to select a Latino candi-

date.” Presuming there must therefore be dozens of such sinister e-mails, I filed an open records request and found ... two. Of a couple dozen e-mails (in all) addressing the search, exactly two explicitly requested the board select a Hispanic or Latino candidate. The rest in this vein ask simply that the board strongly consider that, as one writer put it, “The majority of students in AISD are of Latino origin [and the] new Superintendent must be a person who is highly sensitive to the needs of the Latino student.” (Most of the same letters join the *Statesman* in calling for more public input.)

For a school district that is now 58.9% Hispanic (11.7% African-American, 25.7% Caucasian), is it an outrage that some citizens should ask that the new school chief be attuned to those demographics? Only in the *Statesman* editorial room – where not very subtly flogging the daily’s own favorite candidate (“sterling ... accomplished ... impressive”) is somehow perfectly legitimate.

For the record, Williams said that although some people obviously have expressed strong feelings, he has not felt “unduly pressured by any constituent to make a decision that I don’t think is the best decision for the school district.” He added: “We, as a board, totally understand the demographics of our district. We have to hire somebody who can successfully navigate a multicultural student body and a multicultural community and can also meet all the financial, legislative, administrative, and other responsibilities of running a billion-dollar business with 11,000 employees.”

If those are the standards the duly elected board is using to review a range of nationally recruited candidates and to select someone up to the job of running this particular urban school district, it’s not unduly alarming that they haven’t invited us all in for a dog and pony show to add our belated two cents. But it’s also a damn shame that not every board member believes in respecting the board’s own process or in playing by the same rules. ■

The *Statesman* has referred darkly to an organized e-mail campaign “pressuring board members to select a Latino candidate.”

WEDNESDAY 04

HERITAGE HILLS/WINDSOR HILLS MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP Area residents are invited to discuss neighborhood hot spots where traffic is a concern. 6:30-8:45pm. Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.

THURSDAY 05

CAPITAL CITY YOUNG DEMOCRATS MEETING 6pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING Help determine Austin’s funding priorities for the 2009 fiscal year. See the current plan at www.cityofaustin.org/housing/conplan_09-14.htm. 6pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.

OUTLAW CONFERENCE The UT School of Law LGBT student association hosts an afternoon of legal advocacy workshops addressing issues of the current legislative session. 1-5pm (happy

hour, 5pm; afterparty, 7pm). Eidman Courtroom, UT School of Law. www.utexas.edu/law/orgs/outlaw.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD LOBBY DAY Learn how to lobby elected officials in support of women’s health care and other issues at one of two training sessions today. (Then join Planned Parenthood President **Cecile Richards** at the Capitol on Thursday, March 12, 10:30am-4pm, where you’ll put your new lobbying skills to the test.) 10-11:30am or 6-7:30pm. Planned Parenthood, 201 E. Ben White. www.plannedparenthood.org/ppaustin.

ONGOING

INNOCENCE PROJECT OF TEXAS VERY SILENT AUCTION Bid on items at www.ipoftexas.com.

and help support IPOT’s mission of securing the release of Texas’ wrongfully convicted prisoners. Auction items include a National Hockey League jersey signed by all of the Dallas Stars.



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Watson Surveys Stakeholders on Cap Metro Reforms

In 2007, **Capital Metro** underwent a peer review ordered by the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**, the agency responsible for transportation planning in the Austin area, measuring it against nine comparable transit authorities around the nation. The results were published in November 2008, and now Austin state senator and CAMPO Chair **Kirk Watson** says it's time to act. Last week, Watson sent a list of recommendations to area transportation stakeholders and asked for feedback to help him determine whether to file legislation to accomplish his goals.

"While I appreciate the optimism of some of the [peer review] recommendations, being a pragmatist is necessary going into a legislative session," Watson wrote. "The review gave some excellent general guidance that now requires the creation of specific proposals. In some instances, the review gave some specific recommendations that may not be legislatively prac-

tical." Some changes are necessary, Watson says, because current restrictions on Cap Metro – put in place by the Legislature because, "In 1997, Capital Metro was a disgrace to our community," rife with "corruption and bad management" – are now obsolete, especially now that elected officials are a part of Cap Metro's board.

His major recommendations:

- **The Capital Metro board:** Change the makeup to reflect that Austin is the core of Cap Metro. Two of CAMPO's three appointments to the board would have to be "from the largest city," including one elected official, one person with at least 10 years of financial/accounting experience, and one with 10 years of "professional staff executive experience in a medium or large government or private sector entity."
- The other four seats would be joint appointments by, respectively, the city of Austin and Williamson County, Austin and Travis County, Austin and Hays

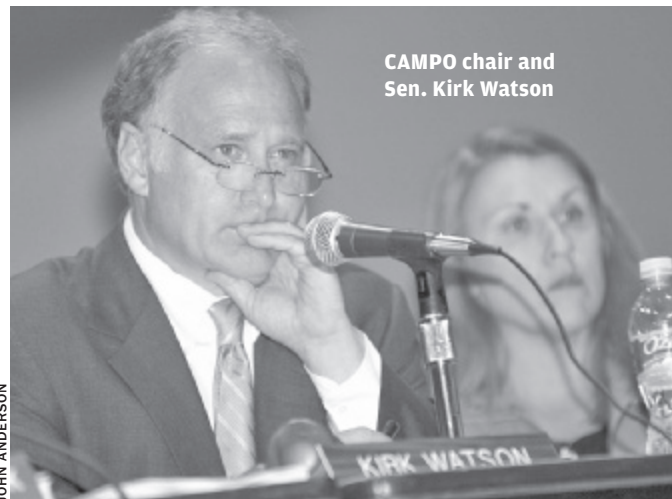
County, and small cities within Cap Metro's jurisdiction. When 35% of the population served by Cap Metro is outside the largest city, two additional board members would be allocated by CAMPO.

- **Fares:** Give CAMPO final say over fare increases, but allow Cap Metro to approve fare discounts.

- **Rail expansion:** Allow Cap Metro flexibility to extend passenger rail lines up to one mile "for improved performance" without having to submit the proposal to voters in an election (currently, state law requires this, specifically of Cap Metro), and enter a contract to operate or maintain passenger rail without an election.

Watson asked that the stakeholders' feedback be returned to him by Friday, Feb. 27. "I

CAMPO chair and Sen. Kirk Watson



JOHN ANDERSON

will consider all the input I receive during that time to determine whether or not I will introduce a bill that accomplishes these goals," he concluded. "Of course, I will be open to discussing details of the final bill after introduction, but your input will provide me a gauge for the interest of this community in, and stomach to achieve, these goals."

– Lee Nichols



Pregnant Pause Whither family-planning funds?

Even as the state budget for health and human services is expected to constrict over the next biennium, a consequence of the tightening economy, there is at least one player that's poised to see a fairly hefty budget increase: The controversial **Alternatives to Abortion** program could see a \$1.5 million increase in funding if the state **Health and Human Services Commission**, which oversees the program, has its way. The additional dollars would represent a 30% budget hike over the last biennium.

The Alternatives program was created through a 2005 rider by Sen. **Tommy Williams**, R-The Woodlands, as a way to "encourage" childbirth. Under the program, a pass-through entity, the **Texas Pregnancy Care Network**, contracts with the state to provide funds to so-called "crisis pregnancy centers," which are tasked with promoting childbirth and steering women away from abortion. The program has been controversial since its inception because it siphons funding from established family-planning providers, including **Planned Parenthood**, which provide

actual medical and reproductive services for low-income and uninsured women, and funnels it to CPCs, which, by definition, are unregulated, provide no medical services, and offer only a narrow field of counseling – specifically restricted to childbirth and adoption options. Under its contract with Health and Human Services, the Texas Pregnancy Care Network (an entity apparently created to take advantage of the new funding option offered by the Williams rider) wrote its own performance measures regarding the number of women it would serve and how those women would "feel" about their interactions with the CPCs, how many services would be provided, and how many CPC providers would contract with TPCN.

Unfortunately, TPCN has failed to meet most of its own goals. For example, the group initially identified more than 200 CPCs eligible to become TPCN contractors and said between 25 and 50 would be signed up in the first year of the contract. In its first year, TPCN signed up just one CPC; in 2007 and 2008, the group downgraded its target number of contractors but still has been unable to tap more than 16 operating at 20 sites across the state. And although the program was intended to have statewide coverage, to date there are large swaths of Texas without any participating CPCs, says **Blake Rocap**, legislative counsel for **NARAL Pro-Choice Texas**.

Choice Texas.

Nonetheless, the Texas Pregnancy Care Network continues to spend roughly 40% of its entire \$2.5 million annual budget on administrative costs, including a generous salary for its executive director, attorney **Vincent Friedewald**, whose pay rose from \$93,372 in 2007 to just more than \$100,000 in 2009. These overhead expenses, says **Sarah Wheat** of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, are hard to

justify in the current economic climate. "It's sort of like what's happened on Wall Street," she said. "They're not meeting any of their benchmarks – they're underperforming, but they're rewarding themselves with raises and benefits." Friedewald, who says his group "would welcome the additional funds," contends that the "demand" for client services is "now exceeding" the funds the group has available to reimburse CPCs for their services. (At press time, Friedewald had not responded to additional questions about TPCN's large administrative budget.)

It's not just TPCN's Alternatives to Abortion set-aside that Wheat and other health advocates find troubling. When Williams sold his rider to the Senate Finance Committee in

2005, Sen. **Robert Deuell**, R-Greenville, authored a measure that took \$10 million over the biennium from the family-planning budget to first fund "federally qualified health centers." While the idea behind the move – to bundle family-planning health services in with other health-care services provided by community care providers – is a good one, there haven't been enough federally qualified health centers using the funding opportunity to spend the entire \$10 million. Meanwhile, however, taking those funds from the overall pool of available family-planning money (most in the form of federal welfare dollars) has forced traditional women's-health-care providers to cut back and reduce their client loads. According to Health and Human Services figures, the number of women served by family-planning money has declined each year since 2006, when the funding set-asides went into effect, while the unspent dollars from the \$10 million federally qualified health centers set-aside has risen. In just the first year after the set-aside took effect, more than 200,000 women lost access to family-planning services.

At present, the federally qualified health centers set-aside is budgeted at flat funding – although family-planning advocates are hoping lawmakers will tweak the program to make the set-aside more effective. Doing that, they say, might actually help meet Deuell's stated initial goal of increasing access to family-planning and reproductive services for poor women, says **Fran Hagerty**, CEO of the Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas. The state is currently only serving 17.5% of women in need of reproductive health services. It's uncertain whether lawmakers will try to refigure funding for women's health this session. When the Health and Human Services Commission's budget was taken up by the **Senate Appropriations Committee** earlier this month, not one senator questioned the funding increase for the Alternatives to Abortion program. When the **House Appropriations Committee** considered the increase, only Rep. **Ellen Cohen**, D-Houston, questioned Health and Human Services Commissioner **Albert Hawkins** about the program – questions that he could not immediately answer. Cohen intends to ask more questions, now that she's been named to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. "Look, we're not talking about abortion here," she said. "The question is: Is this a good use of \$5 million when we have so many different needs?"

– Jordan Smith



JANA BIRCHUM

We're in the Money

Federal stimulus dollars are on their way to Texas. On Feb. 18, Gov. **Rick Perry** sent a letter to President **Barack Obama** saying that, while he prefers his own economic panacea of "low taxes, controlled government spending and a predictable regulatory climate," he would still take the money. After all, he wrote, "Throughout the years, Texas taxpayers have sent substantially more dollars to Washington than we receive."

Now it's up to legislators to divide the dollars within the federal restrictions. House Democratic Caucus Chair **Jim Dunnam**, D-Waco, has been appointed chair of the new nine-member House Select Committee on Federal Economic Stabilization Funding. But on Feb. 24, Rep. **Sylvester Turner**, D-Houston, asked Speaker **Joe Straus** which of the following committees would actually take the lead on building any relevant legislation: Appropriations; the Appropriations Stimulus Subcommittee under Rep. Myra Cironner, R-Lake Dallas; or Dunnam's Select Committee (on which Cironner also sits as vice chair). Straus said that Dunnam's committee will work "in collaboration" with Appropriations but that it will only make recommendations, not instructions, on how to spend the cash. Dunnam said he supports having the final decision lie with Appropriations through the appropriations bill, and he sees his Select Committee's job as advising relevant committees and the full House. "If we see something that we think needs to be done, we'll make that recommendation, but we won't make the decision," he said.

The reality is that whatever recommendations emerge from the House, the final budget will actually be decided late in the ses-



sion by the joint House-Senate Conference Committee. But there is broad expectation that many committees will butt heads over spending authority and recommendations before any checks are signed.

Dunnam did not rule out that transparency bills might come through his committee, but he said his main emphasis will be in evaluating the needs of each state agency. What he wasn't prepared to do was pick and choose which federal money to take. Several Republican governors, including **Bobby Jindal** of Louisiana, have threatened to reject any money that expands unemployment-insurance coverage, accusing the administration of creating new unfunded mandates. Dunnam rejected this as "a discussion that takes up unnecessary oxygen. ... Every federal dollar has had what people could call strings attached. They don't just give you money so you can wash your car with it." — Richard Whittaker

legelines

BY THE NEWS STAFF

The **House committees** finally kicked into overdrive this week as bills began to be parceled out for discussion and regular meetings began in earnest... Anti-abortion activists descended on the Capitol Feb. 24 for **Pro-Life Lobby Day** and to boost Senate Bill 182 by Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, which would encourage women seeking an abortion to see an **ultrasound of the fetus**... All bills come with a fiscal note, calculating how much money they will cost the state: Now Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, has filed House Bill 1469, which would require that all bills come with a **carbon note**, calculating how much extra carbon dioxide enacting a law would produce... Rep. Diana Maldonado, D-Round Rock, has filed two bills (HB 1602 and HB 1603) to allow **Texas State University** to release \$98.2 million in tuition revenue bonds to bring its College of Health Professions to the Texas State University Round Rock Higher Education Center... Rep. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, has filed HB 1307 to increase **school finance transparency** by requiring the 50 largest school districts to post their check registers, credit-card expenditures, and fund balances on their websites. Austin Independent School District says it already places much financial data on its website but is unsure how it could do that securely with credit-card data... Horse-racing political action committee **Texans for Economic Development** is keeping up the pressure to legalize **racinos** (race tracks with slot machines) with a survey claiming 76% of Texans support them: The **Texas Gaming Association** struck back with its own survey, claiming that what Texans really want is **casino resorts**... The new 2009-10 **Texas Legislative Handbook** — the invaluable pocket-sized directory that staffers, lobbyists, and reporters depend on to find their way around the Capitol — has finally arrived from the printers.

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UNION BRISTLES AT CAP METRO SHUFFLE

Jay Wyatt is mad at **Capital Metro** again.

Three months after leading **Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1091** drivers and mechanics on a brief strike, he now worries that shifts among Cap Metro labor subcontractors are leaving some drivers overworked and underpaid and possibly causing service disruptions. Cap Metro and the subcontractors dispute Wyatt's allegations and say they're running routes efficiently and following federal guidelines on overtime.

In November 2008, Cap Metro announced that four routes operated by **StarTran Inc.** would be switched to two other subcontractors, **Veolia Transportation** and **First Transit**. Cap Metro said the shifts would help on several cost-cutting fronts, but Wyatt charged that one reason was foremost: Veolia and First Transit workers get paid less due to older contracts. (Due to conflicting state and federal labor laws, Cap Metro employs none of its drivers or maintenance workers directly.)

Now, Wyatt alleges Veolia is insufficiently staffed to handle its increased workload, that First Transit's employees are forced to do work for which they're not trained, and that at the same time, StarTran is costing Cap Metro money by having too many idle workers.

"When you look at Veolia, they right now have 108 employees," Wyatt said. "In order for them to do all the work that Capital Metro is giving to them, it would take around 130. So what's happening is, Veolia is threatening their employees with having to work on their days off. Some of these people are working double shifts. It makes the public unsafe, because you have fatigue behind the wheel." And, he charges, some routes end up driverless, inconveniencing Austin commuters.

Wyatt produced a Jan. 7 Veolia memo encouraging drivers to work overtime but warning, "If we do not fill all open extra work we can require our Operators to work on your days off." Wyatt also claims Veolia employees told him that Cap Metro also is going to switch the 320 route over to First Transit because of Veolia's insufficient manpower.

Capital Metro Chief of Staff **Andrea Lofye** disputed Wyatt's claims. While she admits lower labor costs did factor into the route moves, "Capital Metro, this past summer when fuel prices peaked, we took a look at ways to conserve fuel and put in place a number of measures to limit idling whenever possible. ... A lot of our routes have a lot of deadhead time – the time it takes for a bus to drive from the garage up to where the route starts and then [to drive back to the garage] at the end." She says the agency realized deadhead could be reduced by switching two North Austin routes to First Transit, which operates out of Cap Metro's garage near Highway 183 and Burnet Road, and three Central Austin routes to Veolia, based at 51st and Manor

"Some of these people are working double shifts. It makes the public unsafe, because you have fatigue behind the wheel."
– ATU President Jay Wyatt

JOHN ANDERSON



Jay Wyatt

Road. StarTran operates from Fifth and Pleasant Valley. (Lofye also said Cap Metro has no plans to change route 320.)

The cost-cutting has increased in significance, she said, as Austin's sales-tax revenue – a major source of Cap Metro funding – has decreased due to the recession. Lofye's emphasis on the deadhead reasoning, however, is undercut by a Nov. 7, 2008, letter from Cap Metro President **Fred Gilliam** sent to StarTran that directly tied the switch to the then-ongoing strike against StarTran: "[W]ith two consecutive months of declining sales tax revenue ... Capital Metro ... has a strong interest in utilizing our contractors who operate at lower costs per hour. As a result of the instability of StarTran's work force, Capital Metro must take steps to ensure that our services will be provided in a consistent and reliable manner for our community."

Regarding staffing and overtime, Lofye says: "Veolia and First Transit have repeatedly asked for additional work. ... Their employees want the overtime work." Moreover, StarTran General Manager **Terry Garcia Crews** says attrition has dropped her surplus staffers down to just one.

Wyatt acknowledges drivers want overtime but argues, "You got to look at the big picture: Are these people safe out there operating these buses 10 days or 14 days and not really getting adequate rest?" The subcontractors insist that they are following federal guidelines on overtime.

As for unfilled routes, Lofye says Wyatt is flat wrong. The agency has received "no major complaints about any routes," she says.

Wyatt also asserted that First Transit workers, who mostly run the University of Texas shuttles, "never did have a desire to do revenue service. They don't get paid the type of money per hour that StarTran employees do. ... They have no pension plan, they have no insurance, but you want to put another responsibility on them," such as collecting fares and dealing with passengers who refuse to pay. (The shuttle does not collect fares.) "I talked to several UT shuttle drivers last night. ... Not one was happy about having to do all this extra work." (First Transit workers are eligible for insurance, Wyatt says, but many do not work enough hours to qualify.)

Both Lofye and UT's First Transit General Manager **Scott Lansing** seemed mystified by this argument. "The only difference is collecting fares," Lansing said. "Our drivers are trained. It's the same equipment and streets." Lofye says Veolia and First Transit can operate cheaper than StarTran, which employs most of Capital Metro's drivers, because they are "national companies with lower overhead."

"It's easy to say StarTran costs more than these other companies," counters Wyatt. "The companies, you know what they need when they come in here? Nothing but a pen and a piece of paper. Everything is being provided to them. A lot of cost that's associated with us is added from administration and other stuff."
– Lee Nichols

Winter Soldiers Bear Austin Witness

It's too easy to forget, but America is still bogged down in two wars. So with all eyes on the economy, **anti-war military veterans** are holding a day of hearings on Saturday, Feb. 28, to remind Austinites of what's really at stake. **Greg Foster, Veterans Against the War** Austin Chapter president, explained, "We haven't drawn down in Iraq, but we have built up our forces in Afghanistan, so the end result is that we have more troops in combat situations than we did a few months ago."

The hearings are intended as part of a tradition of critical patriotism. In 1776, **Thomas Paine** railed against "The summer soldier

and the sunshine patriot"; in 1971, his words moved Vietnam veterans to hold the **Winter Soldier** hearings – three days of eye-witness testimony about the grinding, bloody reality of America's war in Southeast Asia. Inspired by both, on March 13, 2008 – the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq – IVAW resurrected the concept as more than 200 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans traveled to Washington, D.C., to share their stories. Foster explained, "When the national Winter Soldier event took place, [IVAW members] gained a lot from that and took that back to their own areas."

Since then, IVAW branches in the U.S. and Europe have held regional Winter Soldier hearings. The Austin event will feature panel discussions and testimony from IVAW members from around the nation, including Austinites **Ronn Cantu** and **Hart Vigas**, both who have previously discussed their experiences with the *Chronicle* (a third, **Casey Porter**, is still in Iraq, so the meeting will include his videos; see "Stop the Loss," Dec. 19, 2008). But the event will also feature nonmilitary voices, including Gold Star father **John Scripsick**, whose son Bryan died in Iraq's Anbar Province in 2007, and Dr. **Dahlia Wasfi**, whose family

lives in Iraq. Foster hopes the event will reignite debate about Iraq and Afghanistan, which he said "has become kind of dormant. ... We hope to inject a sense of urgency into the anti-war movement in Central Texas."

Foster also sees the event as an outlet for veterans who are still dealing with their own experiences. "There's a catharsis to just telling each other our stories," he said. "I tell other members of our group, 'This is something you need to do.'"
– Richard Whittaker

The Austin Winter Soldier hearings take place 1-5pm Saturday, Feb. 28, at Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth.

city
COUNSELING



JANA BIRCHUM

Best Laid Plans

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Candidate forums are all about staying on message. But **Lee Leffingwell** may have made news Monday in his first face-off against **Brewster McCracken** – at the Central Texas Democratic Forum – when he announced opposition to awarding the contract for designing a **comprehensive plan** at this week's City Council meeting. McCracken agreed, calling the process flawed – suggesting a councilwide lack of will to proceed.

Council had seemed set to name the crew that would oversee the project, with city staff recommending a group led by **ACP Visioning+Planning**, a New York-based firm that led city planning for the World Trade Center site and Lower Manhattan after 9/11. However, both McCracken and Leffingwell cited a lack of public input leading to the decision; in an all too pathetically common instance of shortsightedness, the city only allowed a five-day period (including the weekend) for citizens to comment on the three finalists' proposals. (Behind the scenes, there's also an argument simmering that the city's scoring process for applicants – including a heavily weighted, subjective survey – may have excluded other qualified firms.) Leffingwell also said he hoped to convene a citizens group to identify the parameters of the plan.

A comprehensive plan, in the city's own words, "contains the City's policies for growth and development," and the fact that the last comp plan was drafted way back in 1979 has been derided by neighborhood advocates, environmentalists, and progressives. Yet judging from the lack of outcry over the proposed delay, it may well take a little longer to get the plan right.

Finally, the council members running for mayor shouldn't mind punting it for the moment; the \$1.3 million price tag, arriving in the midst of \$20 million of planned cuts at the city, is just one more invoice to dodge. It's likely we'll see the plan return – just maybe not until after the election.

INCENTIVE INVECTIVE

The council is apparently making good on its promise to take a closer look at

Mayoral candidates and City Council Members Lee Leffingwell (l) and Brewster McCracken speak at a Feb. 23 forum hosted by the Austin Bar Association.

economic incentives to businesses – the cause célèbre of the **Stop Domain Subsidies** crowd last election. Incentives would be more tightly regulated under an ordinance before council this week (Item 15). A mash-up of two previous city resolutions – one from December 2007 and another passed after the unsuccessful SDS charter election – the ordinance would amend Austin's **Economic Development Program** by eliminating "economic development incentives for large scale mixed use projects that include a retail component." However, it wouldn't stop the city from developing public land "in ways that promote community values, including historic preservation, affordable housing, and transit oriented development," nor would it stop Downtown revitalization projects including retail components – wiggle room protecting undertakings such as the Seaholm and Green Water Treatment Plant redevelopments.

A separate proposal (Item 22), sponsored by **Laura Morrison**, calls for the city manager to create an "enhanced process" for reviewing proposed incentives, directing the city manager to work with groups including the **Capital Area Council of Governments**, local chambers of commerce, **Austin Interfaith**, and **Liveable City** in assessing incentives' "direct and indirect" costs. The item would also make any upcoming incentive adhere to a timeline allowing ample time for public input. What's not to like?

FREE ASSOCIATION

Briefings dominate the agenda this week: City Manager **Marc Ott** will formally make public his "action plan" for the **2009 city budget** in a 10:30am presentation – the centerpiece is some \$20 million in cuts. The biggest question is whether a \$500,000 slash to the Library Department, resulting in an additional 9.5 hours of closure a week at each branch library, will remain on the menu, as it's garnered widespread opposition. At 2pm, a briefing is scheduled on staff-recommended regulations for outdoor music venues, a process that's proceeded (so far) with the blessing of musician and club-owning members of the **Live Music Task Force**.

Won't somebody think of the homeowners? ■

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JUDGE 'KILLER' KELLER TO FACE TRIAL

Nearly a year and a half after a group of lawyers complained about her conduct to the **State Commission on Judicial Conduct**, the commission on Feb. 18 charged Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge **Sharon "Killer" Keller** – as she is known in anti-death-penalty circles – with a "willful and persistent failure" to follow the court's execution-day procedures, violating the Texas Constitution and the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct. Her actions, the charging document reads, cast "public discredit" on the state judiciary.

On Sept. 25, 2007, Keller refused to accept the last-minute appeal of Texas death row inmate **Michael Richard**, whose lawyers were seeking a stay of his looming execution. The stay was to be based on that morning's **U.S. Supreme Court** decision to hear an appeal filed by two Kentucky death row inmates challenging the constitutionality of lethal injection. Richard was scheduled to be executed at 6pm that evening, which put his lawyers on an accelerated timeline to draft and file the appeal – a situation that grew worse when computer problems delayed getting the paperwork to the court. Richard's lawyer, **David Dow** of the **Texas Innocence Network**, called the court clerk to say the appeal would be slightly delayed – he needed about 20 more minutes, he said. Keller refused to extend the deadline, declaring bluntly that the court closed at 5pm. Richard was executed that night.

On Oct. 4, 2007, Keller told the *San Antonio Express-News* that she had "no second thoughts" about her decision to close the court – and that Richard's attorneys should have been more prompt: "You're asking me whether something different would have happened if we had stayed open ... and I think the question ought to be why didn't they file something on time?" she said.

Of course, "something different" likely would have been the result if Keller hadn't been so eager to shut the court's doors – Richard had a good shot at a stay of execution from the

Supreme Court, considering the significance of continuing to execute inmates while the method of execution remained in question. In fact, not 24 hours after Richard was executed, the high court granted a stay for Texas inmate **Carlton Turner Jr.**, after the CCA denied his appeal. (Because the CCA had refused Richard's appeal but did not deny it, procedurally the Supremes were not in a position to do much except allow his execution to proceed. Ultimately, the Supremes' decision to accept the Kentucky case prompted a seven-month moratorium nationwide while the case was pending.)

In the wake of Keller's callous action, a group of nearly two dozen prominent attorneys signed a complaint filed with the Commission on Judicial Conduct by **Texas Civil Rights Project** Director **Jim Harrington**, calling for Keller's reprimand – or her ouster. That call was answered last week, when the commission charged Keller with incompetence and willfully ignoring her duties. According to the charge, it was Judge **Cheryl Johnson**, not Keller, who was assigned to handle the Richard case – meaning that all communication regarding his final appeals should have first gone through her. But, the charge asserts, Keller failed to tell the court clerk to notify Johnson about the delayed appeal.

In fact, Keller left work early on Sept. 25, 2007, to meet a repairman at her house and thus wasn't even at the court when she was called to decide whether to accept the late appeal. (According to Keller, she was asked if the clerk's office should stay open late, not whether the court should be available to handle the appeal. The court's general counsel, Edward Marty, told the commission he specifically told Keller the question was whether the court would remain open to accept the late filing.)

Moreover, according to the charge, Keller failed to tell any of her colleagues what she'd done, even when her fellow judges the next day were wondering aloud why Richard's attorneys wouldn't have filed a final appeal – they realized the signifi-



Sharon Keller



Michael Richard

cance of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that day and expected Richard to ask for a stay based on that case. Instead, when Judge **Cathy Cochran** posed a hypothetical about what would happen if an appeal came in late, Keller replied: "The clerk's office closes at 5pm. It's not a policy; it's a fact." Still, the charge asserts that Keller also knew that it was "common in the past" for the court to receive late pleadings on execution days after the clerk's office had closed.

Keller will now face a public hearing on the charges, which could end with her ouster, a reprimand, or her exoneration. That last possibility is the one Keller's lawyer **Chip Babcock** is betting on: "Judge Keller very much denies these allegations," he told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "But as importantly, there are a number of facts which are omitted [in the charge] that would win the case for her if known."

Harrington says he's pleased the commission has finally taken action and hopes the decision is "the beginning of [Keller's] removal from office," he said. "If ever a travesty of justice" had a face, "she personified it in this injustice."

– Jordan Smith

Whether to Laugh or Cry: Sex Ed in Texas



Sexually speaking, women are like "crock pots," slower to warm – or, to be more specific, slower to get "stimulated." Men, on the other hand, are like microwave ovens, fast cookers that are always ready to go. At least that's the message given to public school students who are taught the **WAIT Training** abstinence-only sex-education curriculum – and in Texas, that's the curriculum taught in 53 public school districts. It's a damaging and sexist message, says **Kelly Wilson**, an

assistant professor of health education at Texas State University in San Marcos. "I find this kind of ... message ... horrifying and incredibly irresponsible," she said during a Feb. 24 press conference outside the Capitol.

With her colleague, professor **David Wiley**, Wilson collaborated with the **Texas Freedom Network** to produce a groundbreaking study that delves into the actual content of sex education in Texas' public schools. It's the first study of its kind in the nation, says TFN

Ryan Valentine, deputy director of Texas Freedom Network, speaks Tuesday on the group's new report on sex education in Texas public schools.

President **Kathy Miller** – and the results are scary. For the project, TFN sent open records requests to more than 1,000 public school districts asking for documents, including curricula, related to their sex-education programs; about 96% of districts responded. In all, the TFN report reveals that 94% of Texas school districts teach ab-only, without contraceptive or sexually transmitted infection/disease education components, while just 3.6% teach so-called ab-plus education, which promotes abstinence as a preferred approach but also includes medical information on contraceptive use and STD prevention. Amazingly, 2.3% of school districts simply don't provide any sex education.

Many of the "facts" taught to Texas students in ab-only programs, detailed in the TFN report, would be laughable if the potential consequences of the misinformation weren't so dire: Texas ranks third in the nation in teen pregnancies, and sexually active Texas teens are more likely to engage in risky behavior – not using a con-

Dig Out Your Shovel

As **It's My Park! Day** approaches (Saturday, March 7), volunteering help by sprucing up city parks is more important than ever. With so many Parks & Recreation Department staff positions left unfilled due to city budget cuts, citizen shovel-wielders, tree-planters, trail-builders, and trash-pickers have become essential. Plus it's a fun day – why else would there be an exclamation mark in the title? The **Austin Parks Foundation** is seeking 1,600 volunteers for its seventh annual event. For a complete list of the more than 40 projects (searchable by ZIP code), visit www.austinparks.org, and sign up. Plant native Texas shrubs by a senior center, help install a playscape, or mulch trees to protect them from the drought. Volunteers can come for one hour or several; all get T-shirts, drinks and snacks, plenty of exercise, and a warm glow of satisfaction. In 2008, more than 1,550 volunteers worked on 43 Austin Parks Foundation park improvement projects, donating more than \$60,000 worth of labor and materials in one day to the city parks system.

– Katherine Gregor

dom or having four or more sexual partners – compared to all U.S. teens.

TFN hopes that the report will be a wake-up call to Texas parents and lawmakers who have the ability to intervene and correct the inaccurate information being fed to Texas teens – indeed, Texas could join the 25 other states that have turned down federal funding for ab-only education. (Texas leads the nation in the amount of ab-only funds it takes from the government. According to the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S., in 2007, Texas took \$18 million in ab-only funds.) Teaching kids real information about sexuality is the only responsible thing to do, said **Ryan Valentine**, TFN's deputy director. Texas should "reject the abstinence-only dogma and acknowledge that ignorance won't protect our kids."

– J.S.

Laura Hall Out on Bond

The 3rd Court of Appeals on Feb. 19 overturned the five-year sentence of **Laura Ashley Hall**, who was convicted of tampering with evidence and helping friend **Colton Pitonyak** evade arrest in connection with the 2005 murder and dismemberment of 21-year-old **Jennifer Cave**.

The appeals court upheld Hall's convictions on the two charges but ruled that Travis Co. assistant district attorneys **Bill Bishop** and **Stephanie McFarland** failed to turn over to Hall material evidence that could have affected the sentences imposed. Specifically, the court found that the state failed to tell Hall's attorney, **Joe James Sawyer**, important information about former Austin cabbie **Doug Conley**, the state's sole witness during the sentencing portion of Hall's trial: Conley had been unable to identify Hall from a police photo lineup prior to testifying that she had made disparaging remarks about Cave during a ride in his car in 2007. If the defense had known Conley's ID was tentative – and was actually aided in part by prosecutors showing him a photo of Hall before he took the stand – that knowledge could've been used to call into question his overall account. "We must conclude that the sup-



Laura Hall

COURTESY OF LOREN HALL

pressed ... evidence against Conley was material – had it been disclosed and used effectively, it would have placed the State's punishment case in such a different light as to undermine confidence in the verdict and give rise to a reasonable probability of a different outcome," Judge **Bob Pemberton** wrote for the court.

The court also ruled that Bishop and McFarland withheld other evidence from the defense – including portions of the prior criminal record of a jailhouse witness and statements by then-University of Texas student **Nora Sullivan**, a friend of Piton-yak's, who said that Hall made self-incriminating statements to her after the two visited Pitonyak in jail. Ultimately, however, the court ruled that neither error was severe enough to overturn Hall's convictions.

Hall is now out of jail on bond, awaiting the resolution of her appeal – and, if the appeal stands, the outcome of any new sentencing trial. Pitonyak is currently serving 55 years in prison for Cave's murder. (For more on the story, see "The Unexplained Death of Jennifer Cave," Sept. 7, 2007.)

– Jordan Smith

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Defense Appeal Targets Attorney Minton in WilCo Homicide

Papers filed in Williamson County accuse celebrated Austin attorney **Roy Minton** of bungling the much-publicized case of a teen accused of murder in 2001.

Brandon Threet's trial received national attention, thanks to videotape of the incident that aired on newscasts around the country as well as on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. During a backyard party for recent graduates of Westwood High School, Threet was in an altercation with **Terence McArdle**, a student at UT-Austin. As captured on video, while McArdle was lying on the ground, Threet kicked him in the head, knocking him unconscious. A few days later, McArdle died.

With Threet portrayed as the poster child for drunken bullies, Williamson Co. District Attorney **John Bradley**, who was running for re-election, accused Threet of murder and personally handled the prosecution. A jury eventually acquitted Threet of murder but convicted him of manslaughter and sentenced him to 20 years.

Although they never denied Threet's culpability, his family and friends have long maintained that he was unfairly characterized in the trial and that the sentence was unjustly harsh. Before that night, he never had been arrested and never had been in a fight, his supporters say.

Threet's attorney, Houston-based **Randy Schaffer**, is now asking for a new trial, alleging Threet was "denied the effective assistance of counsel," based on the defense by Minton, one of Austin's most well-connected and well-known criminal defense attorneys. Minton's clients have included Bob Bullock, Ann Richards, and former Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick. Most recently he represented UT baseball coach Augie Garrido in his drunken driving case.

As recounted in a story in the *Chronicle* ("Justice or Vengeance," Nov. 4, 2005), Minton offered few witnesses and no experts to refute the prosecution's case and the damning images left by the video of the incident. "I thought it would be a mistake to try to make the jury believe the kick didn't kill him," Minton said at the time.

Schaffer argues there is in fact evidence that Threet's kick may not have caused McArdle's death. In an affidavit filed with the court, Dr. **Richard Hirshberg**, a neurosurgeon, reviewed the case and concluded "that the cause of the decedent's death was a subarachnoid hemorrhage before the altercation from an unknown source, probably a cerebral

aneurysm." During the trial, Minton never raised the possibility of an aneurysm and never challenged prosecution testimony that an aneurysm did not cause McArdle's death. Minton and co-counsel **Sam Bassett** consulted with a general surgeon but never talked with a neurosurgeon, Schaffer says.

"Minton's failure to consult with a neurosurgeon and present expert testimony challenging the cause of death constituted deficient performance," Schaffer claims in the court filing. But Bassett argues that the videotape made it pointless to raise the issue of a potential aneurysm to the Williamson Co. jury. "We felt as a matter of strategy if we tried to argue to the jury that the kick did not cause death," Bassett said, "we would have lost credibility with the jury."

Schaffer also argues that Minton and Bassett should never have allowed Bradley to present character testimony against Threet, which he says was inadmissible. In order to portray Threet as "hot-tempered, racially biased, and remorseless," Bradley offered evidence that Threet had called a fellow student a "chink" when he was 13 (six years earlier), drove a new truck after McArdle's death, and was once pulled over by a state trooper who "questioned" him about the odor of marijuana.

None of those accusations should have been allowed into testimony, Schaffer contends. In a court filing, Minton said it was the defense strategy to allow Threet to testify and address all the accusations against him. "The Defendant took the witness stand and gave his account concerning each of those instances, none of which I considered to be serious," Minton wrote. "The Defendant handled them very well." (Bradley did not return a call seeking comment.)

Blaming the defense is not an unusual route for appeals, but it is rarely successful. Schaffer will have to show that Minton's strategy was not simply wrong; it was beyond the realm of "reasonable professional judgment" and prevented Threet from getting a fair trial.

Although the defense attorneys were "disappointed" by the 20-year sentence, Threet was acquitted of murder, Bassett notes. "We were satisfied we had done him a significant amount of good," Bassett said. "Williamson County is a tough jurisdiction for violent felonies."

— Kevin Brass

Terence McArdle and Brandon Threet (in the cap) are seen facing each other. McArdle takes the first shot, striking Threet in the chest, knocking him back. Then Threet lands a punch to McArdle's head and continues to hit McArdle as he crumples to the ground. One of Threet's friends, Justin Choate, tries to pull him off. Threet starts swinging at Choate, then turns back toward McArdle. Threet takes three deliberate strides and kicks McArdle.

Threet now seeks a retrial claiming his defense team ignored a neurosurgeon's report concluding McArdle died of a brain aneurysm that occurred before the altercation.



Bike Thief Accomplice?



COURTESY OF APD

A second arrest was made in the case of accused bicycle burglar **James Clayton**, who was arrested Feb. 3 and charged with boosting several high-end mountain and road bikes. Clayton's reported girlfriend, 29-year-old **Layne Severson** (pictured), was arrested last Thursday and charged with felony money laundering after Austin police discovered that

proceeds from the online sale of bikes stolen by Clayton were being deposited into a PayPal account connected to Severson's checking account. Detective Scott Askew said three complete bikes and nearly 20 disassembled bikes have been recovered from Clayton's residence and a rented storage locker so far. Police say Clayton frequented local bike racing events, befriended individuals within that community, and then burglarized them. When bike culture blog Austin Texas Bike Stuff (www.atxbs.com) reposted a Craigslist ad accusing Clayton of bike theft last December, Severson was the first to reply in Clayton's defense, according to blogger Jason Abels. Askew said a tip on another possible accomplice is being investigated. — Daniel Mottola

FORENSIC FALLIBILITY

According to **CSI: Miami**, all it takes to make a badass forensic scientist is a pair of dark shades, a white pant-suit, a colorized setting, and an ability to return all test results with solid scientific certainty within an hour.

In real life, of course, things are far less certain — which, according to a new study released last week by the **National Academies**, holds true for the state of forensic science in general. Forensic labs are not all created equal, according to the report, the result of two years of study by the National Academies' **Committee on Science, Technology, and Law**, which reports that how labs are funded and staffed and the degree to which they are subject to oversight varies greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Moreover, neither are all forensic disciplines created equal: With the singular exception of DNA analysis, "no forensic method" — such as fingerprint, tool-mark, or bite-mark analysis — "has been rigorously shown to have the capacity to consistently, and with a high degree of certainty, demonstrate a connection between evidence and a specific individual or source," reads the report. "The simple reality is that the interpretation of forensic evidence is not always based on scientific studies to determine its validity. This is a serious problem." Especially if you're the one accused of the crime.

Indeed, the National Academies report concludes that while DNA analysis has been integral to either matching or eliminating a suspect's connection to a crime, the field's shortcomings have also been implicated in miscarriages of justice: "[I]n some cases, substantive information and testimony based on faulty forensic science analyses may have contributed to wrongful convictions of innocent people," reads the report. "This fact has demonstrated the potential danger of giving undue weight to evidence and testimony derived from interpretive testing and analysis. Moreover, imprecise or exaggerated expert testimony has sometimes contributed to the admission of erroneous or misleading evidence."

To improve the state and use of forensic science, the report recommends that Congress establish a **National Institute of Forensic Science**, which, among other duties, would establish best practices and standards for accreditation for professionals and labs, as well as determine "standard terminology" to be used by professionals when testifying about results of forensic investigations. The report also recommends requiring that forensic labs be accredited and forensic science professionals be certified.

— Jordan Smith



Web Extra: Read the entire National Academies report with this story at austinchronicle.com.

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

GUESS WHO

If you want to see the bold future of alternative energy, don't look to the relatively timid plan coming out of the Obama White House. Instead, look to the green revolution exploding out of the least likely place you could imagine: the Persian Gulf.

Yes, the oil-soaked monarchies of such Gulf states as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates are designing, developing, funding, and building a visionary future of clean, renewable energy. It completely reconfigures the meaning of "ironic" to see these Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries oligarchs become the pioneers of a green world – but there they are.

As Elisabeth Rosenthal reported in *The New York Times* on Jan. 12: "They are aggressively pouring billions of dollars made in the oil fields into new green technologies. They are establishing billion-dollar clean-technology investment funds. And they are putting millions of dollars behind research projects at universities ... and setting up green research parks."

In so doing, the Gulf states are becoming world leaders in alternative energy, a position that many assumed belonged to America. In just one small country, Abu Dhabi, the crown prince is investing \$15 billion in renewables – as much as Obama has proposed for all of the United States.

From developing "green concrete" and new solar devices to building a model city that generates no carbon emissions, these leaders are making breakthroughs that will redefine the world's energy economy. In the process, they also are gaining patents, manufacturing capacity, and market power that could put them in a familiar position: the world's dominant energy provider. Indeed, they candidly state that they intend to be the Silicon Valley of alternative energy.

Where are our leaders? Not only should they think much bigger than they are about developing the green-energy future – but also about democratizing it.

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

SOME BANKERS YOU MIGHT LIKE

Hip, hip, hooray! Let's hear it for bankers!

No, not those bankers – not Citigroup, Bank of America, and the other greed-headed giants that have taken billions of dollars each from us taxpayers and essentially run off with it. They're arrogantly refusing to pour those bailout funds into our credit-starved economy by making loans to businesses, consumers, and others.

Outside of Wall Street, however, and outside of the media spotlight, there's a different story. You can find it in Green Bay, Wis., for example, where Nicolet National Bank got \$15 million from the bailout – an amount that wouldn't even cover a single Wall Street baron's bonus money. But Nicolet's bankers didn't use their taxpayer funds for bonuses, jet planes, or gobbling up another bank. They used it to make loans, pumping the cash directly into the local economy. "This bank can only be as good as the community it operates in," says the bank's CEO. "We're very invested in this community."

The same is true in Southern Maryland, where Shore Bancshares runs three small-town banks. The dab of bailout money it got is also being pushed out vigorously. "We have continued to loan money and support the community," says the CEO. Imagine the head of Citigroup or any other Wall Street empire even grasping the concept of community.

All across the country, hundreds of independent banks in urban neighborhoods, small cities, and rural areas are doing what banks are supposed to do: serve communities. There's a Louisiana bank that's even holding town meetings throughout its region to let potential borrowers know that it can help them immediately with their credit needs. Independent, smaller banks like these didn't put their money into flimsy global financial schemes, so they are now better capitalized than the giants – and because they've stayed connected to local customers, the independents have something the Wall Streeters can never buy: a measure of public trust and support.



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Looking for a School Chief

AISD zigzags its way to a new superintendent

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

It's been 10 years since the Austin Independent School District last searched for a new superintendent, and to call its hiring process back then "a mess" would be generous. In 1998, the district bought out beleaguered and then disgraced Superintendent Jim Fox's contract, leading to 1) a year under an interim appointee, 2) the embarrassment of having finalist Mark Edwards reject the district's job offer, and 3) the board of trustees finally asking current Superintendent Pat Forgione to take the job after it had previously rejected him. In retrospect, since Forgione proved to be a professional and largely successful choice, the board didn't do too badly; nevertheless, the current board is not eager to risk the district's luck again.

In part to avoid repeating that carnage, on Feb. 19 of last year, Forgione told the current board that he would be retiring, effective June 30 this year, giving it 16 months to appoint a replacement. Yet after a year, the board still had not even released a short list of applicants.

And as we went press Wednesday night, the board had scheduled another "special-called meeting" – for Thursday, Feb. 26 – at which it may or may not announce a short list of finalists.

What's taking so long?

Keeping It on the Down-Low

Board President Mark Williams explains: "When Pat announced his retirement, [it] was beautiful, because it gave us lots of time. But we got caught last spring in the [Johnston High School] repurposing, and that ate the board up." Then came the May bond election. Then it was the summer, when it's basically impossible to get any district business done. So it took until August even to hire search firm Proact Search Inc. – and then the board still had November's tax rollback election to deal with. "Our public engagement process was really pushed back to September," he said.

If that sounds like an excuse, it's worth remembering that, for all the institutional weight of their decisions, being an AISD trustee is an unpaid, volunteer position, and there is only one dedicated staff member for the whole board. So Williams believes they needed every minute of the 16 months. "Had [Forgione] given us less time, we probably would have had to go to an interim [candidate], because there wouldn't have been time for a full search," he said.

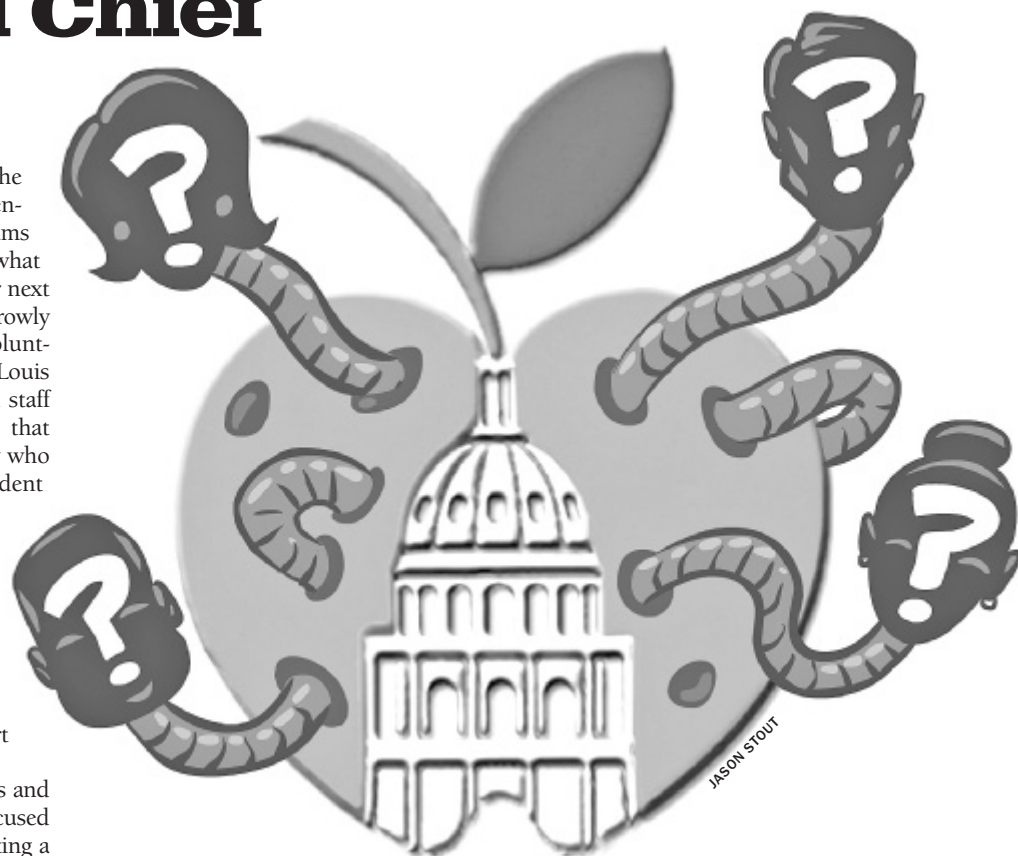
The board also decided to front-load the public consultation process in those opening months of the search. The plan, Williams explained, was to get a clear idea of what parents and stakeholders want from their next superintendent in order to provide a narrowly defined candidate profile. "That's crap," bluntly responds Education Austin President Louis Malfaro, who represents the teacher and staff union. "You could run a truck through that profile. [It] says that it prefers somebody who has teaching, principal, and superintendent experience but that it wasn't required."

The big issue then became candidate confidentiality. Under Texas law, districts are only required to release the names of superintendent search finalists: There is then a 21-day public review period before any contract can be signed. The board took the strategic but controversial decision to sit on the short list until the very last moment possible.

That choice drew fire from stakeholders and the *Austin-American Statesman*, which accused the board of working in secrecy and creating a level of mistrust about the process and the suitability of the eventual appointee. Williams rejects the idea that openness would attract a higher quality of applicants. Instead, because of the often precarious relationships between superintendents and their boards – and how easy it is to shake public trust in a district, especially if a superintendent is considering a move – the board reasoned that public disclosure would only serve to scare off good candidates. As if to confirm this fear, following news reports that they had applied for the AISD position, El Paso Independent School District Superintendent Lorenzo García and San Antonio Independent School District Superintendent Robert Durón issued damage-control denials: Both even went so far as to state that they had been headhunted and had no plans to leave their current districts.

(Williams says he can neither confirm nor deny either application while the search is ongoing, only that he has read the same stories.)

There are legislative moves afoot to remove the confidentiality option from district hands. Sen. Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, has filed Senate Bill 503, which would force ISDs to release the names of all candidates who reach the final interview round. The Texas Association of School Administrators has traditionally opposed such bills, and Executive Director Johnny Veselka called the confidentiality peri-



od "very standard practice – and that environment helps to ensure that you'll get a higher standard of candidates than if it were an open process where all the names were released to the public."

While Malfaro said he's unsure about the "one-size-fits-all-districts" approach of Eltife's bill, he's convinced that AISD should have released its own working short list months ago. "The leadership of the board has been completely hypnotized by the search firm and by some bad advice coming out of the business community," he said. "Who does the search firm work for? The [district] or [its] stable of superintendents?"

Whether it's an inappropriate veil of secrecy or merely acceptable confidentiality, the decision also allowed proliferation of rumors of improper influence from special-interest groups. Drew Scheberle of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce said that he anticipated such allegations but insists that beyond consulting with the board on the integrity of the process, the chamber tried to stay out of the hunt as much as possible – not least, he argued, because this is exactly why trustees are elected. "If they can't do this, they probably shouldn't be on the board, so we trust that they'll do a good job," he said. While he confirmed that he had been approached by potential candidates who asked him about the district, he says he never talked about candidates with the district. Instead, he said, the chamber had taken a more structural approach. "We supported the tax increase last fall to make sure the district had its fiscal house in order," he said, "and to make it attractive for the best candidate."

Rumors and Equivocations

When allegations of undue influence did arise, the environment quickly turned toxic. As a former co-chair of the 2007 Superintendent's Task Force on Strategic Plan Review and a father of two children in AISD schools, former Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board Chair Paul Saldaña thought he had as much right as anyone to give some input and sent an e-mail to the board on Feb. 4. Then, he said, he got a call from AISD joint counsel Mel Wexler that *Statesman* editorial writer Alberta Phillips had submitted an open records request asking specifically for Saldaña's e-mail and another one, from former AISD Community Safety Task Force Co-Chair Celia Israel. On Feb. 13, both e-mails were quoted in a *Statesman* editorial titled "Search for Austin school superintendent is corrupted." The editorial alleged "leaks from trustees that gave Hispanic leaders inside information." (It curiously omitted that the *Statesman* itself had made repeated references to the number, ethnicity, gender, experience, and home states of candidates. On Feb. 19, the daily even revealed the supposed identity of one of the still-unannounced candidates – Meria Carstarphen, the superintendent in St. Paul, Minn. – citing sources that included unnamed trustees.) The e-mails, the editors concluded, were themselves sufficient to cast doubt on whichever candidate was selected, and so the process should begin again, this time in public.

Saldaña said his e-mail (posted online with this story at austinchronicle.com) was not directly about the candidate selection but responded

to an alleged comment by board President Williams "that the Hispanic community would have to get over that the board was not likely to be recommending a Latino candidate for the school superintendent position, just like we had to get over the fact that an African-American [Marc Ott] was selected for city manager." (Williams denies making any such statement and said he's "frustrated" that he can't find out either who started the rumor or who leaked candidate information. "The perception exists that someone on the board is saying something to somebody, and that's a problem," he said.)

So why the stir over these two e-mails? Saldaña noted that, in addition to himself and Israel, the editorial also named two associates in his public affairs firm, Adelante Solutions: former state Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos and former Travis Co. Commissioner Richard Moya – whose daughter Lori is the AISD trustee for District 6 in South Austin. Neither sent e-mails, but Saldaña noted that he, Israel, and Barrientos were part of the group "that had that infamous meeting with [Ott] that [Phillips] wrote about" (see the *Chronicle's* "City Hall Firestorm: Still Burning?" Aug. 29, 2008). Back then, Phillips accused the group of "stirring a racial pot that is nearing a boiling point." Saldaña noted, "I find it slightly ironic that now she's singling out two members of the Hispanic community, and we're being referred to as a 'special-interest group.'"

Malfaro writes this all off as a distraction from the real issue. "The problem isn't whether we get a Hispanic superintendent or a black superintendent or a white superintendent or a male or female," he said. "It's how do we get someone who is qualified who can work well with the community?" Williams also described community buy-in as vital and confirmed that the board is undertaking additional vetting and deep background checks to ensure prefinalist candidates don't come with skeletons in their closets. It isn't just about meeting the criteria in the job description but certain additional intangibles. The candidate, he said, would have to have "the belief system and integrity that we want to have in a leader of this community, because that drives decisions we can't anticipate."

The other criterion, he explained, is finding someone who would have "chemistry with the board. Think about what friends you hang out with. There's somebody that you might say, 'They're really smart, I like them, but I don't want to hang with them.' So that factor, while it shouldn't be a factor, really is. You've got to find someone that can work with the board, because if the board-

superintendent relationship is dysfunctional, then everything flows from there."

In Malfaro's judgment, the board has been too busy protecting its relationship with candidates to see the benefit of real community involvement. "Many heads are better than nine," he said. The only real way to approach the search is "to provide us with a list of finalists, give us an opportunity to meet those candidates, interact with them, research their backgrounds, talk to people they work with, and provide the school board with some input for who would be the best person for the job." While he accepts that the school board has the statutory authority to make the hire, it "[sets] the new superintendent up for conflict and confrontation with the community if they provide the community with little or no ability to weigh in."

Waiting for the Smoke to Clear

Without a time machine – or the abrupt hiring of an interim administrator and starting over – the process is where it is, with the board still officially planning to announce a short list by the end of February. With the 21-day public vetting period, it will be mid-March at the earliest before any paperwork is signed, but those 21 days are really 24. Under the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board has to schedule any meeting 72 hours in advance. So the board took the precaution of liberally scheduling a few extra meetings, Williams said, "just in case we decided we're going to do something and then had to wait before we can make an announcement to the public." (Last week, the board scheduled and then canceled a special Thursday meeting when there proved to be nothing to announce or discuss.)

One timing issue remains pivotal. "I do not want a baton handoff on June 30," Williams said. The board wants the new superintendent to get involved in planning as soon as possible and then in the long run to keep him or her around for as long as possible to avoid the revolving-door management that plagues other districts. While most urban superintendents last four to five years, Forgione raised the bar by sticking around for a decade. That gave the district an almost unique ability to address long-term planning, Williams said, and "if we're stuck with one for 10 years, that's a good thing. ... I'm hopeful that, even after this smoke and fire churn around us, that as board members we can filter through all that and still make the best decision in the interests of the community." ■

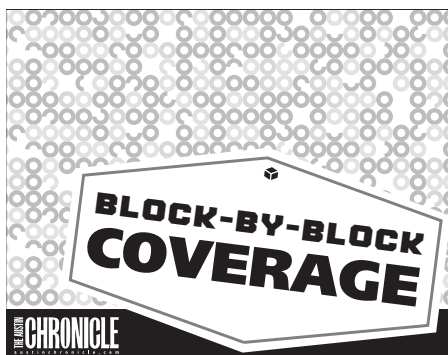
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– Education Austin President Louis Malfaro



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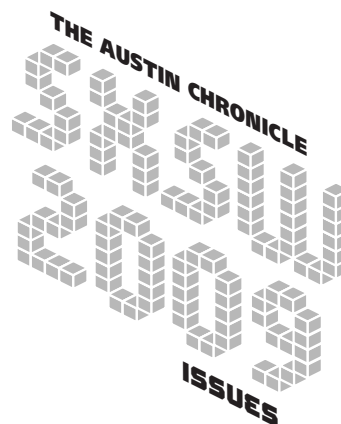
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Forgione has become famous for prefacing any statement with an old reference to the TV show *Dragnet*: “I’m like Jack Webb – just the facts.”

Ten Years Ago

For all the perennial insistence by teachers’ groups that a superintendent should be an educator, the district hired then-U.S. Commissioner of Education Statistics Forgione in 1999 exactly because he was a data guy. “When I got off the airplane, you could go to the [arrival] gates in those days, and someone held up a pad. It was the *Statesman* saying, ‘Austin Unacceptable.’ We were the first school district to be held unacceptable for poor data, and we’d been sued and indicted. So someone said, ‘Dr. Forgione, what does this mean to you?’ and I said, ‘Well, I guess the honeymoon is over.’”

Forgione has always had a reputation as a systems and infrastructure guy. His mantra for his first two years was simple: “Better data, better collaboration, better student achievement.” After arriving from the National Center for Education Statistics in D.C., he immediately set about repairing the district’s poor records systems, creating a new data warehouse. More than that, he said, the first two years were about “breaking this culture of avoidance, low risk, and some poor behavior and judgment.”

But he quickly realized that “this is the People’s Republic of Austin” and that being a superintendent here means there’s never enough openness, no matter how hard he tried. “I really learned how difficult it is to put all the elements together to create quality learning. I thought I knew from my testing days. I’d measured it, developed some of the most outstanding systems when I was in the federal government, developed some of the most elegant databases and tests. But until you do this stuff at the ground level, it’s really different.”

Ten Years Later

Forgione would like his legacy to be measured against two metrics: where the district was 10 years ago and where other major urban districts are now. In 1999, the debacle over discredited Superintendent Jim Fox left AISD rudderless and led to an effective purge of the board of trustees in that year’s elections. Today in Fort Worth, the middle class has abandoned the public school system except for magnet schools, and Dallas Independent School District is effectively bankrupt because of mismanagement. In AISD, Forgione said, “I believe the public now has confidence in trusting their children to us. Some of that has come from bringing more uniformity to what we do, but some of it came from bringing more diversity to what we do, like the Ann Richards School and our international school for recent immigrants.” His highest performance accomplishment, he said, “is that I think I changed the brand. Now it’s a reasonable brand.”

Bringing the Group to the Vision

As Pat Forgione prepares to say farewell, he looks back on his AISD decade

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

Arranging an interview with Austin Independent School District Superintendent Pat Forgione is surprisingly difficult. Not because he’s a recluse: Anyone who’s worked with Forgione will tell you how affable and talkative he can be. It’s just that, even in these final four months before his June 30 retirement, he’s still a workaholic. The only slab of time he had for a real sit-down was a breakfast meeting (a biscuit and two eggs, over easy – “I’m on a low-carb diet”) at the Waterloo Ice House on Lamar, just around the corner from his AISD offices on Sixth: a building and institution that has been defined by his 10-year tenure.

When he discusses his greatest regret, he pauses quietly for a moment. It’s not how he handled the headline administrative dustups at Kealing Middle School or the potential closing and cliffhanger survival of Webb Middle School, nor even that Johnston High School went through three major overhauls before becoming terminally entangled in the trip wires of state academic nonattainment status. It’s not even the occasionally rocky relationship with the community, parts of which have accused him of everything from callousness to incompetence to that old mantra of “just not Austin enough.”

It’s one name: Ortralla Mosley, the 15-year-old Reagan High student stabbed to death in a school hallway in 2003 by ex-boyfriend Marcus McTear. Of Mosley, he said: “Losing that child on my watch, that was the hardest thing that ever hit me. To this day, I can’t articulate it.” But he also pauses over McTear and his self-destroyed potential. “To lose that young man, a great young man that did something very bad.”

It’s a rare moment of public emotion from the AISD chief. He’s usually portrayed as the numbers guy – the Stanford Ph.D. and policy analyst who endlessly pores over attainment charts and environmental studies. He’s become famous for prefacing any statement with an old reference to the TV show *Dragnet*: “I’m like Jack Webb – just the facts.”

Less often discussed, and less public, is the ex-seminarian who mopped hospital floors and worked the Pratt & Whitney production line before becoming a high school social studies teacher in inner-city Baltimore. That closer-to-the-ground experience could be what has shaped his approach to how public schools should work and their roles in the community. “Effort creates intelligence,” he often says. “If you work hard and you develop and you have mentors and are supported, you can become smart.”

The district’s response to the death of Mosley is a vivid example of Forgione’s phi-

losophy as AISD’s CEO and how he’s tried to never stop learning. After the initial shock and pain, it was his job to move on quickly and create policy. What he didn’t do was the knee-jerk punitive approach that has often pervaded Texas education policy. “I don’t want to put metal detectors in my schools,” he said. “That would make them prisonlike.”

Instead, he looked at underlying problems: in this case, domestic violence. The first question, he said, was “how do we get our kids to go to counselors earlier?” His strategy was to get community involvement and community leaders to work with him on a safety task force. “We didn’t only do cameras and locks and lights. That’s easy. They helped me with a dress code for my teachers and my students. They helped me bring a character course into my district. They helped me think about the kind of social services I need in my district.”

In a time when public schools have been blamed for all the ills of American society, Forgione has remained a constant advocate for Austinites to keep their kids in his public schools. “I believe in redemption,” he said. “I’ll give you a second and third chance, but I want to see progress.”

So has AISD seen progress under Forgione’s administration?

His biggest management achievement, he believes, is not that he led the district but that he created a team that has guided the whole district. "It hasn't been me. Most of my team has been here eight years," he said. He even declined credit for that, placing the praise with former Chief Financial Officer Larry Throm, who recently moved to Dallas ISD to fix its broken finances. "He's the best backroom guy you can have, and he's built a team that's staying here."

While Forgione's relationship with teachers has often been rocky ("It comes with the job," he says), there's a visible excitement when he talks about teachers, especially the latest 34 employees to get national certification and the fact that AISD can recruit from across the nation. His greatest pride is in his students: In the latest Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills results, AISD closed the achievement gaps among student groups faster than the state average, and in the latest Trial Urban District Assessment, the district's eighth-graders were above the national average at math. "Suburbs do that, not urban districts," he said. "We have data today that our 9-year-olds are better at math and reading than they were in 1968. But today the expectations are higher."

For all the public meetings, task forces, and long Monday night board meetings that stressed personal contact, Forgione still believes testing and standards are important. He believes it's just that the state's

"Effort creates intelligence. If you work hard and you develop and you have mentors and are supported, you can become smart."

emphasis is in the wrong place, a judgment he says has been re-enforced by the traumatic Johnston repurposing. "I don't believe you have to make everything the highest stakes. That one [accountability matrix] cell out of 25 can put a school in jeopardy; that's not fair." He's clear on what the educational priorities should be. "Tell me what college readiness is. Team-building. Diligence. Problem-solving. Cooperation. You show me a multiple-choice test that can do any of those, and you'll make a million dollars."

He's also proud of the fact that he's managed to balance tight school funds ("We just got an AA-plus bond rating. When I first came here, we were on negative watch by Moody") with meeting the needs of students with special needs and the district's large minority population, often spending twice as much money at the poorer and more ethnically diverse schools than the whiter, more middle-class schools. "I don't know if twice is enough, but some urban districts that have some white students spend twice as much on the white schools, because they're trying to keep those students. We don't do that, because we believe in equity and excellence."

The Next Super and the Former Super

So where now for Forgione? His big promise is that, while he won't be leaving Austin, he's not going to become an arm-chair superintendent, second-guessing his replacement. He'll be quitting every board that he currently sits on and promises that, while he'll always make himself available to the district, he's never called any of his old offices back. He was even shy about offering specific advice, restricting himself instead to an aphorism coined by University of Texas President Bill Powers: "There are big rocks out there and small rocks, and you have to figure out which rocks you can fit into your bucket and how many."

When it comes to picking that replacement, Forgione has stayed out of the process. "I think initially the board wanted to find someone just like me, but I think they realized that's not the endgame. The endgame is to find the person to lift the big rocks, and their challenge is to work with the board to work out which rocks to lift."



JOHN ANDERSON

He now gets to reprioritize his life. Although retirement won't really mean retirement (he expects to make a career announcement in the next few weeks), he's adapting. He gleefully pulled out his new iPhone and talked excitedly about how he finally has a private e-mail account. "I was worried, because I'm a collaborative worker, and I'm not going to have a team come July 1. I was worried, can I find a team and stay connected?" Now he's texting his daughter-in-law, who is pregnant with his first grandchild. "Psychologically, it's made me feel connected."

That's the biggest advice he leaves for his successor: Connection counts. He leans across the table and explains the biggest lesson that AISD taught him. "What you gotta be careful of in Austin," he said, "you gotta bring the group to your vision." ■

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Screenworld

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Screens, screens, screens — everywhere, screens. Right in front of me, in arm's reach, are three: the three computers accessible from this chair (often I work on two at once). Another screen's across the room — the TV. My cell phone, also in arm's reach, has a screen, even though I bought the simplest device possible — it cost 10 bucks, but it can take and transmit photos and movies. You see screens at checkout counters, restaurants, laundromats, waiting rooms, and on the dashboards of cars. Millions preen for screens on YouTube and Facebook, marketing their images like politicians or starlets. What with BlackBerrys, iPhones, and my 10-buck cell, few Americans go anywhere anymore without a handy screen that connects to every other screen in some way or another, linking to any event, broadcast, or data source anywhere, including satellite photos of every address you know. The screens disconnect, as well: I work where I live, so, theoretically, I need never leave my apartment — I can order shoes, pet food, people food, parts for my car, and lingerie for my girlfriend right here on this screen, to be delivered right to my door. Now that I think of it, it seems half the people I know met their present significant others via the screen.

The power of these interconnected screens is such that a virtually unknown woman can step before the media on a Friday and by the following Wednesday be a superstar nominated for the vice presidency of the United States. Conversely, a man touted as a promising presidential candidate uses the obscure racial slur “macaca,” someone videos the event with a cell phone, within hours every news outlet replays the video, and the viability of a presidential hopeful evaporates into Cyberspace.

In 1949 George Orwell published *1984*, his vision of the worst possible society — a society in which screens are everywhere, inescapable. History's turned out to be not nearly so gloomy

but far more surreal. If in 1980, say, after directing *Jaws* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, Steven Spielberg had made a sci-fi adventure-comedy called *Screenworld* — well, he might have envisioned something very like our current world, which, in 1980, would have seemed dizzying, funny-ridiculous, scary, technologically promiscuous, 24/7 exhausting, and appallingly lacking in privacy (privacy as a fact and as a value). But in 1980, *Screenworld* would have seemed impossible, or, at the least, an uncertain and unmanageable future that lay thankfully in some alternate universe far, far away. Yet today here we are, you and me, often engaging the world far more through screens than we engage face-to-face. Without planning to, and without especially wanting to, willy-nilly we've become citizens of Screenworld.

In *Screenworld* the rules of engagement — and the rules of perception — seem to have altered. I realized this most vividly when I taught a graduate seminar at an institution prestigious in the arts. During a discussion, two bright young men argued that they could go to Rome via a computer program through which they could view every street, turn this corner and that as they pleased, look at every ruin and work of art, and their experience would be as real as if they actually went to Rome, Italy.

“But,” said I, “a pigeon couldn't shit on your head.”

Granting that any experience can be called real — in that it is an experience — I argued that there are differences in the nature of virtual and actual reality. For one thing, on your walk through a virtual Rome, you're not walking; you're sitting. And there's no chance you'll run into the girl you used to sit next to in chemistry class — nor anyone else. Your program could not include the unprogrammed, which is generally what happens during the engagement of human beings one with another, for, as James Baldwin wrote, “Any human touch can change you.” I said



what I thought obvious. The computer program of Rome could not offer what's most valuable about Rome (or anywhere): Rome as a medium for engaging life beyond one's personal, private perception — beyond, that is, one's control.

They looked at me with the bemused pity that the young reserve for fogies who, as they said, “didn't get it.”

In *Screenworld*, face-to-face engagement is devalued, yet one is never alone. *Screenworld* places less and less emphasis on privacy and more and more on accessibility. On your BlackBerry or iPhone, the office is always with you. With YouTube and Facebook, you are accessible to whomever. Especially for many young adults, the idea of being “out of touch” is alien — while calling and texting are

constant. A place inaccessible to *Screenworld* is called a “dead zone.”

Which kind of says it all about *Screenworld*.

Screenworld develops and reinforces the ability to disconnect quickly from your present circumstance and connect to something or someone somewhere else, with no commitment or intention of remaining connected to anything for long. How does one find or grow a sense of centeredness amidst this continually shifting screenscape? Not a question *Screenworld* encourages or entertains. In *Screenworld*, one shifts constantly between being a spectator and a performer — the passivity of being a spectator and the artificiality of being a performer become ingrained life behaviors. In *Screenworld*, everybody's a screen star, and everybody's watching a screen.

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Screenworld has become our prime frame of reference politically, commercially, culturally, and socially. Americans born since 1985 are likely to take Screenworld completely for granted as *the* world.

Without anyone intending it, the über-reality of Screenworld tends to frame as inferior or minor that which is beyond Screenworld's concern or reach. This is Screenworld's most dangerous illusion – or, more accurately, its delusion: that what is untranslatable through Screenworld, or of no interest to Screenworld, is thereby somehow drained of its urgency and vitality. In fact, that very delusion bestows upon Screenworld its extraordinary power – the notion, especially in the young, that not to pay close attention to all these screens is not to be fully engaged, fully a participant of today. It's such a constant, ever-present message, blazing from all the screens of Screenworld, that perhaps it's what we've all come to believe or assume – at least when gauging our relationship to the general zeitgeist. There's one's own world, and there's the world, and the present societal consensus seems to be that the world is Screenworld.

Here at the *Chronicle*, when I write "Moon" or "Sun," proofreaders change them to "moon, and "sun." But if I write "cyberspace," they change it to "Cyberspace." The star that sustains us and the orb that accompanies us don't rate capital letters. Cyberspace does. Screenworld rules.

Something enormous has happened: The scale on which our society judges a human event has changed – which, in itself, is a human event of the first magnitude. Importance, or lack thereof, is judged by impact on Screenworld. This began a century ago with motion pictures, when one had to seek out the screen but could not control it. Sixty years ago, television brought the screen into our homes. Yet, however great their influence, one left the TV and the movie theatre to go out into the world. Now Screenworld is ever-present, making reality seem infinitely malleable. Screenworld is another order of reality that has overwhelmingly instituted itself amidst what we used to call reality, changing the givens, the rules, the environment. As animals, we're built to live in a physical world; in Screenworld, we're living in something else, something other. In our overlay of Cyberspace and physical space, is bodily, face-to-face reality devalued? Heightened? Changed? Altered a little or a lot? It's all too new to say.

We create something; it re-creates us – but we can't predict how. We never know how we've been changed until we've absorbed the change. That's the way it's always been, and that is all that has not changed. ■

A version of this column, focusing on psychotherapy, appeared in the January/February issue of Psychotherapy Networker.



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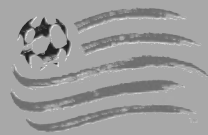
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Clifford Ross, *Mountain IV*, 2000, silver gelatin print, 50 x 60 inches (frame), Private collection, © Clifford Ross

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BILL COSBY Is a Very Funny Fellow

By his own account, Bill Cosby's been a monologist 46 years, which coincides neatly with the 1963 release of his debut LP, *Bill Cosby Is a Very Funny Fellow ... Right!*

Follow-ups *I Started Out as a Child; Wonderfulness; Revenge; To Russell, My Brother, Whom I Slept With*, howling with live recordings of familial anecdotes, began an entertainment empire. What's the nexus of storytelling and comedy? Cosby has exactly two words for you:

"Mark Twain."

Which explains everything, of course, especially Cosby's own burble of mirth over the phone. Your laughter only encourages him.

"I want to tell stories. I want warmth. I want exaggeration," he presses. "I want – and I have it now – the smile to be as important as tears of laughter. So that in the break between laughing so hard, there's a smile. So that when people come out, they say, 'You know, my face hurts.'"

"Now when I was young, in my 30s, it was important to just leave the audience *burning*,

fire. Just make people do things on themselves. I aimed to hurt stomachs! Aimed at causing fluid to go into the lungs and having people just hacking and spewing and almost choking to death.

"I remember one of the great faces of all times, man. I had just written these [routines], and I just wouldn't let them breathe. And I looked down, and there was this black woman looking at me. She had been laughing and laughing, and in her hand ...

"Well, she was no longer laughing at me. She was just looking at me, and she was not laughing anymore. People were rolling. In her hand was her wig, which had fallen off while she was laughing.

"And she looked at me.

"I mean, she had a look like: 'I'm just not laughing anymore. And I don't know *who* you think you are.' And I looked at her, and I found a way to motion for security to come. And I put the mic down at my side. I said, 'Take her to my dressing room so she can put her piece on.'



"And she got up and looked at me, and she said, you know, like a church woman – this is a black woman – she said, 'Thank you.' Her friends bent over they were laughing so hard.

"She went off, and I went on about my routine. When she came back, she had it on,

but now, while her friends were doubling over again, she just sat there, and this woman, the most I got out of her in the next 45 minutes was a smile. She was not laughing anymore. No. She had enough of this, and to her, Bill Cosby was out to destroy her.

"So I had her come back to the dressing room with these other ladies. I hugged her. She said, 'You are awful.' I said, 'Do you think I picked you out?' She said, 'There you were, looking at me, and you saw I was having trouble, with my wig.'

"And her friends were falling now, down on the rug, in my dressing room.

"She said, 'And you saw me' – and she was serious, man, serious as fried bacon. She said: 'And you just kept it up. And like a fool, I kept laughing. And I tried to fix it. And then it was all sideways'

"And she had them, her friends, laughing so hard. I said, 'Well, look at what you're doing to your friends.'

"She said, 'They don't have sense anyway.' "It was wonderful."

Correction: *Wonderfulness*. – Raoul Hernandez

Bill Cosby performs Saturday, Feb. 28, 6:30 & 9pm, at Bass Concert Hall, 23rd & East Campus Drive, UT campus. For more information, call 477-6060 or visit www.utpac.org.

AUSTIN ARTS AT THE ARMORY

Where art history is made

Every year I pore over websites about the Armory Show in New York City. This was the first, the *original* American art fair; it is the mother ship, and Pier 94 in March is legendary stuff, where the heroes of contemporary art go to mingle and make art history. I'm thrilled to report that this year, three Austin galleries are attending the large satellite art fairs that now orbit the Armory Show and form Armory Arts Week: Lora Reynolds Gallery at Pulse, Art Palace at Volta, and Okay Mountain at Scope.

Volta NY, on Fifth Avenue and 35th Street, was founded in 2005 in Basel, Switzerland, and features only solo projects. Art Palace will present Sterling Allen's *ABC Project*, a show of recombined toys and objects that morph into 26 freaky Muppet-like sculptures, one for each letter of the alphabet. "I started with a drawing representing each letter (apple, boat, car, dog, elephant, etc.) and drew it over and over until something different emerged," he writes. "From that new vision came the sketch for the individual sculptures." So he's in good form for the big leagues.

Lora Reynolds Gallery has participated in Pulse in London in 2007 and Miami in 2008, and gallery Associate Director Elizabeth Chiles is happy to be returning for Pulse New York 2009 to show work by Tom Molloy. "We like the Pulse team and think they do a good job of being organized [and] friendly and of attracting quality galleries to participate," Chiles says. "A solo booth is a great way to introduce the work in a thorough way to the fair audience. We also feel that Molloy's work, inspired by current events and in its beautiful craft, can find a strong audience at this time."

Scope is an invitation-only exhibition auspiciously held at Lincoln Center. This is all-important stuff, as the



ABC Project: U

COURTESY OF STERLING ALLEN

Scope website states: "Introducing artists, curators, and cutting-edge galleries to new audiences internationally has made Scope the most comprehensive destination for the emerging art world available anywhere." Okay Mountain, honored with its first invitation this year, will be showing works by Anna Krachey (Austin), sculptures by Jesse Greenberg (Philadelphia) and Colin Leipelt (Kansas City), and collaborative paintings and drawings by the Okay Mountain collective. Flexing its flexibility, Okay Mountain includes a performance called *Poem Store*, by Zach Houston (San Francisco), to run the length of the fair.

Congratulations to all of these talented artists and galleries. Way to shine bright on the world stage.

– Rachel Koper

'BIRTH OF THE COOL'

A surfeit of coolness

Given the torch our town carries for retro/vintage fashion and design, not to mention the way the whole country's mad about *Mad*

Men right now, an exhibition like "Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury" is as natural a fit for Austin as your backside in an Eames chair. Maybe that's why more than a dozen local shops, clubs, and cultural groups have signed on with the Blanton Museum of Art for its three-month run of this toast to Fifties and Sixties "cool culture" assembled by the Orange County Museum of Art. While the Blanton shows 200-plus *objets de cool* in art, architecture, graphics, design, cinema, and music, its exhibition partners will be serving a smorgasbord of screenings, live jazz performances, tours, talks, and discounts on music, merchandise, edibles, and libations.

This weekend, for example, you can catch a night of jazz that pays tribute to the recording from which the exhibition takes its name: Miles Davis' landmark 1957 LP, *Birth of the Cool*. Trumpeter Jeff Lofton, who blows a pretty frosty horn himself, leads the show, which covers Miles' 1950s output in three sets. Sharing the stage with Lofton at the Elephant Room, 315 Congress, will be saxophonist Russell Haight, pianist Rich Harney, bass player Mark Nelms, and drummer Masumi Jones. The show is Saturday, Feb. 28, 9:30pm. Three other "Birth of the Cool" jazz nights at the Elephant Room will follow: Kat Edmondson (March 28), Ephraim Owens (April 18), and Pamela Hart (May 16).

And that's just the beginning. For a full schedule of events, visit the Blanton website, www.blantonmuseum.org. "Birth of the Cool" continues through May 17.

– Robert Faires



Culture Club



Dances inspired by three legendary women cross cultures and generations

BY JONELLE SEITZ

War, spirituality, desperation, passion, culture: All are forces driving a new collaborative dance work by a formidable trio of local dancer-choreographers: Anuradha Naimpally, Toni Bravo, and Sharon Marroquín. *Women: Voices and Whispers*, produced by Austin Dance India, will explore facets of women's realities through the essences of three powerful female figures in history, as captured by three distinct choreographic voices. A cast of dancers including schoolchildren and octogenarians will perform movement based in the languages of modern and classical Indian dance, accompanied by 13th century sacred music, contemporary compositions, and the songs of Edith Piaf.

The choreographers are all teachers as well as artists, which may explain their focus on the intergenerational. In a conversation about the project, it became evident that their roles render them all at once creators, interpreters, and protectors of the cultures they pass down. The performance, says Naimpally, aims to expose women's experiences and the human condition in general at the intersection of the broadness of culture, the horizontal, and cultural lineage, the vertical. That is, in mathematical terms, the origin.

Austin Chronicle: After at least a decade of working in overlapping circles and crossing paths, you're collaborating as a trio for the first time. How did this project come about?

Anuradha Naimpally: Well, I had this idea of women, something with women together, and the three of us have such different things to bring to the table, and so we thought we'd start with the three of us. And then – I think in September – we started meeting down at Central Market on Sundays, and we would just talk about what it was, and all we knew was that it was about women. And it started with that and the voices and whispers, and then it expanded.

Toni Bravo: And we talked about other things than dance, too.

Naimpally: Yeah, just like women at the table. How girls share, how women share ...

Bravo: We'd talk about regular life. So we started thinking: "That may be it; that may be the topic. Let's talk about the voice of all women or every woman we know."

Naimpally: But then we needed a starting point, for sort of the inspiration for the whole thing, and in our discussions we discovered that there were women we were reading about or had admired or had in mind in some way. So we [each] chose a woman in history – and not necessarily just that woman's

life but that woman's spirit and what it represents. So it's that passing of the legend, also.

Bravo: Their legacy and how their legacy has reached us.

Naimpally: And how that's expressed.

Sharon Marroquín: Well, when we were talking about that – and I don't remember who came up with the idea, but it was one of you two, because it wasn't me – I remember thinking to myself, "Oh, I know who I could do," because it's someone who for several years I've had the intention of making a dance about. So the woman I chose to become inspired by is Saint Teresa of Avila. And I've read her biography, and I've read some of her writings, and I've always been fascinated by her and always thought, "I want to do a dance about her." But, you know, it never happened, so I remember hearing them talk and thinking, "I know, I know who I would do!" So, for me, it was very welcome, because it was an opportunity to do something that I'd been interested in.

Naimpally: [To Bravo] And you had already said something about Edith.

Bravo: Yeah, the same with me. I had said that I wanted to talk about someone special, and in the back of my head, there's always been this thing about Edith Piaf's music but also the very difficult life that she lived and how, in spite of everything, she continued with enormous love and passion. To me, that's very inspiring. So I had always planned to do something about Piaf – hoping, I guess, more than planning.

Naimpally: For me it was different, because I didn't have anybody in mind at that point. But suddenly, when we were talking, Jhansi Ki Rani, the queen of Jhansi, came into my head. She's a woman who lived in 19th century India, when the British East India Company had assumed military rule over many parts of India. And during the civil rebellion and mutiny of 1857, she played a pivotal role in the attempt to retain land in the hands of the rightful Indian rulers. She was actually a warrior, and she went into battle, and she literally died in battle at a very young age. But, being from India but growing up in North America, I never really studied, formally, Indian history in school, and I just know snippets about it or what I've read.

So this was an opportunity for me to learn more about her and present something historical that's very important. She didn't live very long, but her legend is just enormous in India. Schoolchildren still memorize the famous poem about her – I mean, she's enormous. There are statues of her all over.

AC: So you had this huge concept, then reached back to the historical figures to illuminate it.

Naimpally: I think, maybe, to bring it to light.

Bravo: Also, it was an opportunity for us to concentrate on that one personality that was, for one reason or another, so attractive to each one of us. But it also helped us to be able to represent different kinds of women with different voices, with different intents. And because we started talking about legacy, we also thought we needed to figure out a way to talk in terms of how that figure has influenced me and how I have influenced, maybe for that reason, in a certain way, the next generations. And so it was a good way to narrow our narrative, as opposed to having to talk in general about women.

AC: Instead of just "Women: Who are they?"

Marroquín: Yeah, well, women are so many things. I mean, they're wives, and they're mothers, and they're petty, and they're deep, and they're spiritual, and they're passionate. There are so many different facets that I think choosing these three women was a way of homing in on three aspects of women. They're probably present in all women, to one degree or another, but we're focusing in on three women who really embodied them.

And I think the fact that all three of us are teachers also has something to do with it. You know, the youngest in the cast is 6, and I chose some of my students, and Toni's got her students in it, and Anu's got her students in it, so we're – you know, talking about passing down, that's what we're actually doing! You know, we're doing it! [To Naimpally] Yesterday, I was watching your two young women dancing behind you, and it was amazing to think that they learned that from you.

AC: What do the stories of these historical figures bring to conversation? I mean, are we talking about feminism?

Marroquín: I think we haven't even mentioned that at all.

Naimpally: I don't think this show has anything, really, to do with the traditional sense of feminism. It's just a celebration of spirit through these women, how they expressed themselves and how they live on.

Bravo: Well, if you think in terms of their significance, each of them is really, really at a point in history in which things changed because of them. I know Teresa [of Avila] was a very different religious woman than others had been up until that point. So she changed things in a sense.

Marroquín: She certainly didn't fit the mold.

Bravo: Piaf was definitely not the singer that Europe had been seeing up until that point. She started doing things that sounded like jazz and blues when there was no jazz or blues. And obviously this queen, Jhansi Ki Rani, she was a warrior.

1850s, women were not on horseback

wielding weapons.

Marroquín: And did you mention that she dressed as a man to go out and fight?

Naimpally: She did, probably not to stick out. And carrying her child with her.

Bravo: But I don't think they were trying to be one thing or the other. They were just acting out of themselves and out of the circumstances. ■

Women: Voices and Whispers runs Saturday, Feb. 28, 8pm, and Sunday, March 1, 2pm, at Austin Ventures Studio Theater, 501 W. Third. For more information, call 474-8497 or visit www.austindanceindia.com.

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AUDITION DETAILS

This is an audition to be accepted into the 2009 Summer Musical Theater Workshop, June 28–July 23 and productions, July 25–August 2. Auditions will be held at the JCC Community Hall Stage, on the Dell Jewish Community Campus, 7300 Hart Lane.

Into the Woods: Sunday, March 8

6–9 PM: 11-to 18-year-olds will need to bring a sheet of piano music and sing a solo for the director. Students may be asked to stay for dance or cold readings.



Cinderella: Sunday, March 29

6–7 PM: 5-to 7-year-olds will practice a song and a dance combo together as the audition.

7–9 PM: 8-to 18-year-olds will need to bring a sheet of piano music and sing a solo for the director. Students may be asked to stay for dance or cold readings.

AUDITION PREP CLASS:

The Prep Class is highly recommended for both productions.

Into the Woods: Wednesday, March 4, 6–8 PM, \$10

Cinderella: Wednesday, March 25, 6–8 PM, \$10

For more information or questions about the
Summer Workshop, call Trisha Reed at (512) 735-8058.

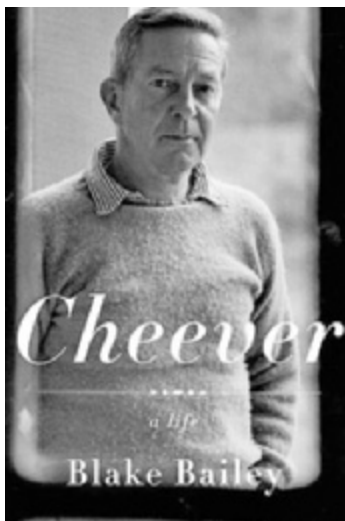


Jewish Community
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CHEEVER: A LIFE
by Blake Bailey
Knopf, 786 pp., \$35

CHEEVER: COLLECTED STORIES AND OTHER WRITINGS
by John Cheever,
edited by Blake Bailey
Library of America,
1,000 pp., \$35

CHEEVER: COMPLETE NOVELS
by John Cheever,
edited by Blake Bailey
Library of America,
960 pp., \$35



Possibly there's an element of the masochist in literary biographer Blake Bailey. Having researched and written a 680-page narrative on the depressed, alcoholic, and romantically troubled writer Richard Yates (author of *Revolutionary Road*), Bailey now gives us 786 richly detailed pages on the depressed, alcoholic, sexually tormented writer John Cheever. You wouldn't want to read these books back to back, let alone immerse yourself in the writing of them – at least not without access to a psychiatric ward or a drying-out facility – and yet both books are utterly absorbing and unquestionably definitive.

Like Yates, Cheever's work is overdue a reappraisal, but the artist's life makes for a disturbing read. As John Updike wrote upon slogging through his colleague's published journals, "Rarely has a gifted and creative life seemed sadder."

time); and in 1979 claimed the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1978 for *The Stories of John Cheever*. In spite of which, these last seven years (prior to his death from cancer in 1982) are striking less as a tale of redemption and read instead as a kind of mercy.

As a writer, Cheever's greatest gift was his lyricism, his luminosity as a stylist. He was a kind of prose poet, and in this he most closely resembles F. Scott Fitzgerald, with whom he shared an ability to stop time, to crystallize an atmosphere or emotion and hold it to the light. While Cheever labored mightily over four novels and a novella, he was not a novelist by nature. Primarily he was a short-story writer, one who possessed a distinctly American voice, and over the course of 40 years, he filed a staggering 121 short

Updike was Cheever's only serious rival as pre-eminent chronicler of the midcentury suburban experiment, and he was also an astute critic. This biography confirms his earlier judgment.

Not unusual for a writer, Cheever lived a life that was mostly free of great drama, yet one that remained fixed in a perpetual state of crisis. He and his wife, Mary, endured a bitter, mutually spiteful marriage for 40 years, throughout which he battled a chronic alcoholism that almost killed him and tried desperately to suppress a bisexuality that all but overwhelmed him. Finally, at the age of 63, he quit booze at last; finished his great prison novel, *Falconer* (in which he explicitly confronted his great personal demon of homosexuality for the first

stories with *The New Yorker*. As he acknowledged, "They seem in the end to be mostly what I've written."

In addition to writing this authorized biography, Bailey has also overseen the publication of Cheever's collected stories and novels, released concurrently in two volumes from the Library of America. Both volumes contain work that deserves to last, and yet strangely – not least for someone who has spent several years documenting the writer's life – Bailey seems to hedge his bets on Cheever's legacy, the question of whether his work will endure. This strikes me as a little shocking. It's true that academics have been slow to embrace Cheever and that by sheer weight of mass Updike appears to have commandeered the title of laureate of the American suburbs. Still, it's

worth noting that when Updike died recently, a glowing appraisal of his work by Michiko Kakutani in *The New York Times* declaimed that his early work was derivative – "Cheever without the magic." And so while Bailey is peerless and faithful as a chronicler of the writer's life, inevitably the story that unfolds – of personal chaos beneath a bright canopy of brilliant work – is a cautionary one, sadly familiar: For most of us, an awareness of Cheever's obsession with his genitals, with the genitals of others, and with the emissions of both offers nothing by way of encouragement in seeking out and (re)discovering his beautiful talent.

Cheever knew this well, of course. In the 1960s, Wilfred Sheed, writing for *Life* magazine, came away from a feature interview feeling confounded, sensing that Cheever had revealed little of himself. Later it dawned on Sheed that the effect had been deliberately cultivated; what he'd been left with was "the sense you were supposed to have: that the work is everything, the writer is nothing."

— John Davidson

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

HOUSTON No sooner had I realized how badly I needed a break when **Doug and Jennifer Bosch**, whom I think of as my fairy godparents even though I'm older than they are, invited me to Houston for the **Houston Ballet Ball**. I knew it meant hanging out by the pool in their palatial River Oaks mansion, which, in a perfect world, would be my main pursuit in life. I especially like going to big events in Houston because no one there has seen all my outfits and jewelry. I wore black leather and cashmere with a white fur; my jewelry was on loan to me by the talented designer **Shayna Weeden** (www.shaynajewelry.blogspot.com), who was repping this particular collection for her teacher, Nacho Gomez. I'd fallen in love with the jewelry upon seeing it – enormous life-sized iguanas, horny toads, and other reptilian motifs whose tails wrapped around the neck and wrists in chunky silver. Girded by such fearsome accessories, I felt every bit ready to cause a sensation when I entered. Once our party was assembled, which included Doug's glamorous daughter **Regan Bosch**, as well as the suave make-up maestro **Edward Sanchez**, among others, we took a limo to the **Wortham Center**. The theme of the ball, **Magnificent Marie**, was a tribute to **Marie Antoinette**, so there were a number of period costumes on the guests, as well as a bevy of grand couture gowns. The decor was gorgeous, and no detail was overlooked in this sumptuous display – one that gave no indication of the state of our economy, much like **Antoinette** herself. On the other hand, it's parties like this that can make you forget about economic woes for just a few minutes ... and who wouldn't enjoy *that*? A lively afterparty topped off the evening, and I have to admit to being pretty cross-eyed by the time I dragged myself to bed at 6am.

HOLLYWOOD Sunday night was the **Academy Awards** – *always* a fun foray into fashion and film. There was a dearth of beautiful gowns; most tried too hard, but there were some exceptions. By and large, it was evident that the economy had affected Hollywood. So many of the stars appeared to have employed such cost-cutting measures as doing their own hair and make-up, and in the case of **Jessica Biel**, it looked like she made her own dress as well. **Amy Adams**

was a definite DHOH (Did Her Own Hair), as were **Jennifer Aniston** and even **Sophia Loren**, who went a step further by appearing to have DHOW (Done Her Own Wig). **Reese Witherspoon** economized on hair *and* make-up but appeared to have borrowed the still-warm dress that **Queen Latifah** had worn in the In Memoriam segment. **E!** **Entertainment Television's** preshow coverage was full of unintentionally funny moments – **Taraji P. Henson** lifted her skirt to show her shoes to



Sophia Loren
at the 81st
Academy
Awards

the camera but wound up showing her undergarments as well. I like Taraji P. Henson's name and presume that the "P" is to separate her from all those *other* Taraji Hensons out there. **Mickey Rourke** was curiously repulsive-looking. **Alicia Keyes** was a nightmare in fuchsia with the strangest eye make-up I'd ever seen. The contouring around her nose did little to hide whatever it was she was hiding. **Marisa Tomei's** gown showed exquisite workmanship in an overly done hid-

eous design, dowdy **Meryl Streep** lived up to her reputation by wearing a sackcloth, and **Miley Cyrus** wore an execrable copy of a gorgeous **Christian Dior** gown from the Fifties. And then there were **Angelina Jolie's** emeralds. *Major* emeralds. So big they looked like plastic but jaw-droppingly beautiful. I did love the idea of bringing out former winners in the acting categories to introduce the nominees – as if the nominees were being inducted into a secret society. **Eva Marie Saint** was glorious, **Shirley MacLaine** looked embalmed, and **Goldie Hawn** showed off her underarm baggage in a dress that looked like it hurt to put on. Best dress? There were two of them, but they weren't on celebrities. The first was the silver gown of draped charmeuse (*not* the one with silly chiffon panels hanging here and there on it) on the stage escort, and the other was the cranberry-colored draped charmeuse with contrasting lining on the very windy woman who won for short documentary. It was Bollywood meets Hollywood as **Slumdog Millionaire** swept the race with seemingly dozens of awards, and watching **Milk** snag a few awards was extremely satisfying. All in all, what did we learn by watching the Oscars? That economy is *not* pretty. Not pretty at all.

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Though Chapoutier makes wines up into the \$500-a-bottle range, he also makes some that are appropriate for our current

financial lot. Both are **Côtes-du-Rhône** wines, although Chapoutier has decided to forgo the Côtes-du-Rhône label and forge his own brand called **Belleruche**. The wine comes in both white and red versions, and both offer an excellent introduction to the wonderful wines of the Rhône at a very reasonable price (most places in town have it for \$12 or less).

The white version is blended from White Grenache, Clairette, and Bourboulenc grapes. It's a pale wine with a light texture and bracing green-apple acidity. By itself, the wine can taste thin, but match it with some Pure Luck soft goat cheese or some lightly sautéed catfish with a beurre blanc sauce, and its lively flavors will jump out. The red is made from a combination of Grenache and Syrah, and it offers an amazing amount of red-berry fruit and black-pepper aromas for its cost.

Chapoutier also makes sure that the names and information about each wine are printed in Braille on every label on every bottle. I'm amazed more wineries haven't copied him.

The Belleruche wines are available at the Austin Wine Merchant, Central Market, Spec's, and several Twin Liquors.

wine of
the week

— Wes Marshall



JOHN ANDERSON

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Zhao "George" Chen, along with his wife, "Shelly," and his mom, Minsheng, has brought to Austin a unique treat from the Shanxi province of northern China: *dao xiao mian*, or "knife-cut" noodles. Made from wheat flour (no rice grown in those parts), the dough is formed into a long rectangular loaf resting on a board cradled with the left arm. The right hand uses a curved blade to shave off noodles, which fly through the air into a huge wok of simmering stock. After an al dente bath, the noodles are appropriated into one of four different dishes, three soups and a stir-fry.

Large bowls of beef noodle soup (\$6.50) and lamb noodle soup (\$7.50) feature the wavy-edged, slightly chewy noodles. The stocks are rich and aromatic, loaded with vegetables and meats. The stir-fried noodles (\$7.50) are a huge mound of the noodles, tossed with wok-seared pork, bok choy, garlic slices, bell pepper, and carrot. Every table should order one of these. The

combination noodle soup (\$6.50) is chicken stock with pork, noodles, vegetables (spinach, carrot, potato), seaweed, cloud ears, enoki mushrooms, and tofu.

Two appetizers grace the eight-item menu. The leek pie (\$2.50) is a wonderful golden-brown, flaky, fold-over pastry stuffed with scrambled egg and Chinese leek. The onion pie (\$1.50) is a delicious, many-layered, crispy disc flecked with bits of green scallion. Both are rolled-out and cooked to order. The black-bean noodles (\$6.50) are impressive, with fresh round noodles topped with a ground-pork sauce made from two different bean sauces. The wonton soup (\$6.50) is great, loaded with minced pork and garlic wontons.

The space is small, with eight tables, and water and hot tea are serve-yourself (bring other beverages if you like). Go later on Friday or Saturday nights for the chance that Chen might be serving his *kao chuan* charcoal-broiled lamb kebabs. We love this place!

— Mick Vann

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Well, it's official – Downtown Austin has achieved critical mass where both steak houses and Mexican restaurants are concerned. We joined about 400 people sampling roast suckling pig and designer cocktails at the VIP opening of **La Condesa** (400-A W. Second, 499-0300, www.lacondesaatx.com) last week. The opening of this hip, Mexico City-inspired neo-Mexicano bistro brings the total of Mexican restaurants in the neighborhood to six, with **Garrido's** (Third & Nueces) set to debut later in the spring. There was a time when **Manuel's** (310 Congress, 472-7555, www.manuels.com) and the late, much-lamented **Las Manitas** were the only Mexican food choices Downtown, but now competition for the enchilada and margarita dollars is fierce. In just the past few years, we've seen the arrival of chain outfits **Rio Grande** (301 San Jacinto, 476-8300, www.riograndemexican.com), **Cantina Laredo** (201 W. Third, 542-9670, www.cantinallaredo.com) and **Maria Maria** (415 Colorado, 944-2464, www.mariamariarestaurants.com), plus the reimagining of longtime favorite **Corazon at Castle Hill** (1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728, www.corazonatcastlehill.com). That's a lot of tacos, folks. And to get back to the La Condesa opening for a minute – the **Michael Hsu** and **Joel Mozersky**-designed space is midcentury modern cool, folks were raving about the custom \$10 cocktails designed by master mixologist **Junior Merino**, and there are certainly some interesting aspects to chef **Rene Ortiz's** menu, but I have to say, the thing I'm most curious about is this: Has the Austin market evolved to the point that we're ready to embrace a Mexican restaurant charging \$4 for chips and hot sauce? Let me know... Several friends have checked out the recently opened **Newflower Farmers Market** (6920 Manchaca Rd., 687-2204, www.sfmart.com) in the past couple of weeks. They report opening crowds have been huge, but the advertised "silly prices" aren't really any lower than **H-E-B** or **Central Market**... Longtime Austin restaurateur **Ronald Cheng** has finally found the perfect Downtown spot for his popular Chinese cuisine. Look for the newest **Chinatown** (109 E. Fifth, 637-8888, www.chinatown-mopac.com) to be open until 2:30am on Fridays and Saturdays and to offer delivery in the Downtown area during lunch and dinner hours... I received an e-mail from **Elizabeth Winslow**, formerly of **Dishalicious** and **Greenling**, announcing her new online local food delivery service, **Farmhouse Delivery** (512/529-8569, www.farmhousedelivery.com). Her partner in this venture is **Stephanie Scherzer**, co-owner of **Rain Lily** (914 Shady Ln., 636-4430, www.rainlilydesign.com) in East Austin. They will offer online shopping and home delivery of locally grown organic produce, meats, dairy products, eggs, and artisan food products to folks in the Austin area. They also plan to support local sustainable agriculture with cooking and gardening classes and community events such as farm-to-table dinners at Rain Lily. Sounds great to me!

Event Menu Feb. 27-March 5

- ▶ Experience the fascinating flavors associated with the miracle berry (see "Magic Fruit," July 25, 2008) at Austin's first **Miracle Fruit Party** at the **Daily Juice Cafe** (4500 Duval St., 380-9046, www.dailyjuice.org). Tickets are \$20 per person; space is limited, so call now for reservations. Friday, Feb. 27, 8:30pm.
- ▶ **Art Alliance Austin** presents a chauffeured ramble stopping at each **Art Night Austin** gallery or museum that is paired with a talented local chef and a Select wine. The benefit ticket price is \$75. Afterparty tickets are \$25. See a complete list of participating venues and chefs or order tickets online at www.artallianceaustin.com. Saturday, Feb. 28, 6:30-10pm; afterparty, 9:30pm-12mid.
- ▶ The nine wineries along Highway 290 West are celebrating the end of winter with Cajun food and good Texas wines. The **Rajin' Cajun** begins at **Texas Hills Vineyard** (878 RR 2766, Johnson City, 830/868-2321, www.texashillsvineyard.com) and proceeds west for 45

miles. Each winery is paired with a Hill Country restaurant, which will present a classic Cajun dish along with samples of its wines. Get a map at www.wineroad290.com. Saturday, Feb. 28, 10am-5pm.

- ▶ **Capital Confectioners'** fifth annual **That Takes the Cake Sugar Art Show & Cake Competition** is this weekend at the **Crockett Event Center** (10601 N. Lamar). There will be on-site decorator competitions; demonstrations by internationally known sugar artists; a Saturday dinner gala with celebrity demonstrations by **Bronwen Weber**, **Nicholas Lodge**, and **Jacquy Pfeiffer**; mini-classes given by guest instructors; a cake-viewing gallery; and classes conducted by celebrities. Daily tickets (\$7) and weekend passes (\$10) are available, and the donation of one nonperishable food item for the **Capital Area Food Bank** knocks off \$1. Get more info and a complete schedule at www.thattakesthecake.org, or call **All in One Bake Shop** at 371-3401. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 28-March 1.

- ▶ **Citizen Gardeners** present their **Spring 2009 Planting Series** over the next few days. Three seminars will cover everything from raised-bed construction and crop selection to composting, mulching, and irrigation. The series costs \$50, but participants can receive class credit for documented volunteer hours in a local garden. For a complete schedule and to register, go to www.citizengardener.ning.com. Feb. 28-March 4: Saturday, 8:30am-12:30pm; Sunday, 1-4:30pm; Wednesday, 6-8:30pm.
- ▶ After his appearance at the Sugar Art Show, famed New York pâtissier/chocolatier/instructor Jacquy Pfeiffer will present a two-day master class in French pastry at the **Culinary Academy of Austin** (6020-B Dillard Circle, 451-5743, www.culinaryacademyofaustin.com). The \$500 class is geared toward professional and accomplished amateur bakers and will include some hands-on and some demonstration classes. For more info and to register, see www.allinonebakeshop.com. Monday-Wednesday, March 2-4.

— V.B.W.

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RESTAURANT reviews

WHIP IN

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Situated on a busy corner of the south-bound access road along I-35 is a flat-roofed, cinder-block building that at first glance looks much like an ordinary convenience store. Look closer, though, and you might note a garishly painted figure that looks like a seated Hindu deity painted next to the doorway. This is the first clue that you shouldn't go to the Whip In expecting to pick up Pringles and Oreos. The next mental adjustment comes once you step inside, where you'll not find fluorescent-lighted rows of candies and snacks. There is no motor oil for sale here. Instead, what you will find are towering aisles of specialty beers, obscure wines, and locally packaged gourmet foodstuffs. To the left of the doorway, the cashier's station doubles as a lunch counter, with a handwritten menu on a chalkboard above it. Behind the counter, a row of beer taps pours microbrews, and a small kitchen churns out hot sandwiches and Indian-inspired meals. To the right of the door, there is a cozy dining space warmed by wooden church pews, antique tables, Indian wooden screens, and colorful printed textiles. The ambience is not unlike a college coffeehouse.

This is not your typical highway stop-and-shop. In fact, the Whip In has been evolving as a store since it was first purchased by the Topiwala family in 1986. What started as a typical convenience store soon blossomed into something bigger. With a nose for business, the Topiwalas first began altering their selection of beers and wines to meet the tastes of their largely South Austin clientele. For many years now, the Whip In has been known for its extraordinary beer and wine selection. However, a major change took place when one of the Topiwalas' grown sons, Dipak, returned home with his wife, Arden, and their infant daughter, after years of living in San Francisco, and began managing the store. Gone now are the standard convenience-store comestibles, replaced by locally made products and gourmet chocolates. And when customers began inquiring about whether Whip In sold Indian foods, the plan for a cafe took shape, to be finally realized this past year.

The menu, like the store itself, is an eccentric mix of flavors, a bricolage of national styles – Indian, African, European, American – reflecting the diverse influences of the family that created it. Take for instance the sandwich called the Periwinkle Delight (\$5.99), a svelte

The folks living around Steiner Ranch have a nice little treasure in the Fion Wine Pub & Bistro. The concept is just a bit different than the type of wine bar that's been popping up around Austin lately. Like the others, it has a good selection of wines (600 different wines, says its website), mostly priced just a touch higher than a retail outlet would charge, and you are welcome to either take it home or have a staffer pop the top for you to drink the wine on the premises, with no corkage fee.

But a few things immediately set Fion apart from the normal wine bar. First, its beer selection, reportedly over 500 strong, is much more than just an afterthought. It includes some very uncommon Belgian and Lambic brews in larger-sized bottles, all ice cold and ready to drink. The wine pub also has four doors of a walk-in cooler devoted to single beers for \$3.50 each for consumption there, or you can pick among them to make your own custom six-pack (\$8.95, for takeout only). Second, Fion offers a simple program for wine explorers. See a bottle of wine you'd like to try? As long as you will agree to buy two glasses, a staffer will open it (excluding Champagne). Each glass will be one-third of a bottle and will cost one-third the price of the bottle.

Fion's other difference comes in its food program. Like other wine bars, it offers a variety of foods, but the bistro's kitchen has more elaborate ambitions than most. It offers two distinct concepts, though you can get either in both the bar/store area and in the bistro. The bar and late-night menu is high-end pub grub with an extra dash of creativity and offers items such as a cast-iron-skillet-seared 12-ounce skirt steak on crisp bread with caramelized onions and house fries (\$11.95) or fresh Texas jalapeños stuffed with pork, chorizo, and queso served with seasonal grilled fruit (\$6.95). The bargain on this list is the roasted lamb sliders, topped with mint pesto and served with house-made fries (\$6.95), which were three slider-size lamburgers, juicy and full of lamb flavors and a superb match with a Consilience Petite Sirah (\$29.95).

The main menu features much more complicated food aimed squarely at a more sophisticated audience, such as the fantastic Shiner Bock-steamed Prince Edward Island mussels with spicy Elgin sausage and crusty bread (\$10.50). Here, the mussels were plump and juicy, never rubbery, and the broth had us asking for more bread for dipping. Had it been hotter, we would have lingered over this dish, but it was just at the high end of warm, so we had to rush a bit. The fried calamari (\$10.95) was light and crispy, and the frying was timed flawlessly for perfect texture.

Our main courses also showed real creativity in the kitchen. We selected Mia's Meatloaf served with buttermilk mashed potatoes, green beans, and spicy cornbread (\$14.95) and the 16-ounce skillet-seared double-cut pork chops with caramelized onions, Gorgonzola cheese, and demi-glace (\$18.95). The meatloaf had a nice homemade texture and richness, and the potatoes tasted like they had been mashed fresh for the plating. For pork chop lovers, Fion's version is everything you could hope for: juicy, tender, and full of flavor. They tasted lovely with the caramelized onions and demi-glace.

Fion's wine-by-the-glass program has more than 60 wines by the glass, available either as a full glass or in a flight of three wines. All are well chosen and offer fair value, but the best was the Isle of Capri (\$9), three Italian white wines ideally suited to the calamari. The important thing is that since the wine and beer are at retail instead of the normal restaurant markups, wine lovers will save a lot of money compared to a restaurant. Fion also has imported and local cheeses and not only a nicely stocked cigar humidor but a pleasant outdoor area to relax with a smoke and a glass of Port.

The creativity is here, both in the imaginative cooking and the great selection of adult libations, and the owners are coming up with deals – happy hours, case discounts, and wine and beer specials – that will help the careful consumer save money. Fion is well worth a visit, and for those on the west side of town, the second Fion will be opening soon, next to the new Zoot on Bee Caves Road.

– Wes Marshall



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

combination of prosciutto, Gruyère, and truffle oil pressed inside two crisp pieces of naan. The thin pieces of homemade naan make a perfect, crisp panini pocket. Or consider the Travis Heights Sandwich (\$5.99), stuffed with curried potato-and-pea filling, sprinkled with melted provolone and a little cilantro chutney. The turmeric-scented filling has all the flavor of a samosa but pressed into a sandwich. Dubbed "Panaani," all of the sandwiches are warmed on the Whip In's homemade naan.

In addition to sandwiches, the cafe prepares pungent stews, some more Indian than others. There is a heavenly concoction of stewed beef and peppers spiced with coriander, turmeric, and cumin whose taste falls somewhere on the frontiers of Indian, Central Asian, and American (\$8.99). By contrast, many of the vegetarian dishes (all \$5.99), such as the cauliflower-and-potato

rasa and the garbanzo-and-carrot stew are taken straight out of the recipe collection of Mrs. Topiwala, a native of Gujarat.

But vegetarian or not, all the food comes with a conscience. Whip In's beef is sourced from locally raised cattle, while chicken dishes are made with Buddy's natural free-range chicken. Ingredients are, whenever possible, from local suppliers. A small stage in the dining area hosts homegrown live music where the likes of Michael Fracasso and Nathan Hamilton regularly appear. Beer and wine are served on the premises. All of these details converge to make the Whip In simply one of the coolest places in Austin.

– Rachel Feit

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

JUICE BAR, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: LIVING FOODS BAR AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET This uber-healthy living-foods bar and "deli" case offers Austin's largest selection of all-raw entrées, juices, smoothies, desserts, and salads. 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. www.wholefoodsmarket.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD, TEX-MEX: MARISCO GRILL This place features a full Mexican menu in addition to its delicious seafood with a Mexican twist. 211 E. Sixth, 474-7372. \$\$

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

EAST

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: PROGRESS COFFEE serves Fair Trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35, 500 San Marcos, 493-0963. www.progresscoffee.com. \$

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: RIO RITA CAFE Y CANTINA Go during the day for soups, kolaches, miniquiches, and vegetarian wraps. Go by at night for wine and good company. 1308 E. Sixth, 524-0384. www.riorita.net. \$

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

SEAFOOD: TERRY'S SEAFOOD CO. Terry knows how to batter up and fry right. Ample dinner boxes of shrimp, fish, and chicken. 1805 Airport, 477-3233. \$

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

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA MORELIA offers a great fajita special on Wednesdays, 11am-3pm, served in a quiet, relaxing environment. 105 Tillery, 385-8002. \$

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE: POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL A place with music mojo and damn fine burgers. This place channels old Austin music treasures like Soap Creek and Checkered Flag. Don't miss the Poodie Burger. 22308 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0318. www.poodies.info. \$

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

FINE DINING, ITALIAN, SEAFOOD: ROCCO'S GRILL Overlooking the hills of Lakeway, Rocco's pasta and seafood selections are the way to go. 900 RR 620 S. Ste. A-106, 263-8204. www.roccosgrill.com. \$\$\$

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE, TAKEOUT: JASPER'S GOURMET BACKYARD CUISINE This Dallas-area transplant offers big hospitality and big flavors. Try the Maytag blue cheese potato chips. 11506 Century Oaks Terrace #128, 834-4111. www.jaspers-restaurant.com/austin. \$\$\$

BARBECUE: COOPER'S PIT BAR-B-QUE The second generation of a Hill Country barbecue legend, Gary Cooper has been serving his family's style of barbecue in downtown Round Rock since 1985. 403 N. Mays, 255-5638. \$\$

INDIAN: CURRY IN HURRY The authentic North Indian vegetarian menu here changes every day. Order an entrée and a side at the counter, and one minute later, it arrives with rice and roti or *paratha* alongside. Snacks, *chaat*, and sweets appear on weekends. 2121 W. Parmer Ste. 114-A, 821-0000. www.gandhibazar.com. \$

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

PAN-ASIAN: TC NOODLE HOUSE A mind-boggling array of authentic Chinese- and Vietnamese-style dishes with an emphasis on variety. Kudos include a clean, friendly environment and hard-to-beat prices. 10901 N. Lamar Ste. B-203, 873-8235. www.chinatownaustin.com. \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE It's unusual to find both Southern comfort food and great steaks under the same roof. This place has been slingin' three hots a day long enough to make it work. 11800 N. Lamar #6, 835-2414. www.greencity.com/cafeross.htm. \$\$\$

THAI: BANGKOK CUISINE This restaurant boasts a clientele loyal to the array of stellar vegetarian dishes, and the pad thai (with or without meat) is said to be memorable. 9041 Research, 832-9722. \$\$

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good and dependable, and it's a fave of Viet families. 9616 N. Lamar #156, 821-0396. \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Go for light fare such as cilantro-lamb wraps, sandwiches, salads, and pastries. Don't forget to wash it all down with a terrific coffee drink. 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. www.flipnotics.com. \$

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

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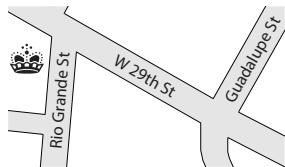
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JAPANESE: YUME Latino-Caribbean and Japanese cuisines are joined here: Sushi anchors the menu, while bento boxes, containing both hot dishes and sushi, are the mainstay of the lunch menu. Look for island fusion at night. 815 W. 47th #102, 407-9001. www.yumexotic.com. \$\$\$

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Frank & Angie's

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*

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screens

THE BUS STOPS HERE

The 'How's Your News?' crew rolls out its unique brand of reportage on MTV

BY CLAY SMITH

There was a moment during the filming of MTV's new show *How's Your News?* when Arthur Bradford, the co-creator of the series and a graduate of UT's Michener Center for Writers, wasn't exactly enjoying himself. It was at the Grammy Awards, on the red carpet. There may be nowhere on earth more ill-suited to the idea behind *How's Your News?* than the red carpet at the Grammys, but the reporters for the show were eager to see what covering a red carpet is like. *How's Your News?* features seven people with mental disabilities traveling the country in a restored 1970s Buffalo Top Cruiser bus interviewing celebrities as well as everyday citizens. None of the interviewees, famous or otherwise, is used to being approached by someone with Down syndrome, for example, who puts a mic to them and asks, "How's your news?" At one point in the first episode, reporter Jeremy Vest, who has Williams syndrome (which means that he skips from subject to subject and doesn't realize that he's gone off topic), is interviewing a musician and says: "I heard your performance. It was really good." The musician thanks Vest, who then asks, "Were you sweaty?"

How's Your News? is one of the most eye-popping, feel-good, and surreal shows that MTV has ever featured. There is nothing like it anywhere on TV, for that matter. In the first episode, reporter Bobby Bird, who has Down syndrome and is difficult to understand, asks comedian Jimmy Kimmel a question that sounds entirely unintelligible. "I don't like to talk about my sexuality, but let's just say I am what I am," Kimmel responds. Later, Vest gets frustrated with Bird at the Grammys when Bird keeps high-fiving the members of the Shins while Vest is frantically trying to interview them.

One of the beautiful elements of *How's Your News?* is the power that the show's reporters, who are paid for their work, have to upend the scripted and fake manner in which many celebrity interviews are conducted. Bradford and the show's producers try to ensure that interview subjects aren't told beforehand that the *How's Your News?* reporters have mental disabilities. "It's this strange, complete crossing of wires in the conversation," Bradford says. "Our reporters have a lot of advantages; they don't have a lot of pretension, and nobody tries to script them." While the show's reporters were covering the red carpet at the Grammys, Bradford felt frustrated because, "what we thrive on is that initial interaction, and hopefully the premise isn't explained to them," but no good publicist wants to put his or her client in front of reporters who aren't going to stick to the script.

Anyone who hasn't seen *How's Your News?* may wonder whether its creators present the show's reporters as agents of their own unique and sometimes mystifying power or exploit them as spectacle. "It's a two-tiered process in the editing room – you watch things, and you have to say: 'Is that funny? Is it respectful?'" Bradford explains. "It's not funny if it comes across as exploitative. There's no difference to me between good comedy and moral decisions about what's appropriate. Basically, the atmosphere has to be that the reporter feels in control, that they're not being forced to do something they don't want to do."

How's Your News? began as a video Bradford made with the residents of Camp



Jabberwocky, a summer camp on Martha's Vineyard for people with disabilities. *South Park* creators Matt Parker and Trey Stone saw the video, called Bradford, and offered to fund a documentary (along with producer John Pierson) that eventually played at the 2001 South by Southwest Film Festival; HBO then aired the documentary in 2002. Now, on MTV, *How's Your News?* is a series of six 30-minute episodes that feature many of the same reporters who made the first Camp Jabberwocky video with Bradford in 1993. One episode is devoted entirely to the music scene during SXSW 08, including a performance by the *How's Your News?* reporters. "I didn't want *How's Your News?* to become this arthouse phenomenon," Bradford says. "The point of *How's Your News?* is this quest for mainstream acceptance [for the show's reporters], so being on MTV is the biggest coup for us."

Bradford, whose collection of short stories, *Dogwalker: Stories*, was published in 2002, has often put his literary career on hold to produce *How's Your News?* Why has he stuck with it? "I ask myself that all the time," he says. "I really, really enjoy working at the camp. Probably about at the point when it's time to stop going to summer camp every year, that's when I became the co-director."

How's Your News? airs Sundays at 9:30pm on MTV. For more info and video clips, see www.howsyournews.com.

film news

BY JOE O'CONNELL

POSITIVE SIGNS AROUND AS FILM FOLKS LOBBY LEGE

It's fitting that as the Texas film industry is about to gather at the Capitol to lobby for an improved, competitive statewide incentives program, positive signs of the down but not out local movie biz are everywhere. First off to the lobbying: The **Texas Motion Picture Alliance** is marshaling its forces for a rally on the Capitol steps at 7:30am Wednesday, followed by a day of visits with legislators to push changes in the program, including replacing the 5% incentive cap with a flexible number to be set by the **Texas Film Commission** on a case-by-case basis. See more at www.txmpa.org. Now about those good omens: **Terrence Malick** is remanshaling his own forces for a few days of additional shoots on *The Tree of Life*, the production that took over Smithville for a good chunk of 2008 and was the largest project in the state for the year. Expect a few days of activity somewhere in Austin on March 14 & 15. Whether that involves **Brad Pitt** or Oscar winner **Sean Penn** is anybody's guess, but don't count on it... Meanwhile, on a much smaller scale, the promising independent film news: **Bryan Poyser**, Austin Film Society's director of artist services and director of *Dear Pillow*, is back behind the camera with the feature *Lovers of Hate*, a tragicomedy about two brothers vying for the same woman. Poyser has been quietly filming in Park City, Utah, home of a certain film festival that is not named South by Southwest, in recent weeks and followed that with Austin shoots. **Megan Gilbride** is producing, and the cast is intriguing: Austin native **Heather Kafka** (who first made her mark on MTV's *Austin Stories*), **Alex Karpovsky** (whose film *Trust Us, This Is All Made Up* premieres at SXSW this month), **Chris Doubek**, and **Zach Green**. **David Lowery**, whose film *St. Nick* shows at SXSW, is behind the camera... Poyser's work on *Dear Pillow* earned him a 2005 nom as Someone to Watch in the **Film Independent Spirit Awards**. This year, the Independent Spirits cast their wand over two filmmakers who made their marks first in the Austin film scene. The John Cassavetes Award for best film made for less than \$500,000 went to **Alex Holdridge's** *In Search of a Midnight Kiss*, which – to complete the circle – included editing work by Poyser's old pal **Jacob Vaughan** as well as Austinite **Frank Reynolds**. And **Margaret Brown's** *The Order of Myths* took the Lacoste Truer Than Fiction Award. Brown's film is out on DVD now and will show on PBS later this year. Now if we could just entice these folks to come back to Austin. Any legislators listening?... OK, one last hint of why filming in Texas, and particularly Central Texas, pays: **Friday the 13th**, the remake shot in the Austin area by the remake specialists at **Platinum Dunes**, was this year's top-earning opener with \$42.2 million at the box office in a four-day weekend. Of course, that was followed by a record drop-off the next week aided by so-so reviews, but nobody's perfect.

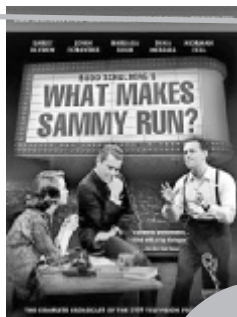
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WHAT MAKES SAMMY RUN?

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With all due respect to *Ulysses*, *The Moon and Sixpence*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *Portnoy's Complaint*, *Mason & Dixon*, and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, if I had to choose one 20th century novel to take with me to the opera, I'd go with *What Makes Sammy Run?*, Budd Schulberg's comic masterpiece of pathological megalomania, acute narcissism, ruthless opportunism, and rampant materialism. In other words, his book about Hollywood.

Published in 1941, *What Makes Sammy Run?* is one of those great American novels critics are always claiming haven't been written yet. It's funny, it's tragic, it's ironic and cynical, it's got violence and sex and movies about violence and sex, and it features the most American of all themes: the pursuit of success at all costs. The indomitable force at its center is Sammy Glick, an American archetype as resonant in 20th century America as Huck Finn was in the 19th: the self-made



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island unto himself, a human disease, as Schulberg once said, caused by "some upside-downing of the Golden Rule that resulted in its brutal opposite: 'Do it to him before he does it me!'" Now, if only a recently rediscovered televised version of the book were half as full of brazen amorality, we might have had ourselves a ball game.

Presented in 1959 as part of NBC's golden-age Sunday Showcase (brought to you by Crest, the toothpaste that "spares your children needless suffering"), Schulberg's prime-time adaptation of *What Makes Sammy Run?* is similar to his book only inasmuch as its characters have the same names, perform the same jobs, and live in Los Angeles. Everything else – the satire, the rapid-fire pacing, the hobnobbing and the street-fighting, the casual inhumanity – has been swept aside, replaced by an overearnest morality fable that's at once too narrow and too broad to do the great novel justice.

In a 2008 interview shot for this disk, Schulberg claims of the TV special, "The basic characteristics [of the story] are the same," which couldn't be further from the truth. One is replete; the other is a hollow vessel. Do yourself a favor: Read the book ... and leave this DVD to the television archives where it belongs. – Josh Rosenblatt

Reclaiming Texas History, One Home Movie at a Time



COURTESY OF TEXAS ARCHIVE OF THE MOVING IMAGE

The missionary zeal of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

Let me set the scene. On a perfectly sunny day in spring, two men square off on a ranch in West Texas. One of the men is tall and strong with broad shoulders covered by a perfectly creased white shirt. His name is Bick Benedict. He looks like America. The other man is smaller, younger, less imposing, yet more frightening for his oil-soaked clothes, his oil-covered face, and his outlandish behavior. His name is Jett Rink. Right there on the bigger man's porch, in front of all the bigger man's friends and the bigger man's wife, Jett taunts Bick with tales of his newfound wealth, which has just sprung miraculously from the ground on his small plot of land. Then he turns to Bick's wife and draws, "You look pretty enough to eat." That's enough for Bick and his broad shoulders. Blows are exchanged. And after a brief scuffle that leaves Bick with his hair mussed, his pride dinged, and his shirt stained, Jett jumps in his truck and speeds away. Watching him drive off, Bick's drunken uncle weighs in: "Bick, you shoulda shot that fella a long time ago. Now he's too rich to kill."

The scene is from *Giant*, George Stevens' 1956 epic about wealthy Texas ranchmen fighting off a new breed of wealthy Texas oilmen, Mexicans vying to secure their rightful place in America, the Old World vs. the New, the dignity and tradition of creased shirts and pomaded hair vs. the wild, stained dishevelment of the future. Wide plains, wide screens, big men, beautiful women, racism and rebellion, oil and cattle, and money, money, money, always money. In one 3½-hour package, big as life itself.

I ask you: What could be more Texas than *Giant*?

Well, how about "Small Boy Runs Dog Circus"? Filmed in a back yard in Dallas and screened as part of a Universal Newsreel in 1935, this 37-second, black-and-white silent movie has no fistfights, no drunkenness, no Dimitri Tiomkin soundtrack (no soundtrack at all), and no Elizabeth Taylor. But it does have a 9-year-old kid in a cowboy costume coaxing a dog across a tightrope while six of his friends look on in sombreros.

So I ask you: What could be more Texas than "Small Boy Runs Dog Circus"?

Down by the railroad tracks on Austin's Eastside, in a small brick building behind a coffee shop, you'll find the office of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image. The day I visited, the office was under siege by dozens of film canisters that had been delivered by the Texas Department of Public Safety that morning; the canisters held films from the Fifties and Sixties trumpeting the importance of bike safety, the ins and outs of hurricane preparedness, and the dangers of drunken driving. Founded in 2002 by film archivist and UT professor (and devoted Sandra Bullock fan) Caroline Frick, TAMI is an organization dedicated to the discovery, preservation, and presentation of these kinds of forgotten curios from Texas' cinematic past. The group's cause is pressing, maybe urgent: With 50% of pre-1950s Hollywood films lost to time and decay and with an even higher percentage of Texas films and videos suffering the same fate, the rush to preserve moving images is no less than an attempt to chronicle eras, customs, traditions, fashions, and lifestyles that are in danger of vanishing from memory.

"Film preservation says a lot about how this country looks at media history," says Frick. "When we talk about film history, most people will think of *Casablanca* or *Giant*. Well, those films have been protected by the movie industry, by corporations. What we're trying to advocate for is the idea that that's only one part of film history. Here is all this other kind of information that hasn't been tended to in any way. And only by looking at *Casablanca* and *Giant* next to Texas' Department of Public Safety films can we really understand the role of media in society and society itself."

In that spirit of cinematic inclusiveness, this week TAMI is taking over the Alamo Draffhouse and Austin Studios. First, the archive will be presenting three famous Texas-themed movies on three successive nights at the Alamo at the Ritz – *Written on the Wind* on Monday, *The Getaway* on Tuesday, and *The Legend of Billie Jean* on Wednesday – each accompanied by regionally related films from TAMI. "By showing these big

A local Childress girl performs in "The Kidnapper's Foil," a 1930s film by Dallas native and traveling filmmaker Melton Barker.

Hollywood movies set next to smaller films from the archives," Frick says, "we're trying to celebrate all aspects of Texas media. To keep things interesting, we're tailoring the preshow material to fit those bigger movies. So if you come to watch Helen Slater driving around the Gulf Coast motivating teenagers to rebel against the man in *Billie Jean*, you'll also see footage we have in our collection from that region" – for example, home movies of a trucking tycoon riding around on a motorboat with a lion that's wearing a hat.

A few days later, on March 7 and 8, TAMI will be launching its new statewide traveling educational program, the Texas Film Round-Up, with screenings of material from its online collection and the debut of the Reel Ride tour, which will allow participants to watch historical films of Austin as they ride around the city in a bus. By which I mean you can watch footage of Congress Avenue circa 1947 while driving around on Congress Avenue circa 2009.

The evenings will also feature TAMI's free digitization program – the centerpiece of the Round-Up. Anyone with Texas-related film or video who is willing to contribute a digital copy to the archive's online library will receive two DVD copies of his or her materials. By doing this, Frick and her colleagues hope to grow the online library and bring the message of Texas film preservation out of the office and the academy and into the consciousness of the people. In May, the Round-Up will head to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, followed by a trip to Lubbock in July.

According to Frick, the goal of the Round-Up is both to preserve cultural artifacts and to challenge commonly held notions about American history, Texas history, and our own pasts. "The real bulk of American media product," she says, "is not what is sitting in Hollywood studios. It's actually things like home movies, like industrial films, like advertising, like local television. We're trying to raise awareness of the value of this kind of material for local, state, regional, and even national and international history. If you really think about our understanding of American film history, we don't know anything about it."

"Our understanding of media history," she continues, "has largely been driven by corporate entities – by the motion picture and television industries. For a hundred years, they've told us what our history is and taught us how to understand ourselves and our culture. But that's not all there is. Looking at local news coverage from 1968, say, or at industrial films or home movies complicates our understanding of 1968. It gives us a totally different impression of that time and allows people to have a say in their own history. The value of this material right now is to challenge people to ask who's been included in creating the history of Texas – meaning, who's been writing it; what are the key events; who was involved?" In other words, the importance of film preservation comes down to power – as in who has it, who uses it, and what they use it for. History is written by those who own the documents.

Then again, the value of these old films may just be a simple matter of personal validation. Searching the TAMI website this past week, it struck me that the subjects of the moving images I found there were probably having a say in the public perception of their lives for the first and only time, that they were at last in charge of the way the world was viewing them, without the blessing of historians or corporate media. They didn't know it at the time, but those spectral figures caught for a minute or two in such classics as "Car Wreck 9-21-62," "Gals Get Rough in Mat Bout," and "Bell Family, 1985 July" were saying to those yet to come: "I was here. This is who I was. And this is where I was from."

See info on the Texas Archive of the Moving Image at www.texasarchive.org. See info on the Wanted: Texas Film series at the Alamo at the Ritz at www.originalalamo.com.

Why We Watch

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Why do people watch televised awards shows? Is it for the couture, the glamour, the stargazing? Is it a bit of harmless escapism? I watch them because I have to, being that they're so-called major TV events. If you read the trades, all awards shows are losing their audiences, and while last weekend's Oscar telecast audience was up from last year, it was still among the three least-watched televised Oscar ceremonies.

Well, you can't place the blame on host **Hugh Jackman**. The charming Aussie actor showed why he is a triple threat, a talent who can sing and act and dance with equal ease. He cleaned up the stage with the show's ecstatic opening number that brought the audience to its feet and gave me some hope that this year's ceremony would be the best of them all. That was a short-lived hope, but it was hope nonetheless.

You can't blame first-time Oscar telecast producer Laurence Mark and executive producer Bill Condon for the low viewing numbers, either. In fact, I thought they invigorated the show with several new twists – from what I gathered from online Oscar recaps, twists that were not as well liked by others. I loved how a committee of past winners, from across generations, presented the major acting awards (others found it off-putting, creepy, and weird). **Anne Hathaway** (nominated for Best Actress) looked like she was going to hyperventilate when **Shirley MacLaine** offered her words of praise and even went off script to encourage Hathaway to keep on singing (Hathaway had a moment of stage time with Jackman in the opening musical number). I know I'd be hyperventilating if MacLaine – or any of the other presenters – offered words of praise about me. The presentation style was also something of a welcoming committee – a welcome-to-the-club gesture. In another forum, I might abhor this, but hey – it's true. It is a club, one that many in the Kodak Theatre on Oscar night aspire to be in and that many of us at home have fantasized about, giving acceptance speeches into our bathroom mirrors with shampoo bottles standing in for our Oscar statuettes. (Actually, I used a hairbrush.)

Of course, the show wasn't without its gaffes. Is there a contract somewhere that says that every Oscar show has to have a bizarre musical number? A second, gargantuan one followed Jackman's cheery announcement that "the movie musical is back!" Even I had to snort – and I like movie musicals. Unlike the opening number, which depended largely on Jackman, the salute to the movie musical was big and beautiful and entirely archaic. Even Jackman's winsome personality couldn't save that number.



Actors Kate Winslet, Sean Penn, and Penélope Cruz celebrate their big wins.

When I think about the Oscars of the past, I think of how reverential they were. How the audience bought into and shared the idea that there are "movie stars" and "Hollywood royalty." Let's face it. Styles and tastes have changed. Those terms don't have the same currency as they did when there were only three broadcast networks and going out to the movies, like air travel, was a tony thing.

If the Oscars want to try and hold on to that royal status, I wonder if they would do better airing on cable or as a pay-per-view event to heighten their prestige. Why not? It works for boxing. In the meantime, it should at least be entertaining. But who am I kidding? I'll probably keep

tuning in, even if I don't have to and even if I haven't seen all of the nominated films. Because when it comes right down to it, I liked witnessing how shaken and frail and lovely **Penélope Cruz** was, how **Sean Penn** was badass. I liked seeing the fresh-faced kids (**Dustin Lance Black**) and the comebacks (**Mickey Rourke**). Like that clunker you can't quite let go of or a toy you know you're too old to play with, it's one of those things you hold on to because – well, just because.

What Else Is On

Citizen Journalism: Mayoral candidates **Lee Leffingwell** and **Brewster McCracken** will participate in a candidate forum to broadcast live on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 2:30 to 4pm on channelAustin (cable access Channel 10). **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** had not confirmed her participation at press time.

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

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MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Riding the lightning: Metallica's Kirk Hammett at the Toyota Center in Houston, Nov. 20, 2008



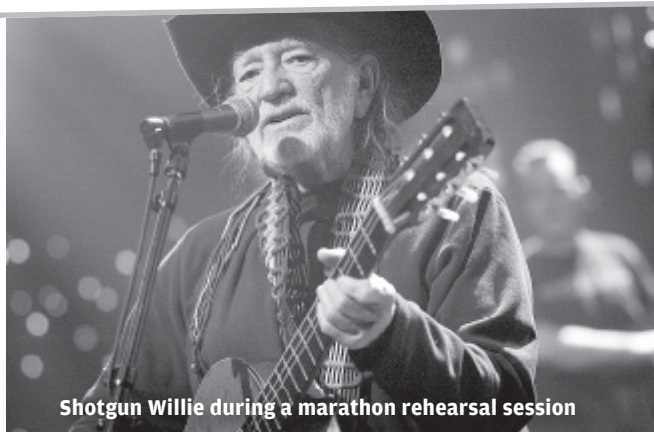
GARY MILLER

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Since the **South by Southwest** grid went public late last week, rumors have been swirling about some kind of Bay Area monster filling the unlisted Friday night at **Stubb's**. "There is going to be a **Guitar Hero** event at South by Southwest," affirms Creative Director **Brent Grulke**. "Some of **Metallica's** band members may make an appearance at the event." It makes perfect sense. In past years, the gaming behemoth has flown in artists such as **Slash** to promote its new releases at the Festival, and *Guitar Hero: Metallica* is slated for national release March 29. To boot, the Four Horsemen (see "Seek and Destroy," Jan. 9) release the band's entire catalog as a digital box set through iTunes at the end of March. **Silversun Pickups** are confirmed to appear at the promotion along with a "special guest" DJ.

Funny How Time Slips Away

"We did the first one, and I'll come back and do as many as they want us to," **Willie Nelson** once told OTR about the pilot episode of **Austin City Limits**. "I was fortunate to be there in the beginning when they were one of the first to make music sound good on television. That was a tricky thing back in those days." According to longtime producer **Terry Lickona**, that part hasn't changed much. "If anything, it's gotten more complicated," he says from **ACL's** vaults, citing the **PBS** staple's transition to high-definition quality. Of late, **ACL** has also revamped its efforts to digitally preserve its back catalog — hundreds of 2-inch tape reels stacked nine rows high in an isolated room near the studio. The vault is a heavily air-conditioned gold mine, filled with footage of artists such as **Ray Charles**, **Townes Van Zandt**, and **Leonard Cohen** that hasn't been viewed, much less properly released, since its original airdate. "We have to act quickly, as some of this stuff is starting to deteriorate," Lickona adds. The Red Headed Stranger made good on his promise Monday night, returning with **Asleep at the Wheel** — the first group to ever appear on the program — for the historic opening of **ACL's** 35th anniversary season. Over the course of more than two hours, Willie and the Wheel dusted off both their respective greatest



Shotgun Willie during a marathon rehearsal session

JOHN ANDERSON

hits and the vintage Western swing baubles from their recent album together. Nelson's acoustic guitar inflections and a Dixieland horn section jolted the new disc to life. "I don't know where this one came from or where it's going," Willie prefaced "Preservation Blues." That's exactly what made the evening so damn memorable.

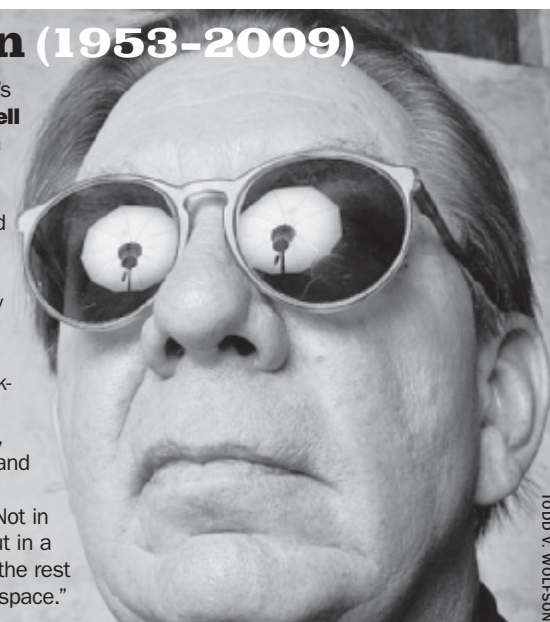


Terry Lickona

JOHN ANDERSON

Paul Skelton (1953-2009)

If the late **Danny Roy Young's** rubboard waltzes with the **Cornell Hurd Band** gave South Austin a beat to shuffle to, Telecaster master **Paul Skelton** peppered its steps. The local guitarist died Sunday morning of lung cancer. He was 55. An El Paso native, Skelton also performed regularly with **Libbi Bosworth**, **Wayne "the Train" Hancock**, and the **Texana Dames**, along with working for 13 years for **Collings Guitars**. "Some nights onstage, the stars would align just right, and Paul and his guitar would go to Mars," remembers Bosworth. "Not in a selfish, guitar-hero-type way but in a beautiful, fearless way in which the rest of us waited for his return from space."



TODD V. WOLFSON

Girl of the Century

Austin's **Rosie Flores** (see "Gypsy Rose," Aug. 10, 2007) is finally getting the backing she deserves. The rockabilly filly recently finished an album with **Jon Langford & the Pine Valley Cosmonauts**, fittingly titled *Girl of the Century* after a painting by **Tony Fitzpatrick** of the same name. Previously collaborating on the Cosmonauts' *The Executioner's Last Songs, Volume 1*, the two camps met up at Chicago's Engine Music Studios for a session back in November. The resulting LP, due this summer on Bloodshot Records, tips its hat to the **Everly Brothers** ("You're the One I Love"), **Johnny Cash** ("Get Rhythm"), and, of course, **Janis Martin** ("Drugstore Rock 'n' Roll") but also boasts a tune Flores co-wrote with **Patricia Vonne** ("This Cat's in the Dog House") and three original songs from Langford. "I never once thought about if this could be on country radio," says Flores, who graces the **Driskill** on Friday. "The freedom of that was really rewarding. It's a bit looser with a bit more of a rocking edge."

Future's so Bright

Jenny Wolfe is clearly avoiding the dreaded sophomore slump. At **Antone's Record Shop** on Sunday afternoon, commemorating the release of her second album, *After School*, the 16-year-old sophomore entertained an audience many times her age for close to an hour with teen crushes such as the **Shirelles'** "Baby It's You" and the **Zombies'** "I Love You." With half-laced Converse high-tops and blue-tipped hair, Wolfe proved quite the precocious punk with her bewitching snarl in mentor **Freddie Steady Krc's** "I Wanna See You Cry" and "Twisted Smile," one original the two have co-written. The **Explosives'** **Cam King** saved his guitar pyrotechnics for the end, closing with the rockabilly romp of "Johnny B. Goode."



JOHN ANDERSON

Random Play

● Rust never sleeps: Details are still forthcoming, but suddenly confirmed for SXSW Film is **Jonathan Demme's Neil Young Trunk Show**, a live concert follow-up to his 2006 film, *Neil Young: Heart of Gold*.

● Austin's youth gone wild takes over the **Parish** on Saturday with the finals for the National Association of Music Merchants-sponsored **SchoolJam Texas** battle of the bands. The winner gets a gig next April in Frankfurt, Germany. OTR emcees the free showdown, while freewheeling local boys **White Denim** bat cleanup for the grand finale.

● South by Southwest is still looking for volunteers to help with Music Festival production. Volunteers need to be Austin residents, at least 21 years old, and able to commit to working at least three nights between March 18 and 22. Contact **James Shinault** (james@sxsw.com), and fill out the online volunteer application at www.volunteer.sxsw.com.



Deborah Gill's musical matriarchy **BY AUDRA SCHROEDER** PHOTOS BY AUTUMN SPADARO

On a cool Wednesday evening at the Parlor on North Loop, Ralph White's lit in red, playing sad songs on accordion next to the Tom Waits mural while a tip bucket gets passed around. Earlier, Plutonium Farmers' guitar squall blew as hot and dry as the pizza ovens that keep opening and closing. Most of the crowd heads out to the back patio, where squirrely guys clad in studded leather jackets and tall, heavy-lidded blond girls in dresses and boots drink beer in front of men wearing gas masks. Inside, members of local punk bands work behind the counter, shooting the shit with other tattooed friends.

Ask Deborah Gill what she envisioned for the Parlor, and this is it. When she and her family lived a block away in the late 1990s, she noticed there was nowhere nearby to listen to music, whether on the jukebox or live, or get a beer and some food. In 1999, she happened to see the landlord putting up a "for rent" sign in the space, and Gill put her car in reverse.

She knew she had to offer something more than beer at a neighborhood dive, so the former New Yorker decided on pizza, and she and her then-teenage daughter Singer Mayberry worked on a dough recipe for months. The Parlor opened the next year, 2000, and a decade later, it's carved out a funky, unique little niche in North Austin where punk rock helps make up the area's communal identity.

"There was hardly anything in the strip," Gill recalls, sitting with Mayberry in Parlor No. 2, Hyde Park, on a Saturday afternoon. "But it was a place you could walk to. And as the live music progressed, we started getting people from all parts of Austin. We started off with two or three nights of music, and now we're seven."

In time, Sound on Sound, Forbidden Fruit, and MonkeyWrench Books pumped more blood into North Loop's DIY community, but the Parlor's gnarled family tree

remains at the heart. Gill has four daughters between the ages of 8 and 29 (and a fifth who lives in New Jersey), one teenage son, and five grandchildren, the newest being Mayberry's 5-month-old daughter, Gwyneth. Every specialty pizza on the Parlor menu is named after one of Gill's children or grandchildren, with toppings picked by someone in the family. The family makes its own vegan sausage and pepperoni, and its favorite songs are on the jukebox. They've hosted pizza-box art shows and daylong block parties. Indeed, the Parlor feels like old Austin, maybe circa 1985.

Gill speaks of the venue as a "launching pad" for Austin acts: YellowFever played its first gigs there; Belaire performed frequently; Scott H. Biram stomped there weekly until he was making hundreds in tips. Quite a few national bands have played in the Parlor's close, dark quarters before headlining tours. That "what we do here is secret" ethos applies

in small doses, with Gill thinking people enjoy that intimacy.

"Oh, and that there's no cover," she adds.

"I think musicians also like the fact that if you bring 30 friends, it's a packed show," says Mayberry. "Once you fill that small space in front of the stage, the energy is great."

There's something else indelibly unique about the North Loop Parlor: It's the reflection of a musical family. The stage is right by the door, so you immediately walk by the band whether you like it or not. The murals on the crimson walls were painted by Gill's husband, Damon, and some friends, portraying their favorite acts: Nick Cave, Roky Erickson, the Stooges, Robert Johnson, and Alice Cooper, among others. One of the bathrooms is plastered from floor to ceiling with photocopies of old punk album covers. As Gill and her daughter recount the beer-fueled night that yielded various murals, something catches Mayberry's ear.

"Mom, do you hear, like, three different bands playing right now?"

"Oh, sorry, the jukebox turns on by itself sometimes," says Gill, getting up to tell the cooks to turn their boom box down. She's has years of this stuff under her belt.

Before moving to Austin, Gill ran a club in Tempe, Ariz., during the 1990s called the Sun Club, which hosted a prefame Nirvana and other Sub Pop bands of the era. The previous decade, she was a percussionist in a reggae and ska band called the Xtremes with Mayberry's late father, and when they toured, the kids came on the road as well. Her daughters couldn't help being influenced by the music lifestyle.

Singer Mayberry plays bass and keyboards in local rock trio Red Leaves alongside fiancé and guitarist David Lujan and drummer Rich Cali, both of whom also work at the Parlor. Her sister Jasmine Mayberry played bass with hardcore punks Signal Lost. Gill's other daughter, Autumn Spadaro, is the professional photographer of the family, and her portraits of musicians and other punk rock types adorn the Hyde Park Parlor. Gill's husband used to be in Red River favorites Squat Thrust and currently gigs in Ding Dong. They all work shifts at both locations.

"The Parlor opened when Jasmine and I were in high school," Singer explains. "So at first it was like, 'Oh, your family's weird.' Then around senior year, it was like, 'Oh, cool,

CONTINUED ON P.60


Gill's brood could certainly be considered a village, its interfamilial musical networking being that which keeps both Parlors functioning.

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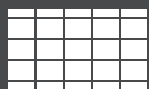
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"I had a darkroom at the age of 9," says Autumn Spadaro, above with knife. "I graduated in 2003 from the School of Visual Arts, NYC, with a major in photo. After that, I worked three years in New Jersey for the Department of Defense as a photographer. It's hard not to take pictures of my family when they are all so unique. We have a lot of fun, and as much as they may deny it, they love when my camera is out." Clockwise from left: the photographer, Singer Mayberry and daughter Gwyneth, Deborah Gill, Damon Gill, David Gill, Nevaeh Gill, Jasmine Mayberry.

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your parents own a bar.' And we were working there, too. We would go right after school and make the dough. Then we were cooks and dishwashers before we could bartend. Working there's worked out for both of us, since we're both in bands."

Actually, most of the employees at both locations are in bands, so Gill makes sure they offer flexibility for touring, ensuring employees and family the freedom to pursue creative endeavors. That's not something most small business can do.

"We fit into the old-school Austin ideal," Gill offers. "We're not Downtown. We're in North Austin. There's a community feeling. A few years ago, there was talk of tearing down that North Loop and putting up a multiuse development. You want to talk

about people freaking out! That's when we started looking for another location, just in case that actually happened."

The Hyde Park Parlor opened on Guadalupe in 2006, a more polished version of the original that caters to food and drink rather than music, if you don't count a jukebox that has everything from the Mummies to Black Flag.

"When we moved into this location," Singer says, "they weren't into us being here. It was a major fight. The neighborhood thought we were a biker bar for some reason."

"So I went to a neighborhood-association meeting and brought pizza and said, 'This is what we're really about,'" says Gill. "And they've embraced us. I really feel that you've got to keep your neighborhoods the way they are. You've got to keep the niche that makes it

"The Parlor opened when Jasmine and I were in high school," Singer Mayberry explains. "So at first it was like, 'Oh, your family's weird.' Then around senior year, it was like, 'Oh, cool, your parents own a bar.'"

Parlor Live Highlights 2008

The Blood Royale	The Anchor
Mammoth Grinder	The Hex Dispensers
WinoVino	Manikin
McMercy Family Band	The Birthday Suits
Sad Accordions	Cococoma
Red Leaves	The Mae Shi
The Diamond Center	Crime Novels
Follow That Bird!	Make a Rising
Ume	Daniel Francis Doyle
Bear Claw	Mittens on Strings
Reverse X Rays	Vegan Arm
The Action Is	Wrestling w/ Sex Advice & the Teeners
The Dickens Confusatron	Sober Daze
Horse + Donkey Basic	Wild Dog Gods
Pink Razors	Brownstars
Party Garbage	Roger's Porn Collection

Austin. It takes a village to stand up against that." Gill's brood could certainly be considered a village, its interfamilial musical networking being that which keeps both Parlors functioning. In addition to booking the North Loop Parlor, Singer books at Emo's through her company Tangled Snark Productions and often helps out mom's DAG Presents, which brought Opeth and High on Fire to the Monarch Event Center last fall and also arranges talent for venues in San Antonio and Houston. Mother and daughter admit that right now's a tough time for promoters but have different reasons for wanting to soldier on.

"We both feel out what Austin's looking for," Gill says. "Acts that maybe pass over Austin. I may not be that interested in a band, but I know people here are. It's a gamble every time."

"I like booking North Loop because a lot of touring bands contact me via word of mouth," Singer says. "They heard from another band that they should play there. Tons of touring bands have said, 'This is the best show we've played.'"

As an independent business in this wobbly economy, the Parlor seems to be weathering the storm. Gill notes the rising price of beer, food, and gas. Still, her pizza joints have become a brand in Austin, and there's tangible pride behind what they do and have accomplished.

"I provide for my family in creative ways, other than wealth," she concludes.

"It works for the community; it works for the family. I would love to see any of my kids be successful doing what they love to do and never have to throw another pizza or pour another beer."

Gill relates that her 14-year-old son, David, is anxious to start working at the Parlor, having already begun playing guitar, drums, and violin in his middle school orchestra, while 8-year-old Nevah takes piano lessons, and ...

Singer puts a finer point on it: "I think everyone in our family has the disease of multitasking." ■

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... AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD

The Century of Self (Richter Scale)

Trail of Dead's post-major label debut, *The Century of Self*, may be the Austin institution's most conceptually complete work to date, a post-prog cathedral of mythical mini-epics, though it's by no means the band's masterpiece. Whereas 2005's *Worlds Apart* and the following year's *So Divided* fractured beneath the weight of TOD's disillusioned angst and grandiose ambitions, this sixth LP marks a welcome return to the destructive urgency of the group's 2002 triumph, *Source Tags and Codes*. Cornerstone "Far Pavilions" finds strength somewhere in between, balancing not only mood with movement but also multi-instrumentalist Jason Reece's brute force with singer/guitarist Conrad Keely's moody blues, the pendulous push and pull between the band founders adding further momentum to the metallic march. The shimmering "Inland Sea" and "Bells of Creation" remedy the Renaissance flair of last year's *Festival Thyme* EP, while the sentimentalism of "Pictures of an Only Child" and Reece's mellow "Luna Park" allow a bit of breathing room and reflection. The quicksilver rush of "Isis Unveiled" gives way to a jarring wall of staccato stabs, like cold steel on steel, only to return in full force. The near-constant song cycle of birth and decay does grow a bit tiresome, especially in the chamber rock symphony "Halcyon Days," but then Trail of Dead has made a career out of destroying its own beautiful creations.

★★★★

— Austin Powell

live shot

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

La Zona Rosa, Feb. 20

Room near the La Zona Rosa stage was in short supply as the sold-out venue filled steadily with audience members whose "Sex and Drugs and Rock & Roll" T-shirts have long been purloined by their children. Anticipation for the sweet taste of Lucinda Williams' *Little Honey* was high, but what the faithful received was far more flavorful. Buick 6 roared with heavy guitars on "Pipeline" to open the show before the main attraction parked herself center stage sans guitar. Kicking off a two-hour set with "I Just Wanted to See You So Bad," Williams played a set list that read like a greatest-hits index, no surprise as her songs are like novelettes, lyrical stories sung by a master raconteur. Familiar – and old – titles rippled through the ecstatic crowd: "Happy Woman Blues," "Crescent City," "Drunken Angel," "Lake Charles," "Joy." It was like revisiting childhood stomping grounds with your best friend from grade school, singing tunes you both remember. "I had great teachers here, Lou Ann Barton, Stevie Ray," announced Williams, name-checking local peers from her days as an Austin busker after launching into the first new song of the evening, "Tears of Joy," and following it with *Little Honey*'s explosive opener, "Real Love." Confessing over her Telecaster that the hugely popular "Honey Bee" was inspired by Iggy Pop's "I Wanna Be Your Dog," she ducked offstage after a smokin' "Righteously." The best for last: The lyrics she'd clutched in her hand before the show were for Guitar Slim's "The Things That I Used to Do," delivered in her twangy voice at its best – strong, rich, controlled. Rod Stewart's "Every Picture Tells a Story" and AC/DC's "It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock & Roll)" closed the encore, the neatest of tricks from the magician of modern Southern gothic, Lucinda Williams, before she disappeared into the black night.

— Margaret Moser

JOHN ANDERSON



STEVE BERNAL

Decibels (Lanre Music)

Patience is clearly one of Steve Bernal's finest virtues. On *Decibels*, the longtime local cellist and bassist's fourth album, his neoclassical compositions nurture the space they require. His technique is sparse yet demanding and intensely personal; nothing feels forced or rushed, all of which works in favor of meditative opener "Hidden," for three cellos and bass. "Dreams and Concrete," written and performed with Loren Dent,



introduces electric guitar and drums over a 19-minute arc that rattles and hums, while the four-part "Suite for Solo Cello and Subsonic Continuo" achieves a full spectrum of style and sound. Bernal takes a more contemporary approach to "Pluto: Requiem for an Icy

World," his lone cello strum slower and more pensive, at times giving way to stretches of a digital, lunar landscape, as if searching for solace amidst the vast emptiness.

★★★★

— Austin Powell

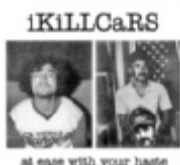
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BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

IKILLCARS

At Ease With Your Haste (What?)

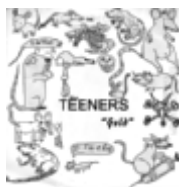
Local punks with far too many capitalization demands (we don't negotiate with terrorists) make the stand off worth it on a five-tune 10-inch from Dallas imprint What? Its crisp, Bubble Studio riff emphasis (lead-off "Hartsfield-Jackson") and fattened swath of late-1980s Red River ("San Jose, 1972") also barfs up a mess of happiness on Thunderbird wine pledge "The Teeners" and B-side Jesus Lizard lumber "Butcher's Block." Buckle up. ★★★★★



THE TEENERS

"Gold" (Super Secret)

The second single for indelible Austin indie Super Secret and third overall rip to shreds more Teeners' shriek punk, as rabid and raw as the rats on the cover, particularly the fire-breathing "Flappin' Gums." All hands on deck for the A-side – "Gold," "Gums," and "Human Trash" – with the flip-side grooves blank. Seek out the limited-edition purple vinyl. ★★★★★



TEEN COOL/ GUN CRAZY (Cutthroat)

Teen Cool's New Year's reunion at Room 710 coincided with Houston



vinylist Cutthroat commemorating the defunct Austin punks on a split with Bay City trash rockers Gun Crazy. The locals "Crash and Burn Kids" and molest "Dilemma Doll" in dialing up pure '77 self-destruction odes to rousing three-chord pow. B-sider "Talk to Jane" almost achieves nondisposability for Gun Crazy. ★★★★★

BLACK PANDA

Shake Me (Super Secret)

Super Secret also minted up 7 inches of clear vinyl for this local quintet's debut. Former Kodiaks frontman Yoshi Okai, standout of the "These Are the Days" exhibition at the Arthouse on Congress, crosses John Lydon with Damo Suzuki, barking all the way to the bank on four jagged edges of garage floor DIY. The titular highlight is a Stooge. ★★★★★



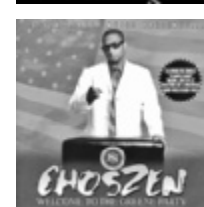
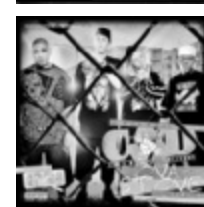
texas platters

The future is now for Austin hip-hop, and it's obvious on **Zeale's** new mixtape, *Haterz and Robotz*, the local MC's most complete collection to date. Boosted by the masterful precision of DJ Rapid Ric, the slick-talking Zeale raps his way through an even mix of originals and sampled cuts, all heavy on the "Retrozpect."

Team Zeale/Phranchyze staples – custom shoes and clever shoot-downs – remain intact ("Brand New," "Undefined Tranzmizzion"), but *Haterz* soars on heartfelt tributes ("Rain") and a captivating Pink Floyd mix-up splitting the "Dull Dayz." South Austin's **COD** shows no fear breaking out of the "Citylimits," pulling tracks inspired by 9th Wonder's camp ("Let's Go") and the dirty dirty ("Wheel Spin") on this month's *Ova the Stove, Volume 3*

street release. Beats are only half the story on this diverse collection, which finds COD's four rhyme slingers one-upping one another on the epic "No Mo." Lamenting it's "time for George Bush to step aside," **Choszen's** *Welcome to the Greene Party* (Sixth Street Music) sets itself apart as politically conscious rap that can still get crunk on "Sixth Street." Lyrics about bipartisan corruption lose weight beside "I'm lovin' the way that you move" hooks, making *Greene Party* a better fit for Esther's Folies than Emo's. Pflugerville's **K.J. Hines** keeps it all business on the re-release of 2006's *Capital City*, out this round on Dap Records. The 18-year-old cuts it slow on "Dirty Place" but not before taking control of lead track "I Own This." Do as he says: "Move With It."

— Chase Hoffberger



THE BLACK

"Little Hits" b/w "China" (Moon)

No frills black vinyl in a white paper sleeve matches the equally scrawny, early-1960s rhythm & rock from these local men in Black, twanging up five minutes of low bangs and high, harp-cut roots. Solid, Jackson, but still just a tease. ★★



SUNSET

"Loveshines II" (Autobus)

Bill Baird does in fact shine on all fronts with a piano-banged wall of sound on the A-side, which balances a beachfront melody with the flip side's late-night electro lament, "I'm Not a Perfect Person (Looks Like I Fucked Up Again)." Fuckups can love, too! ★★★★★



NEW WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Though India is recognized as a world leader in promoting the health benefits of urine, its dominance will be assured by the end of the year when a cow-urine-based soft drink comes to market. Om Prakash, chief of the Cow Protection Department of the RSS organization (India's largest Hindu nationalist group), trying to reassure a *Times* of London reporter in February, promised, "It won't smell like urine and will be tasty, too," noting that medicinal herbs would be added and toxins removed. In addition to improved health, he said, India needs a domestic (and especially Hindu) beverage to compete with the foreign influence of Coca-Cola and Pepsi.

POLICE REPORT

The campus police chief of Colorado State University, Dexter Yarbrough, also teaches a criminology class, during which he gives a flavor of real police work (since he's a former Chicago cop). According to audio recordings of his lectures reported in January by campus newspaper *The Collegian*, Yarbrough acknowledged that police sometimes have to "lie" and "cut corners" and "beat [the] ass" of a suspect if they "deserve" it. Sometimes, a confidential informant gets paid off with police-seized drugs but only after being warned, "Hey, if you get caught with this, you know, don't say my name." Most unenlightened of all was Yarbrough's characterization of some rape victims: "Even when [women] say 'no,' they want the dick."

Police in Holland Township, N.J., removed three kids from the home of Heath and Deborah Campbell in January at the behest of the state Division of Youth and Family Services. The kids are 3-year-old Adolf Hitler Campbell and his 1-year-old sisters, Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell and Joycelynn Aryan Nation Campbell. The family was also in the news in December when their local ShopRite supermarket bakery refused to make a birthday cake with little Adolf's name on it.

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

After 50 years of separation following their adoptions by separate families, identical twins Rosabelle Glasby of Australia and Dorothy Loader of Malaysia were reunited in September 2008 after a years-long search by Glasby, and she applied to bring Loader to Australia under the country's family migration policy. However, in January, the Department of Immigration & Citizenship ruled that, under the law, Loader is not related to Glasby (in that the adoption wipes out birth status).

Change We Can Believe In: In December, the City Council in Brighton, Mich., passed an ordinance making it illegal for anyone to be "annoying" in public, "by word of mouth, sign, or motions." Violators can be ticketed and fined.

States That Need Better Training in Arithmetic: 1) Two Maryland officials (reportedly new on the job) made a simple error in addition in 2007 (in estimating counties' property values) that was revealed in January 2009 to have cost state offices \$31 million in overpayments, according to a *Washington Post* report. 2) In October, the Dallas school district was forced to lay off 375 teachers to ameliorate an \$84 million deficit caused by a massive math error in the budget, according to a report by WFAA-TV.

Earlier, He Could've Gotten a Mortgage, Too: In a December test of the laxness of New York City's property-ownership office, a New York *Daily News* reporter walked out of the city's register of deeds with the title to the \$2 billion Empire State Building. With his fake purchase document, a fake notary public stamp, and a fake witness signature (of "Fay Wray," star of the original *King Kong*), it took 90 minutes to convert the document into an official deed, which of course came as a great surprise to Empire State Land Associates, to whose shocked representative the reporter returned the property the next day.

NEWS THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE

1) Michael Reed, 50, was charged with attempted robbery of Eddie's Fried Chicken in Fort Worth in December. He was armed only with a tree branch and was quickly neutralized by a 56-year-old employee, who grabbed a broom, and the men proceeded to duel until Reed dropped his branch and fled (but was arrested nearby). 2) The Happy Egg Co. (Lincoln, England) altered the packaging in January for its six-egg cartons to include the prominent warning: "Allergy Advice: Contains Egg."

PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

1) The *Northwest Florida Daily News* reported the arrest of a woman for trespassing in December in Mary Esther, Fla., after she was reluctant to leave a neighbor's porch. According to the newspaper, she eventually "left ... in anger, knocking over a dryer ... in the front yard." 2) Robert Blue, 53, was arrested in Las Vegas in January and charged with chaining his 15-year-old daughter to her bed at night to keep her from eating. Blue told police that the girl weighs 165 pounds, but that he wanted her at 145, which he said is her ideal fighting weight for mixed martial arts.

NOW, WHICH ONE IS THE BRAKE? (ALL-NEW)

Elderly drivers' recent lapses of concentration, confusing the brake pedal with the gas (or "drive" with "reverse"): Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Joe Greenhill, 94, crashed into a restraining wall in Downtown Austin, nearly winding up in Lady Bird Lake (December). A 90-year-old woman, driving her brand-new Dodge Challenger, rammed a pole while turning left in Pompano Beach, Fla. (October). An 83-year-old man drove through his garage wall and continued on about 70 yards in Lycoming Township, Pa. (September). An 83-year-old man drove 50 feet into Big 5 Sporting Goods Store in Milwaukie, Ore. (December). An 82-year-old man crashed his SUV into a tree on a Pittsburgh golf course after zigzagging out of control across the fairway (September). An 82-year-old man crashed into a group of Cub Scouts lining up for a Christmas parade (injuring 12) in Dallas (December).

Read News of the Weird daily at www.weirduniverse.net. Send items to weirdnews@earthlink.net.

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THURSDAY **26**

THROUGH THICK & THIN' LAUNCH AND SCREENING Part of aGLIFF's monthly screening series, a showing of Sebastian Cordoba's exploration of the challenges of binational relationships, plus a party with the filmmaker afterward. 7pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 302-9889. \$5 (members free). www.agliff.org.

ATX ELLE ACOUSTIQUE This extravaganza of women will rock you all night long. Two stages, eight hours of music, music to your ears. All to benefit Equality Texas. 6pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 474-5475. \$15 (\$25, VIP). atxelleacoustique@gmail.com, www.myspace.com/atxea.

DID SOMEBODY SAY, 'SEX IN PUBLIC?' Free regional training? About sex?! Sign us up! It's Sex in Public: How Sexuality Shapes the Public Sphere, brought to you by the NSRC. Now, what do you think that stands for? Naughty Sexy Rascals of Coitus? Nude Seductive Rascals of Copulation? Never Say Reproduction or Chastity? How about National Sexuality Resource Center? Oh hells yee-yay-yuh. Texas Union, Rm. 4.206 (Chicano Cultural Rm.), 415/817-4512. sexualliteracy@gmail.com, www.nsrc.sfsu.edu/article/sex_public_nsrc_regional_training.

EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE FILM SCREENING Nontraditional workers in the field of education are invited to a screening of *Power!* Meet other educators, and get your heart back into teaching. 6-8pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 940-4320. Free (donations appreciated).

INSIDE AMERICA'S BEST COUNTERTERROR FORCE Newsweek journalist Christopher Dickey talks about how the New York City Police Department has transformed itself into one of post-9/11's leading counterterrorism organizations. 3pm. 3.128 Sinclair Suite, Texas Union, UT campus, 471-1391. Free. knight@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

SHOW SOME LOVE FOR NEW ORLEANS Ararat food and music all night make it easy to donate money to the Neighborhood Story Project and its efforts to assist New Orleans' high schools in getting back on their feet. 8pm-2am. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$10 suggested donation. www.momosclub.com.

VAGINAL RESOURCE? Eve Ensler calling! Turn it on, turn it out, and turn it way up for the *Vagina Monologues* and Resource Fair sponsored by the UT GSC. Tickets are only \$10 and can be procured at the GSC. Thu-Sat., Feb 26-28. Fair at 7pm; show at 8pm. UT Rec. Sports Center, Rm. 2.104, 232-1831. gsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/gsc.

WILDE PARTY: SHOOTING STARS Dream about an ex? Have nightmares? Go see what happens to exes that get snowed in together at the world premiere run of UT prof. Steven Dietz's new play, *Shooting Stars*, at the Wilde Party, especially for

calendar

THURSDAY, FEB 26 TO THURSDAY, MARCH 5

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

family and those who love us. Thu., Feb. 26. Preshow mixer at 6:45pm; show at 8pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org.

WORLD TRAVEL 101 Learn to travel far and wide and cheap courtesy of Hostelling International. 7pm. REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 444-2294. Free. www.hiaustin.org.

ZILKER ART AUCTION Local artists offer up their wares for bid to help this neighborhood elementary school's art programs. 5-7:30pm. Zilker Elementary School, 1900 Bluebonnet, 414-2317. www.austinschools.org/campus/zilker.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Happy Birthday Harris Malden** @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm **The Films of Charles & Ray Eames** @ Domy Books, 7:30pm

Through Thick and Thin @ Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **ATX Elle Acoustique** Emo's **Cantanker Magazine Party** United States Art Authority **No Idea Festival 2009** The Blue Theater

FRIDAY **27**

BOLLYWOOD BASH Pull out your finest Bollywood garb, and sing and dance the night away to tunes spun by DJ Aleem. Not sure how to groove to the Eastern jams? The Flying Paneer Sisters will show you how it's done with a fully choreographed Bollywood routine. 9pm-2am. Mohawk, 912 Red River, 482-8404. \$10. www.bollywoodbash.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, www.lonestarbears.com.

GREEN SHOW & HOME PRODUCTS EXPO Been meaning to make your house and yard more environmentally friendly? The Convention Center will be busy with workshops, vendors, demos, and more to satisfy your green cravings. Live music and a kids activity center make the sustainable and organic browsing even easier. Fri.-Sun., Feb. 27-March 1. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000. \$7.50. www.showtechnology.com.

HOT SCIENCE COOL TALKS Dr. Warner Lang of the UT School of Architecture discusses green design and building. Activities and an exhibit start at 5:45pm, and the lecture starts at 7pm. UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224, 779-2102. Free. www.esi.utexas.edu.

JIGGLEWATTS BURLESQUE The swinging and gyrating ladies do their part to stimulate the economy. 10pm. Troubadour Lounge, 503 E. Sixth, 499-0350. \$10. www.thejigglewatts.com.

LONG LIVE THE LEGENDS BENEFIT ReleaseMotion Dance Project needs monetary support for its upcoming performance at the Long Center, but it intends to earn it with performances in the style of dance greats from eras past. Live music and auctions keep the proceedings charitable. 8-10pm. Independence Brewery, 3913 Todd Ln., 680-4771. \$30. www.releaseemotion.com.

METRORAIL OPEN HOUSE The MetroRail is set to launch on March 30. Till then, settle for checking out the trains, station, schedule, and ticket kiosks at this open house. 2-7pm. Downtown Station, 401 E. Fourth, 474-1200. Free. www.capmetro.org.

PEOPLE UNITED has a live discussion on the global-warming crisis. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

SUMMER CAMP FAIR Just like you don't go shopping when you're hungry, don't bring the kids to a camp fair when they've been in school for six months. Fri.-Sun., Feb. 27-March 1, 11am-4pm. Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Dr., Cedar Park, 512/257-8500. Free. www.lakelinemall.com.

UNDER 40 AWARDS Meet, greet, and recognize yuppies of the highest orders. The Young Men's Business League and the Young Women's Alliance supply the dinner, auctions, and stellar schmoozing opportunities, and you help YMBL Sunshine Camps and the YWA Foundation. Being a yuppie doesn't sound so bad all of a sudden. 7-11pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146. \$100. www.austinunder40.org.

DID SOMEBODY SAY, 'SEX IN PUBLIC?' (See Thursday, 2/26.)

VAGINAL RESOURCE? (See Thursday, 2/26.)

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Fujiya & Miyagi** Emo's **The Ka-Nives** Beerland **No Idea Festival 2009** The Blue Theater **Johnny Cash Birthday Bash** Continental Club **Michael Martin Murphey** Saxon Pub

SATURDAY **28**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERITAGE FESTIVAL Black History Month comes to a close with a festival of free health screenings, food, vendors, live music from Big Chief Kevin & the Flaming Arrows, and a children's area. 1-5pm. Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 472-9599. Free.

ART OF SPIRITUAL DREAMING WORKSHOP Don't remember your dreams? This workshop helps you recall and interpret their wisdom. 2pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.



| L - R: WINTER SOLDIER HEARINGS (SEE SATURDAY) | UT BASKETBALL (SPORTS, P.69) | 'SHERLOCK HOLMES' (ARTS, P.70) | 'I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG' (FILM, P.76) | NO IDEA FEST (MUSIC, P.86)

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.

BLACK HISTORY CRAFTS features pot-holder and African-jewelry classes in addition to a taste of African-American cuisine at 2pm. 11am-4pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

BOY SCOUT PATCH DAY Scouts can earn their My Story Is a Texas Story badges in the very museum devoted to the history of the Lone Star State. Add another symbol of your abilities and knowledge free of charge, but tell the adults to bring money for their own museum admission. 10am-3pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com/education/my_story_patch.html.

CAPITAL CONFECTIONERS SUGAR ART SHOW The sweetest taboos will be on display thanks to some of Austin's finest cake decorators and sugar artists. Live music, demos, classes, vendors, and raffles help you work off that sugar high. Get a dollar off admission with a nonperishable donation for the Capitol Area Food Bank. Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1, 10:30am-5pm. Crockett Events Center, 10601 N. Lamar, 371-3401. \$10, weekend pass; children, free. www.thattakesthecake.org.

CELEBRATE TEXAS Celebrate Texas' independence at this weekend of history, culture, and fun for adults and kids alike. Bring a picnic to eat on the grounds, or just enjoy the writers, artisans, and performers sharing their love of this great state of ours. Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1, noon-5pm. French Legation Museum, 802 San Marcos, 472-8180. Free. www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.

GIMME AN LI GIMME A GI Party on down at the culinary center (at the corner of Sixth & Bowie) for issue nine of L Style G Style. No need to RSVP but they turn off the tap at 300 hoi polloi. 7pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. www.lstylestyle.com.

GUITAR HERO TOURNAMENT Show off your riffing skills at this qualifying round. The Top 2 finalists from each tournament will move on to the championship at the University Hills Branch Library on May 30. 1pm. Manchaca Road Branch Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd., 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HELPING HANDS BASSET RESCUE BENEFIT Good food, company, and auction items help the droopy dogs without homes get the care they need. 5:30pm. Norris Conference Centers, 2525 W. Anderson. \$60. www.hhbassetrescue.org.

HISPANIC FUTURES CONFERENCE Students and their parents are invited to this conference featuring speakers, exhibits, info, and materials intended to advance academic achievement. 10am. Eastside Memorial High School, 1012 Arthur Stites Rd., 414-0884.

HORNSBY BEND ECOLOGICAL LITERACY VOLUNTEER DAY The volunteer-maintained trails need your labor. A four-hour shift consists of trail clearing and education about the ecology of the

Colorado River. 9am. Center for Environmental Research, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. www.cityofaustin.org/water/cer2.htm.

MOBILIZING MEN Mobilize, activate, and stand up against violence. Brown bag it to this daylong intensive. Men and women welcome. RSVP by e-mail. 8am. TAASA Office, 6200 La Calma #110. Free. ediazdeleon@taasa.org.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO ALLERGIES Learn the many ways – medications, herbal remedies, detoxification, diet modification – to sneeze-less seasons. 2pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 892-3366. Free. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL Choose from among 16 75-minute courses today covering the basic information you need to know about common legal issues. Topics include employment, family law, intellectual property, the Public Information Act, tenants' rights, wills, tax law, and more. 8:30am-1:30pm. UT School of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton, 472-0279. Free. www.austinbar.org.

PET WELLNESS FAIR The Town Lake Animal Center will be offering rabies vaccinations for dogs or cats as well as nail clipping and grooming advice. Dogs must be leashed and cats in crates. Call 311 for more info. 8am-noon. Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis, 385-5931. Free.

REAL WORLD CASTING CALL Strut your real stuff, and maybe you'll get your 15 minutes on the 27th season of this pioneering reality show. 10am-5pm. The Castilian, 2323 San Antonio. www.campusia.com.

RECYCLED READS GRAND OPENING Austin Public Library's new store for the sale of used books, records, and videos is throwing a party. Jon Dee Graham and Jesse Sublett provide the music, and balloon animals will be available for the kids. Noon-4pm. Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd., 974-7400.

RESOURCE & RE-SKILLING FAIR The family-friendly launch of this "local living center" features workshops on gardening, composting, preventing childhood obesity, and more. 10am-4pm. El Jardin Alegre, 1801 E. Second, 385-0080. \$10-15 donation. www.thrivingplanet.net.

SATURDAY MORNING MATH GROUP Dr. Lorenzo Sadun discusses the evolution of modern geometry. 10am. UT campus, Rm. FAC 21. Free. www.ma.utexas.edu/users/smmg.



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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

daytrips

Bob's Oil Well in Matador appeared to me in a dream. I was driving between Floydada and Paducah, not really thinking of anything but considering everything, when lights began to dance above the distant horizon. They were the lights of Bob's oil derrick twinkling more than 84 feet above the prairie.

Before the interstate highway system sliced distances across Texas into 70 mph segments, TX 70 was the north-south gateway into the Panhandle. About halfway between Sweetwater and Pampa, Bob's place was a truck stop and tourist trap known around the country. It might not have been a destination, but it was a reason to make a detour if you were in the neighborhood.

Luther Bedford "Bob" Robertson built a service station on the edge of Matador in 1932 and soon added a wooden derrick to attract truckers. He later rebuilt the station around a steel derrick with lights climbing into the night sky. At the intersection of U.S. 70 and TX 70, Robertson's travelers' oasis was known as the best place to get a hamburger in the Panhandle. He enticed visitors with a zoo of rattlesnakes, bears, monkeys, coyotes, and a buffalo. The enterprise eventually included a grocery store, a garage, and a cafe made of stone and petrified wood.

Two weeks after Robertson died in 1947, the derrick fell in high winds. His widow restored the tower, but the business closed in the 1950s. Robertson's granddaughter still owns the property.

"It's been a landmark as long as anyone can remember," says Marisue Potts of the nearby Mott Creek Ranch. Even though volunteers refurbished the store and hung new lights on the tower, Preservation Texas listed the roadside attraction as one of the most endangered places of 2004.

The interior was never redone because "it's a carpenter's nightmare," Potts says. "Everything slants inward with the bottom of the derrick." At one time it was going to become a visitors center. The rock cafe is just as Robertson's widow left it, with dishes still on the old bar that was carried from a New Mexican saloon.

The volunteer group still maintains the building. "People stop by all the time and say they remember the place from their childhood," Potts says. "It makes a nice entrance to town."

Only about 1,200 people live in Motley County. Matador, the county seat, was named for the 400,000-acre ranch of the same name. Established in 1882, the ranch is known for its livestock and high-dollar hunting leases.

The Hotel Matador (built in 1914) recently reopened as a bed and breakfast. Potts recommends the Main Street Cafe for the best hamburgers in town, JayBird's Kitchen for chicken-fried steak, and the onion rings at Billie Dean's Restaurant and Motel.

"For a small community, we try to keep it lively," Potts says, "even though most of us are getting a little worn out."

921st 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.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

CELEBRATION OF WHOOPING CRANES & OTHER BIRDS Take bus and boat tours to see the migratory birds in the coastal wetlands, a rare opportunity to tour the Animal Rehabilitation Keep, plus take part in seminars, demonstrations, island food, art exhibits, and more. *Thu.-Sun., Feb. 26-March 1. Civic Center and UT Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, 800/452-6278. www.portaransas.org.*

FOUR WINDS FAIRE RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL presents a outdoor show of jousting, music, food, and artisans over eight weekends. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-April 19. Whitehouse (south of Tyler), 903/839-5271. \$12 (\$6, children). www.fourwindsfaire.com.*

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP A delightful murder mystery presented by the Wimberley Players enters its final weekend. *Fri.-Sun., Feb. 27-March 1. Wimberley Playhouse, 450 Old Kyle Rd., Wimberley, 512/847-1592. \$15. www.wimberleyplayers.org.*

LAND OF LEATHER DAYS is a small-town fair with arts & crafts, cook-offs, kids games, a carnival, and entertainment. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28. Yoakum, 361/293-2309. www.yoakumareachamber.com.*

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION Celebrate the 173rd anniversary of Texas independence with costumed re-enactors demonstrating pioneer crafts, along with musical performances, as well as food vendors, games, and a Texas-sized birthday cake. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28-March 1. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, 936/878-2214. Free. www.birthplaceoftexas.com.*

NATURE DAY offers a day of educational programs for the whole family to learn about fishing, bird-watching, and developing a wildlife habitat in your back yard. Youth can go fishing, pet live animals, and go on a nature scavenger hunt. *Sat., Feb. 28, 10am-3pm. Sea Center Texas, Lake Jackson, 979/292-0100. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/seacenter.*

ST. JOHN/CORONADO HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING This meeting kicks off a period of public planning sessions. The fate of your neighborhood depends on it. *9:30am. J.J. Pickle Elementary School, 1101 Wheatley. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/sj_ch.htm.*

SUMMER MIRACLES MEETING Ten orphaned children will be coming to Austin for the Summer Miracles program. Volunteers are needed to host, mentor, translate, advocate, or fundraise. Come out and see what you can do to help. *10am. Gateway Community Church, 7104 McNeil Dr., 415-7082. www.austinkidsave.org.*

THE GO GAME Get your team together, and call to sign up and get location info. From there, you get a Web-enabled phone and a digital camera and embark on a scavenger hunt of Austin proportions. The proceeds go to Easter Seals Central Texas. *Go! 1pm. 925/209-4316. \$30. mark@thegogame.com, www.thegogame.com.*

WINTER SOLDIER HEARINGS Veterans from Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan publicly share their experiences of war. *1-5pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445.*

GREEN SHOW & HOME PRODUCTS EXPO (See Friday.)

SUMMER CAMP FAIR (See Friday.)

VAGINAL RESOURCE? (See Thursday, 2/26.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)
Bill Cosby Bass Concert Hall

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Beowulf: The IMAX Experience @ IMAX Theatre, 9:30pm
The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T @ Alamo Drafthouse South, noon
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Delta Spirit Emo's
8088 Record Collective CD Release The Parlor
Diagonals CD Release The Independent at 501 Studios
Judy Collins One World Theatre
No Idea Festival 2009 The Blue Theater

SUNDAY 01

BOB THE BUILDER LIVE Bob takes his working-class antics and some friends to the stage to build a recycling center and wind farm. Now if only those monsters will leave him alone to finish his task. *3 & 7pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$17-24. www.thelongcenter.org.*

CHASE THEM CHUBS Just to ensure that the chubs stay chub, RCCC 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.*

CLEAN THE COLORADO Bring your own boat (or use one of theirs), lunch, and protective gear (hats, pants, etc.), and help clean up a 10-mile stretch of river. Pre-registration is required. *9am-4pm. McKinney Roughs Nature Park, 1884 Hwy. 71 W., Cedar Creek, 512/303-5073. outdoorprograms@lcra.org.*

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING Join in the discussion, and help unite interests toward a common goal. *2-5pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 799-5117. sylvia.benini@gmail.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.*

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Discuss how to get the best out of your neighborhood. *10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.*

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4 to 10 with an early introduction to improv

comedy. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5 (free for babies). www.flyingtheatermachine.com.*

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

KITE FESTIVAL A full day of kite demonstrations, contests, and more awaits you. For those of you who already have your own kite to show off, there will be plenty of competitive opportunities to prove that it's the highest, steadiest, strongest, and/or most unusual on the field. And for the rest of you kiteless souls out there, don't worry: You can learn to make your very own flying marvel in one of today's many hands-on workshops. Free parking and shuttles at the Downtown State Parking Lot (1604 E. Colorado) or the Toney Burger Activity Center (3200 Jones). *10am-5pm. Zilker Park Kite Festival, Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 448-5483. Free. www.zilkerkitefestival.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.*

LET'S GO OUTSIDE with the South Austin Family Nature Club. Bring water and snack, and start walking with other nature-loving families. *2pm. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy., 243-1643. \$4 (kids free).*

LOBBY DAY TRAINING The best way to affect political change is face-to-face. And we need your best gay face. For one day, every two years, Equality Texas gathers the righteous to lobby the Lege. Check ET's site for info on the training, reception, and activities of the big day itself. *Mon., March 2. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 474-5475. www.equalitytexas.org.*

PETCASSO BENEFIT for the Animal Trustees of Austin has art up for auction made by the same canines that work the runway. Dinner and music keep you and the pets fueled for bidding. *6pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 371-1965. \$125. www.petcassoastin.org.*

PRIME TIMERS LIKE FINE WINE Mature gay men meet monthly. Hellllllloooooo, daddy. *2pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. Free.*

STATE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL FORUM Deece Eckstein, who served as Gov. Ann Richards' senior policy adviser, talks about the ins and outs of the Legislature and how you can get your voice heard. *4pm. First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca, 478-5684. Free. www.davidhasissues.com.*

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

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY OPEN HOUSE at the Republic of Texas Museum means no charge to the regular and new exhibits. *Sun.-Mon., March 1-2. Republic of Texas Museum, 510 E. Anderson, 339-1997. Free. www.shop.drtnmuseum.org.*

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM David Davenport of the Capital Area Food Bank discusses the politics of hunger in America. *Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

CAPITAL CONFECTIONERS SUGAR ART SHOW (See Saturday.)

CELEBRATE TEXAS (See Saturday.)

GREEN SHOW & HOME PRODUCTS EXPO (See Friday.)

SUMMER CAMP FAIR (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
School Play @ Arbor, 2pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Pretenders Stubb's
Tosca String Quartet Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz
Willie Nelson, Guy Clark, Michael Martin Murphey, Allen Shamblin Paramount Theatre



MONDAY 02

BUSINESS STARTUP ORIENTATION

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

CENSUS CHANGES PANEL Various councils and organizations join the public in discussing how the census changes will affect the Austin community. 9am. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220. Free. vsarria@austinsd.org.

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

EQUALITY TEXAS LOBBY DAY See Sunday for training info.

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

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

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY Texas Exes, little exes, and people who just like to show their Longhorn or Lone Star pride are welcome to live music, appetizers, door prizes, and auctions. The small horns will be entertained by the UT mascot, face painting, and more. Proceeds go to the Exes' scholarship fund. 3pm. Scholz Garten, 1700 San Jacinto. \$12 (\$10, members). www.texasexes.org/AustinEvents.

CAPITAL CONFECTIONERS SUGAR ART SHOW
(SEE SATURDAY)

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY OPEN HOUSE
(See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Death of a Cyclist @ Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm

Urgh! A Music War @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

Written On the Wind @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Mysterious Ways Antone's

TUESDAY 03

BIRDING TUESDAYS means two hours of trail-walking and bird-watching with Stan VanSandt of the Travis Audubon Society leading the way. Go online for specific directions to the meeting point, bring your binoculars, and don't forget your love of gawking at birds. 9am. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 300-BIRD. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

DEALING WITH DYSLEXIA Learn the first steps to take in raising and educating a child with dyslexia. 6:30pm. Rawson-Saunders School, 2600 Exposition, 476-8382. Free. www.rawson-saunders.org.

GIG FOR GOD Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said "anything." *Tuesdays*, 6-7:30pm. Romeo's, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090.

INTO THE WILD features pics and videos from Sierra Club outings past. Group leaders will be on hand to discuss future treks and how you can be a part of them. 7pm. Texas State Teachers Association, 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

LIVING WITH PRIDE Come throw down your opinions at this panel on the intersection between religion and sexuality. 6pm. UT African-American Culture Room (4.110).

NOT JUST FOR LUSHES Time for another installment of your favorite first Tuesday ladies night, LuSHE, hooked up with cheap drinks and hot lady 'tenders by the eyeful. Race you to the ceiling on that stripper pole. 9pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Close to Home @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
Lifeforce @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Scarcity of Tanks Club 1808
Mi Ami Mohawk

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

gayplace

LEGE-ITIMATE REASONS Hot on the heels of a big week for queer viz (wow, Sean Penn; wow, Dustin Lance Black; thank you – no really) is as good a time as any to stoke the flames of flaming activism. Yup, it's meet-your-Legislature time in Austin, and **Equality Texas** is gearing up for a busy season. How fitting that Equality Texas Lobby Day falls on Texas Independence Day. The great not-yet-state

of Texas had its "Remember the Alamo!" Likewise, the great, not-yet-equal state of queers has its "Remember Proposition 8!" So stop complaining, stop yakking, pull up those hose and/or tighten that full Windsor (only you can determine which option feels truest), and get out there, and look 'em in the eye, give 'em a big juicy smooch, and lobby your ass off. See Sunday Community Listings.

Send gay bits to
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WEDNESDAY 04

ADULT BEGINNERS COMPUTER CLINIC

features one-on-one help with everything from typing and mousing to using Microsoft Word, e-mail, and the Internet. No registration required. *Wednesdays, 5:30pm; Thursdays, 9:30am. Austin Free-Net Computer Lab, DeWitty Center, 2209 Rosewood, 236-8225. Free. www.austinfreenet.org.*

BUDGET TRAVELING IN LATIN AMERICA Learn to bust through international borders without breaking the bank. 7-8:30pm. *REI, 601 N. Lamar, 444-2294. Free. www.hiaustin.org.*

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET This growers-only market features fresh food, chef demos, kids activities, live music, and more every week, rain or shine. *Wednesdays, 3-7pm. The Triangle, 46th Street, between Guadalupe and Lamar. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

★ **MJ TORRANCE** The big room in the back gets a little warmer as it fills with ladies. 6pm. *Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825. mj@emmajaneproductions.com, www.emmajaneproductions.com.*

MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP Be a part of the neighborhood planning process, and help set goals and make recommendations for traffic and other car-related problems. The city can't work with the community if the community doesn't show up. 6:30pm. *Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.*

★ **Q'S COFFEE NIGHT** Come meet the boys who love boys who love caffeine. *Wednesdays, 7pm. Little City, 916 Congress, 420-8557. www.qboyz.org.*

★ **SAFEPLACE FIELD DAY** is coming, and it's time to sign up and help end domestic violence. Start building a relay team for this off-the-wall charity event while you imbibe and soak in the tunes of DJ Johnny Bravo. 5-9pm. *Blu Cafe, 360 Nueces St., 431-4888. Free. www.safeplace.org.*

YOGA IN THE PARK Austin Parks Foundation, Downtown Austin Alliance, and Yoga Yoga unite to offer free yoga instruction every week. *Wednesdays, noon. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 380-9800. Free. www.yogayoga.com.*

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Days and Clouds @ St. John Library, 6:30pm

Plague Town @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

The Legend of Billie Jean @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

Where Is Leili? @ CMA Auditorium A2.320 (on the UT campus), 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Derek Trucks La Zona Rosa

Ben Sollee Stubb's

| METRORAIL OPEN HOUSE (SEE FRIDAY)

THURSDAY 05

ARCHITECTURE AT THE UMLAUF

Nosh on some light hors d'oeuvres before feeding your brain with a lecture touching on time, rhythm, and circumstance and how they inform design. 7pm. *Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee, 992-3574. \$5 (free, members). scott@aveone.com.*

★ **ART: CULINART** Fine cocktails delight while revellers bid on fine art in both live and silent auctions, not to mention culinary masterpieces, all to benefit the Wright House Wellness Center. 6-10pm. *Eter-Harbin Alumni Center, 2110 San Jacinto, 467-0088. www.thewrighthouse.org.*

BIG KID BIRTHDAY BASH Raise funds for Theatre Action Project, and enjoy all those activities usually set aside for the little ones. Party games, ring toss (for wine), magicians, fortune tellers, stilt walkers, auctions, and musical improvisation all included. 7-10pm. *Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 442-8773. \$35. www.theatreactionproject.org.*

CAPITAL CITY YOUNG DEMOCRATS MEETING Join this monthly meeting of the young and blue. 6pm. *Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 905-4493. www.traviscountytax.org.*

★ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING** Speak now, and help determine Austin's funding priorities for the 2009 fiscal year. Familiarize yourself with the current plan by visiting www.cityofaustin.org/housing/conplan_09-14.htm. 6pm. *Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.*

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. *From the river, south on South Congress. Free.*

★ **LOBBY DAY TRAINING** Planned Parenthood wants to make sure our elected officials know about preventative health care and education. They need your help. Take one of these 1½-hour-long training sessions and volunteer on Lobby Day, March 12. *Thu., March 5, 10am & 6pm; Sat., March 7, 11am. Planned Parenthood, 201 E. Ben White. www.plannedparenthood.org/ppaustin.*

★ **OUTLAW'S TEXAS GAY AGENDA** OUTLaw Spring Symposium: The Texas Gay Agenda has got your whole day covered for free. With speakers such as Glen Maxey, Paul Scott, Anne Wynne, Phyllis Frye, Dean Larry Sager, Karen Landolt, Vice President Gregory Vincent, Jesse Garcia, and Karen Langsley, you know it's gonna be good. The times get rolling after with a happy hour at São Paulo's and an after-party at Charlie's. 1pm. *Eidman Courtroom at the UT School of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton St. www.utexas.edu/law/orgs/outlaw/conference.*

PEACE CORPS GET TOGETHER Join in on this monthly get-together for former and future Peace Corps volunteers and the Corps-curious. 5:30-8:30pm. *Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197. Free. www.hotpca.org.*

PROJECT PRINCESS FUNDRAISER Curtis Grimes and Bri Bagwell bring their songs and you bring your wallet to help disadvantaged girls experience the magic of senior prom. 10pm-1am. *Buffalo Billiards, 201 E. Sixth, 479-7665. \$10. www.projectprincess.org.*

UNDERSTANDING FIBROMYALGIA Get information on fibromyalgia's causes, effects, and remedies. 6:30pm. *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 892-3366. Free. www.naturalhealthaustin.com.*

ADULT BEGINNERS COMPUTER CLINIC (See Wednesday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

A Powerful Noise @ Metropolitan, 7pm

Straight @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Kool Keith Mohawk

Týr, Alestrom, Suidakra, Ruins of Honor Red 7

Kate X Messer or Ash Bell (Gay Place):

gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

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

James Renovitch (everything else):

calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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

now ...

HELPING HANDS CENTER needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.*

PETFINDER.COM Several Austin-area shelters post to this website, which has thousands of homeless animals available for adoption, complete with photos, medical histories, personality descriptions, and more. Just type in what kind of pet you're looking for, including size, age, and sex, and up pop dozens of irresistible animals waiting for you to take them home.

ESTATE-PLANNING & MEDICAID WORKSHOPS The Greening Law Firm offers introductions to everything from living trusts to retirement funds to Medicaid throughout the year, and most of them are free to the public. Go online or call for a schedule of classes and their locations. 476-0888. www.greeninglawfirm.com.

★ **COMMUNITY TAX PREPARATION** Don't have the money for a professional tax service but still unsure about adding everything up correctly? If your income is less than \$25,000 for an individual or \$50,000 for a family of two to four people, then you're likely eligible. Call 211 or go to www.communitytaxcenters.org for a complete list of criteria, locations, and hours, as well as information about which forms to bring.

★ **AQUATIC SCIENCE ADVENTURE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP** Get your 9- to 15-year-old to write a one-page essay on why he or she wants to attend Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center's camp, and he or she might just end up attending for free. The deadline for essays is April 3. www.bseacd.org/scholarship_program.htm.

PUBLIC INPUT ON ZERO WASTE Austin wants to reduce the amount of landfill-bound waste by 90% by 2040. The city will need your help. Go to www.austinrecycles.com, and give your two cents on the city's attempts to curb garbage.

TALK TIME features conversation practice for English-language learners hoping to fine-tune their skills in a nonthreatening atmosphere. Call or go online for a schedule of times and locations. 974-7529. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

FINANCIAL COACHING Mondays through Saturdays, individuals earning less than \$25,000 and families earning less than \$50,000 can get free, one-on-one help reducing debt, fixing credit, and elucidating other money matters. *Foundation Communities, 3036 S. First #200, 247-8613. katie.hazekamp@foundcom.org, www.foundcom.org.*

COOKING TEACHERS NEEDED SafePlace prepares individuals for independent living. This refuge for women in violent households needs volunteers to prepare and deliver a meal for their clients. Call or e-mail for specific openings and to sign up. *SafePlace, 356-1567. malonzo@safeplace.org, www.safeplace.org.*

★ **PROTECT THE FAMILY** Bad things can happen when visas run out: Loved ones get deported; families get torn apart. Atticus Circle wants that to change. Find out more about the Uniting American Families Act of 2009 and all of the bills of interest to the gays. www.atticuscircle.wordpress.com.

★ **AGLCC MEMBERSHIP** So much for so little: Your business listing on the premier Austin LGBT site (garnering 60,000 page views per month), a quarterly glossy publication, and a slew of in-person networking opportunities, including the big daddy of them all: Pride. 474-4422. \$125 per year. membership@aglcc.org, www.aglcc.org.

DONATION REQUEST FOR ARCH Serving 400 homeless a day, the soap desk at the ARCH is in need of all manner of toiletries (feminine-hygiene products, disposable razors, etc.), magazines, activity books (crosswords, etc.), gift cards, and phone cards. Check the website or call for specific items. *ARCH, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.*

RESTAURANT WEEK Go online for a complete list of restaurants that will be offering \$25 and \$35 three-course prix fixe meals. Proceeds go to the Capital Area Food Bank. *Sun.-Wed., March 1-4 & 8-11. www.restaurantweekaustin.com.*

★ **VISIBLE: A FEMMETHOLOGY** Kinda like a two-volume *Butch Is a Noun* but backward and in heels. For femmes or for understanding them. Featuring work by Austin's own Cherry Poppins. Get 28% off February preorders of both volumes when purchasing online. *Discount expires Sat., Feb. 28. maria@homofactuspress.com, www.homofactuspress.com.*

& later

★ **AVENUE Q** What's it about? Well, remember when you were a kid and all those naughty, naughty things you used to do with your dolls and puppets? Like that but onstage. Sort of. Tix on sale now through Texas Box Office outlets including H-E-B. *Wed.-Sun., April 15-19. Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. \$19.50. www.avenueq.com, www.broadwayacrossamerica.com.*

CANCER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION is for cancer survivors and their loved ones who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. Apply online at www.thecancerconnection.org. *Fri., March 6, 6-9pm; Sat., March 7, 9am-4pm. 342-0233. \$25 (scholarships available).*

★ **CHILDREN'S THEATRE SPRING BREAK CAMP** Kids ages 5 to 12 should enroll now for Theatre Variety Camp (9am-2pm, \$175) or Page to Stage Camp (2-6pm, \$75). Actually, you should probably get your parents to do that for you. Whichever camp you choose – you can choose both, however – it will be a fun and educational week that will make school look decidedly more lame. *March 16-20. Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 927-6633. www.austinchildrenstheater.org.*

★ **FORE YOU!** The Executive Women's Golf Association isn't just putting around. This daylong golf fair is to benefit the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Austin. Register now! *Sat., March 7. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 800/844-9639 x8405. www.ewga-austin.com.*

★ **FRIENDS FEST** So many friends, so little room in that tent. Details coming soon. (Hint: Every week you wait, the price goes up. Check the Web for deets.) *Thu.-Sun., April 16-19. Recreation Plantation, 3550 Pursley Rd., Dripping Springs, 512/894-0567. www.friendsfest.com, www.myspace.com/friendsfest.*

★ **GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT** The HRC Gala may not be until March, but that doesn't mean you can wait until then to make a plan. Go online now to order tickets or to look into being a sponsor. *Sat., March 28. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 485-5999. www.hrcaustin.org.*

IT'S MY PARK DAY Get in on this day of park appreciation by joining or leading a park cleanup project. Go online for a list of current cleanup sites, or register to start your own with a group of friends or neighbors. *Sat., March 7. 477-1566. www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html.*

METRORAIL AMBASSADORS NEEDED

This new MetroRail system is going to be throwing commuters for a loop. Wanna help them out? E-mail to sign up before getting some training and showing newbies just how the new trains work. You'll be a hero for a day. *March 28-April 10. 294-7446. metrorail.ambassador@gmail.com.*

PHOTOVOLTAIC DESIGN & INSTALLATION WORKSHOP No prior experience is needed for this 40-hour, hands-on workshop that will jump-start your goal of being a solar-energy professional. Course materials and lunch are included. By the end you'll know everything from electrical basics to system sizing and design. *Mon.-Fri., March 16-20. Electrical Training Center, 4000 Caven, 751-7716. \$1095. nora.ureste@imagesolar.com, www.imagesolarworkshop.eventbrite.com.*

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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:

sports

BY MARK FAGAN listings

playing through

BY THOMAS HACKETT

This will probably be the one time this season I write about the Texas Longhorns men's basketball team. It's

nothing personal. It's just that we can safely predict how the rest of the season will play out.

The Longhorns have struggled this season. When the No. 2 Oklahoma Sooners rolled into a sold-out Erwin Center last Saturday, Texas was 17-8 overall, 6-5 in the conference. They'd lost four of their last six games, including an 81-66 embarrassment in College Station. One more loss at this point in the season and they could have kissed the postseason goodbye. But thanks to a brilliant second half from senior **A.J. Abrams** – and also to OU's standout **Blake Griffin** getting sidelined for the night with a concussion – the Longhorns came away with what felt like a season-saving win, 73-68. With that, they should get their groove back. Fueled by the speedy **Dogus Balbay**, from Istanbul, Turkey, they'll manage to slip into the NCAA tournament, their 11th straight appearance under coach **Rick Barnes**. But they won't get past the second round. Sure, Abrams can shoot the lights out from beyond the arc – in one seven-minute stretch against OU, he racked up 16 straight points – and you can bank on

Damion James getting 10-plus rebounds per game. But that won't be enough for Texas to make a serious run, not without a more tenacious defense, not without a scoring point guard capable of spreading the floor.

Now, making it to the big dance ain't bad. But just imagine if **Kevin Durant** and **D.J. Augustin** had stuck around for what would have been only their junior years. Imagine Augustin and Abrams in the backcourt, **Gary Johnson** and James tearing down the boards



A.J. Abrams

COURTESY OF UT

and Durant hauling in 30-plus points a game. Show me a better starting five, and I'll show you an NBA lineup.

But I digress into idle fantasy. Durant and Augustin played their cards exactly right. Forget all the sentimental claptrap about staying in college and getting an education. Anybody who can make a living in the NBA should, just as soon as he is able, because it's either the university cashing in on his talent or himself.

The only problem: What you end up with is a ghost of a team. There's the team on the court and the team that might have been. If absence is the highest form of presence, K.D. and D.J. haven't left the building.

And yet, go figure, the Longhorns somehow had a better run without Durant (averaging 26 points a game – fourth best in the league – with

the Oklahoma City Thunder) than they did with him. They averaged 6 fewer points a game yet won six more games. As it turns out, Augustin (averaging 12 points a game with the Charlotte Bobcats) has been a more disorienting loss. Statistically, nothing really leaps out at you this year except more turnovers. But stats don't account for what a levelheaded leader like Augustin provides a team. It's that leadership, that composure and confidence the Longhorns have been sorely missing.

THE MAIN EVENT

XFC TEXAS BATTLEGROUND This Xtreme Fight Championship main event will feature Jeff “the Snowman” Monson and Darrill “the Mighty Monarch” Scoonover with live music from Dirty Wormz at 7pm, and the fighting begins at 8pm. Fri., Feb. 27, 8pm (6:30pm doors). Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln. \$5 and up (free parking). www.xfcfights.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **AUSTIN AZTEX** will be hosting three preseason exhibition games against some of the strongest talent that Major League Soccer has to offer. See “Soccer Watch,” below, for more. Vs. New England Revolution: Sat., Feb. 28. Vs. Houston Dynamo: Sat., March 7. Vs. Columbus Crew: Sat., March 14. Nelson Field, 7400 Berkman. www.austinztex.com.

AUSTIN TOROS are our own professional b-ball team and San Antonio Spurs affiliate playing in the heart of Downtown. Vs. Albuquerque: Thu., 26, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS The 2008 championship team, the Hotrod Honeys, return with the Hell Marys, the Honky Tonk Heartbreakers, and the Hustlers all lacing them up on the same night. Live music provided by Amplified Heat. Sun., March 1, 6:30pm (doors). Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann. www.txrollergirls.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Football Spring practice: Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, 9am. Denius Fields, 26th & Red River. Free. **Softball** Vs. Louisiana-Monroe: Thu., Feb. 26, 5 & 7pm (doubleheader). McCombs Field, 2001 Comal. **Women's Tennis** Vs. Florida International: Fri., Feb. 27, 1:30pm. Vs. South Florida: Sun., March 1, noon. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. **Baseball** Vs. Penn State: Fri., Feb. 27, 3pm; Sat., Feb. 28, 12:30 & 3:30pm (doubleheader); Sun., March 1, 1pm. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. **Women's Golf** Vs. Texas State: Sat., Feb. 28, all day. UT Golf Club, 2200 University Club Dr. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Baylor: Sat., Feb. 28, 2pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Baylor: Mon., March 2, 8pm. Erwin Center. **Men's Tennis** Vs. Vanderbilt: Tue., March 3, 5pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center, 1701 Trinity. www.texasports.com.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Langston University: Sat., Feb. 28, 7pm. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Langston University: Sat., Feb. 28, 5pm.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Golf St. Edward's Invitational: Mon.-Tue., March 2-3, all day. **Softball** Vs. Concordia: Tue., March 3, 1 & 3pm (doubleheader). www.southwesternpirates.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Lincoln: Thu., Feb. 26, 8pm. Vs. Newman: Sat., Feb. 28, 4:30pm. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Lincoln: Thu., Feb. 26, 5:30pm. Vs. Newman: Sat., Feb. 28, 2pm. **Baseball** Vs. UT-Permian Basin: Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, noon. **Men's Tennis** Vs. Laredo College: Sat., Feb. 28, noon. **Women's Tennis** Vs. Laredo College: Sat., Feb. 28, 9am. **Men's and Women's Golf** St. Edward's Invitational: Mon.-Tue., March 2-3. www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. UT-Dallas: Fri., Feb. 27, 1pm; Sat., Feb. 28, noon. Vs. DeSales University: Mon., March 2, 7pm. Vs. Trinity University: Tue., March 3, 2pm. athletics.concordia.edu.

TEXAS STATE Softball Vs. McNeese St.: Sat., Feb. 28, 1 & 3pm; Sun., March 1, noon. Vs. UT: Tue., March 3, 7pm. Bobcat Softball Stadium, San Marcos. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Northwestern State: Sat., Feb. 28, 4pm. Vs. UTSA: Wed., March 4, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum. **Baseball** Vs. UT: Tue., March 3, 6pm. Bobcat Baseball Stadium. www.txstatebobcats.com.

UIL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SWIMMING AND DIVING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS See website for bracket info. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, 8am. Jamail Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. \$10 (adult), \$5 (student), \$25 (all tourney), \$20 (coach all tourney). www.uil.utexas.edu.

WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS See website for bracket info. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, 7:30am. AISD Delco Center, 4601 Pecan Brook Dr. \$10 (adult), \$5 (student), \$25 (all tourney), \$20 (coach all tourney). www.uil.utexas.edu.

GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS See website for bracket info. Thu.-Sat., March 5-7, 8:30am. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$12 (\$75, all tourney). www.uil.utexas.edu.

RECREATION & FITNESS

MEDICINE BALL TRAINING BOOT CAMP The Dynamax medicine ball is used in every professional sport in America, including the NFL, MLB, MLS, NHL, and NBA; sign up for this class, and get your very own and learn how to use it. Sat., Feb. 28, 2pm. Austin High field, 750-9584. \$66 (includes Dynamax medicine ball). www.urbananimalnation.com.

CHAMPIONSHIP HEARTS FOUNDATION YOUNG ATHLETE HEART SCREENING Students ages 14-18 can get their hearts screened for free (with a signed parental waiver available on the website). Sat., Feb. 28, 8am-noon. Heart Hospital of Austin, 3801 N. Lamar, 340-7313. Free (donations accepted). www.championshipheartsfoundation.org.

FITCAMPS4CHICKS BOOT CAMP is an all women's boot camp which will feature fitness routines and exercises including strength training, cardio intervals, and functional training, plus other less conventional activities. March 2-27: Mon., Wed., Fri., 6am. Various parks and locations in North Central Austin. \$160. www.fitcamps4chicks.com.

FIG-A-PALOOZA Kids can join in on the hunting fun. Sponsored by the American Deer & Wildlife Alliance, this promises to be a fun and affordable hunting experience for young'uns in Central Texas. Sat., Feb. 28. DB Ranch, 331-8607. \$50 per youth. www.deerwildlifealliance.org.

NINE CORE VALUES AWARDS Hosted by Evan Smith of Texas Monthly, this event will honor nine Austin leaders who exemplify each of the First Tee of Austin's nine core values. Tue., March 3. Four Seasons, 732-0380. \$75. www.firstteeaustin.org/9corevalues.

DRIVE, CHIP, AND PUTT TO EMPOWER DEAF ADULTS Hosted by the Vaughn House, this 18-hole golf tourney will raise funds for its programs that help the deaf and multidisabled. Wed., March 4. ShadowGlen Golf Club, 12801 Lexington, Manor, 512/278-1304. www.vaughnhouse.org.

RUNS, WALKS, RIDES

ARA-MOE'S BETTER HALF MARATHON Named after San Marcos running guru and race director Dr. Moe Johnson, the ARA-MBHM is known for its challenging and scenic course and often colorful race management. Hosted by the Austin Radiological Assoc. Sun., March 1, 7am. Tanger Outlet Center, San Marcos, 512/396-2584. www.sanmarcosrunners.org/bmh/index.html.

AUSTIN RUNNERS CLUB DAISY 5K Thirty-two years and running (pun intended). Benefiting Marathon Kids. Sat., Feb. 28, 8am. East Fifth, just two blocks east of I-35. www.austinrunners.org.

CRITICAL MASS Bicyclists have been “subverting the paradigm” in Austin since October '93 with this monthly ride celebrating two-wheeled transportation. Let's keep it civil, everybody. Held on the last Friday of each month. Fri., Feb. 27, 5pm. Riders meet at the UT West Mall (Guadalupe between 22nd & 23rd). www.critical-mass.info/austin.html.

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

BY NICK BARBARO soccer watch

Aztex nation, unite! The time has come at last; your Austin Aztex USL-1 squad plays its first-ever game this Saturday, hosting the **New England Revolution**, MLS Cup finalists three of the past four years and the first Major League Soccer team to visit Austin since ... well, let's make that the **trivia question of the week**. Find me at La Palapa (see below), and I'll buy you a drink.

Aztex spokesman Kyle Dalton says the teams scrimmaged Wednesday morning, and “people are going to be impressed” with the quality the Aztex put on the field. The roster is still coming together, but this week at least, you can catch some of the fan favorites and local products who were with the Aztex U-23 squad last year, including **Beto Papandrea**, **Josh Alcala**, **Willy “Speed” Guadarrama**, and **Zach Pope**, all vying to join the pro roster for this year. 7:30pm Saturday, Feb. 28, at Nelson Field (next to Reagan High, off U.S. 290 and Cameron Road). \$20 and \$30; see www.austinztex.com to order. Some supporters are meeting pregame at **La Palapa**, across the parking lot from the stadium, starting at 5pm. Next up: Houston Dynamo March 7, Columbus Crew March 14.

The **Houston Dynamo** gave up an 82nd-minute goal, to settle for a 1-1 draw with Mexico's Atlante in the first leg of their **CONCACAF Champions League** quarterfinal Tuesday night. The return leg is Tuesday, March 3, in Cancún (9pm on FSC), four days before the Dynamo play in Austin.



arts listings

An Ideal Husband

Rollins Studio Theatre at the Long Center, through March 1

Running time: 2 hr, 30 min



Since the early Eighties, Austin Shakespeare has dedicated itself to producing the works of the greatest of all writers, but in recent years, the company has also begun to stage classic plays

by other writers. This latest Actors' Equity offering, of Oscar Wilde's late-19th century comic treatise on public and private truth, co-produced with the UT Department of Theatre & Dance, is the first non-Shakespearean effort I've seen from the company, and it consistently strives for the highest standard of professionalism.

Who wouldn't want an ideal husband? Or an ideal wife? Who would wish for flaws when perfection was available? Lady Gertrude Chiltern sees her husband, Robert, as a perfect man, but all of us know that none of us is perfect, and neither is Sir Robert. As a young man, someone tempted Chiltern to a professional indiscretion, an indiscretion upon which he built both his fortune and his honorable reputation, and that indiscretion has come back to haunt him in the person of a Mrs. Cheveley. But as with all good tales, Cheveley has committed at least one indiscretion of her own, the key to which is held by Chiltern's exceedingly conceited yet charming friend, Lord Goring. And that's all the plot you'll get from me.

From the moment I entered the Rollins Studio Theatre at the Long Center, I was inundated with warmth and wealth, with sumptuous, flowery parlors and rich, polished studies. Set designer Michelle Ney and lighting designer Jason Amato also cleverly combine huge swaths of fabric and multicolored light above the stage to completely transform the look and feel of the space. But in a design that is outstand-

ing in every conceivable way, Abbey Graf's exquisite costumes stand out. While the men, in sharp tuxes and polished leather, embody the very definition of the word "dapper," the women in the late 19th century were walking, talking works of art: huge hats decorated with flowers and feathers, high waists and long skirts, huge amounts of fabric and trim, ribbons and bows bustling out every which way – eye candy of the sweetest kind. The show is almost worth seeing just for the costumes.

Fortunately, there's more than the design to recommend. The actors as a group savor Wilde's witty language, but two of them in particular impress. While he mugs like mad during one scene in the first act, Mark Scheibmeir in the role of Sir Robert eventually settles down and completely convinces as a man attempting to face an extreme moral dilemma with dignity. Most delightful was Marlane Barnes as Chiltern's precocious sister, Mabel, the only performer who brought consistent energy, focus, and tempo to every scene in which she appeared. Director Ann Ciccolella obviously has brought high standards to the helm of Austin Shakespeare. While I would have preferred a more varied tempo throughout, to see considerably less distracting movement in the first act of the show, and, generally speaking, to see the actors more grounded as a group, it's difficult to imagine a better looking show staged anywhere in Austin this year.

– Barry Pineo

theatre

OPENING

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.

BOMBS IN YOUR MOUTH This is the world premiere of Corey Patrick's dark comedy about a long-estranged brother and 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 their *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.

CONTENT LOVE KNOWLES' CRIMINAL CABARET "Left-handed love songs and murderous melodies" from the keyboardist and her friends invigorate this initial offering – "Wrecked on the Reef" – of the new series of intimate performances at the Vortex. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, 10:15pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. Free. www.vortexrep.org.

CLOSING

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 Rd., Wimberley, 512/847-0575. \$15. www.wimberleyplayers.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. (See review, at left) Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. \$10-32. www.austinsakespeare.org.

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. (See review, p.72.) Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 745-2636. \$15 (\$12, students, children). www.weirdcitytheatre.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.

REVENGE OF THE SPACE PANDAS Il Teatro Nostro's wacky sci-fi send-up (subtitled *Binky Rudich and the Two-Speed Clock*) returns for a limited engagement at a venue we didn't think was still hosting events. We suspect a stream of malicious neutrinos from the Goolagong system is responsible for the lateness of this listing. Through March 1. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. United States Art Authority, 512 W. 29th, 480-9562. \$10 (\$7, students; \$5, ages 11 and younger). www.ilteatronostro.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.

ONGOING

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. Through March 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. ceasarbnice@yahoo.com.

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.

WARPSTAR SEXYSQUAD It's a sci-fi upheaval of intergalactic proportions, brought to you by those Yellowtape Construction folks who created *I Love My Dead Gay Son: The Musical!* a few years back, 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. Through March 7. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 466-5225. \$15 (\$10, students; \$5 discount for anyone wearing "a totally excellent sci-fi costume"). www.yellowtape.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 Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.

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. 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; three copies of your 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.

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 13 issue is Monday, March 2.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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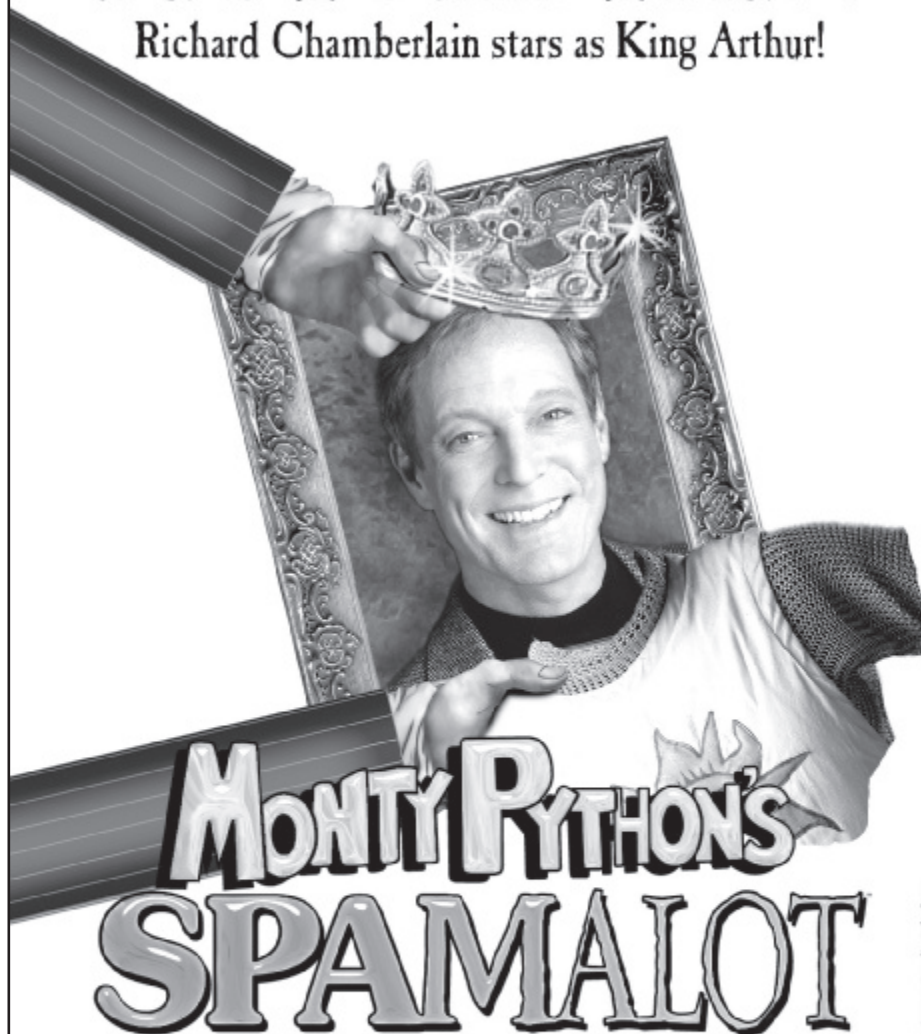
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IT'S DELOVELY!

Sherlock Holmes

Dougherty Arts Center Theatre, through March 1
Running time: 2 hr, 30 min



Right after taking a light dose of cocaine and before wading into a murderous setup, Sherlock Holmes opines to his dear chum Dr. Watson that the only reason he does what he does is

“to escape the dreariness of commonplace.” And that’s precisely what has brought people to the legendary detective for more than a century: the intrigue, the diabolical plots, the nifty escapes, and Holmes’ ability to deduce the most difficult of cases. It’s fantasy, and we’ve loved, paid tribute to, and retold Holmes’ tales for generations.

Weird City Theatre resurrects William Gillette’s legendary production of *Sherlock Holmes*, a play that helped propel the character to the fame he now holds. The script highlights the rivalry between Holmes and repudiated archnemesis Professor Moriarty. A girl attempting to extort revenge on the man that led her sister to suicide is herself being extorted by a couple of cons. When Holmes begins to meddle in the third-rate criminals’ plans, they call Moriarty, and the big-picture chess match comes into play.

Artistic Director John Carroll is the lead in Patti Neff-Tiven’s production, and he brings a gravitas to the stage true to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s original character. While most conceptions portray Holmes as a cerebral sort replete with deerstalker hat and magnifying glass, Carroll dominates any scene he’s in. His Holmes speaks boldly and directly, is quick off the boil; he’s threatening and incredibly contemptuous, a know-it-all, a man riding just in front of a wave of personal turmoil.

Indeed, Carroll’s Holmes seems to be roughly 7,000 steps ahead of the incompetent rogues trying to do him in. Moriarty is often portrayed as a criminal mastermind – “the Napoleon of Crime,” according to the detective – but John Smith’s portrayal makes the character closer to a young and impetuous Mafia boss who growls at his underlings.

Now if anyone was going to kill Holmes (again, considering he first did it in Doyle’s “The Adventure of the Final Problem,” only for that to be rescinded), it’s Moriarty. But despite several guns being pulled on his person, despite being lured into a dark gas chamber full of foes ready to kill him, there’s never any real threat to Holmes. Surely part of this is his arrogance. But pit a detective of near-supernatural deductive capabilities against a crew of hapless cronies, and, well, the result is never much in doubt.

Just as *Merry Wives of Windsor* makes the most of the caricature of Falstaff, so *Holmes* the play accentuates the greatest of the detective’s abilities, making him a hyperobservant know-it-all bordering on a magician. But that’s what the crime story gives us: a whiff of reality enshrouded with mystery, the hint of violence and danger, the knowledge that good triumphs over evil. It’s elementary, after all.

– Avimaan Syam

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be *you* up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they’ve slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

Mary Mack The folk humorist with the big eyes and quirky charm steps out of all those TVs and radios and onto the Cap City stage this weekend, after legal eagle laugh-meister John Ramsey’s had his way with you. *March 3-7. Tue.-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. 26-28. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This week: The unstoppable **Parallelogramphonograph** is fabulous but not fable-less while improvising ancient Germanic cautionary tales. *Grimm Shot!* Also, **Level 5**. *Thu., 8pm.* Two new troupes: **Golden Eagle** and **Wicked City**. *Thu., 10pm.* Holy cow, it’s the **Montreal Comedy Fest Showcase!** *Fri., 8pm.* **Punchline** The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues. *Fri., 10pm.* **Stool Pigeon** features that dreamy **Emily Crawford** 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 shambling horrors of **Midnight Society**. *Sat., 10pm.*

ESTHER’S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.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 “We!”) 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.

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.thevelveetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week’s host: **John “Jack Gallows” Derrick**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Tom Hester Comedy’s twisted storyteller returns to the Cheese Palace to spin some funky yarns. **Bob Khosravi** and **John Derrick** open. *Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28, 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.

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Well, of course – and maestro Les McGehee and his talented friends bring it in full force every Saturday night to this newest little coffeehouse in the 78704. *Saturday, 7pm. Cafe 04, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

LAST GAS COMEDY Stand-up comedy every Saturday. *Sat., Feb. 28, 9pm. Homer’s Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free.* www.lastgascomedy.com.

BILL COSBY is a very funny fellow, right, and His Wonderfulness will be sweating the boards at the newly revamped Bass this weekend. (See “Bill Cosby,” p.37, for more.) *Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30 & 9pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 471-1444. www.billcosby.com.*

LILY TOMLIN? No, dash it all, this show’s already sold out. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. www.austintheatre.org.*

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.*

AUSTIN’S NEXT TOP IMPROVISER Improvisers compete in challenges to win points, get boosts, be the star of their own show, and earn the title of Austin’s Next Top Improviser. You, the audience, reap the rewards of much laughter. *Fri., Feb. 27, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.gnaptheater.org/anti.html.*

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: **Parallelogramphonograph** and the crunk punk funk of **Junk**. *Sat., Feb. 28, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

dance

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.

WOMEN: VOICES & WHISPERS: CROSSING BOUNDARIES, CULTURES, AND GENERATIONS Austin Dance India presents Anuradha Naimpally, Toni Bravo, and Sharon Marroquin in a cross-generational and cross-cultural dance performance, featuring an ensemble of 24 dancers (ages 6 to 84 years old). Inspired by the lives of three women in history: Jhansi Ki Rani, the 19th century warrior princess from India; Saint Teresa de Avila, the 16th century saint from Spain; and French chanteuse Edith Piaf. For more info, see “Culture Club,” p.38. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm; Sun., March 1, 2pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. \$20-25 (\$15, seniors, students; \$10, ages 11 and younger). www.austtx.com.*

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.balletaustin.org/newamericantalent.*

VIDEO SAMPLER SERIES An evening of dance films and discussion with the ACC Dance Department. *Thu., Feb. 26, 6pm. Austin Community College, 1212 Rio Grande, Rm. 130. 223-3384. Free.*

TAPPY HOUR is more than just another happy hour – because it features Tapestry Dance Company's tap dancers and a great band. *Sat., Feb. 28, 5:30-7:30pm. Uncle Billy's Brew & Que, 1530 Barton Springs Rd., 916-1315. Free. www.tapestry.org.*

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. \$40; \$25, Saturday or Sunday only. 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. 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.



THE KOOKY CUTIES OF PARALLELOGRAMOPHONOGRAPH IMPROVISE TALES OUT OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM AT COLDTOWNE THEATRE THIS WEEK.

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 Company'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).*

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.kickbuttcffee.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.*

classical music

OPENING

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Choral Arts

Society James Morrow leads the chorus for "A Romantic Portrait," with works by Brahms, Britten, Pinkham, Wilberg, and Diemer. *Fri., Feb. 27, 8pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 Capital of TX Hwy. N.; Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$15 (\$10, seniors, faculty, staff; \$5, students). Nathan Williams, Clarinet* On the bill, works by Bernstein, Debussy, Brahms, Lutoslawski, and more. *Thu., March 5, 8pm. Jessen Auditorium, Rainey Hall. \$10 (\$5, students). 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO Stunning virtuosity and a sly sense of humor, in styles that fuse classical, rock, blues, jazz, world music, and California surf music. *Fri., Feb. 27, 7 & 9:30pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. \$20, \$31, \$45. www.oneworldtheatre.org.*

UT BUTLER OPERA CENTER Mozart's *Bastien und Bastienne* and Robert Rodriguez's *La Curandera* share a double bill. The Mozart is conducted by Wesley Schulz and directed by Rebecca Herman; the Rodriguez is conducted by Stefan Sanders and directed by Marc Reynolds. *Through March 8. Fridays, 8pm; Sundays, 7pm. McCullough Theatre, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. \$20 (\$17, seniors, faculty, staff; \$10, students). www.utpac.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SIR JAMES & LADY JEANNE GALWAY The world-renowned flautists join Peter Bay and the big outfit to perform works by Mozart and Cimarosa. Also, works by Haydn and Rossini. *Fri-Sat., Feb., 27-28, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-6064. \$19-48. www.austinsymphony.org.*

AUSTIN NEW MUSIC CO-OP: ROBERTA MICHEL, FLUTE New York's Roberta Michel performs new music for flute in the intimate setting of the Willow Street House. Featured composers include Shulamit Ran, Aaron Alon, Sean Varah, Harold Meltzer, Helen Fisher, and Ian Clarke. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. 1010 Willow. 423-4888. www.newmusiccoop.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: SONGS OF THE SOUTH Richard Floyd conducts a concert of songs with alto saxophonist Dale Underwood as the featured guest artist. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. Connally High School Performing Arts Center, 13212 N. Lamar. 345-7420. \$10 (\$6, seniors & students). www.asband.org.*

AUSTIN CLASSICAL GUITAR SOCIETY: MARCIN DYLLA

This young performer has been wowing audiences for years; last year he won the Guitar Foundation of America's international competition at his first attempt. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 300-2247. \$30-40 (\$20, seniors, students; free, ACGS members). www.austinclassicalguitar.org.*

GOLDEN HORNET PROJECT The irrepressible Peter Stopschinski and Graham Reynolds and friends are back. In addition to the GHP celebrating its 10th anniversary right ... about ... now, enjoy performances by Tosca String Quartet in a reprise of the Project's debut. A Paul Baker video mix on (big) screen adds to the festivities. *Sun., March 1, 8pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. \$15 (\$10, seniors, students; \$7, ages 11 and younger). www.goldenhornet.org.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: PEABODY TRIO

The Southwestern Music Department presents the trio in a program of works by Janacek, Ives, and Schubert. *Sun., March 1, 7pm. Alma Thomas Theatre, Southwestern University, Georgetown. 512/863-1504. Free. www.ssf.southwestern.edu.*

CONSPIRARE: AMERICAN SONGS AND SPIRITUALS

Back by popular demand, some of the material from last season's I Dream a World concert, including Moses Hogan's arrangements of African-American spirituals. *Sun., March 1, 2:30pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 476-5775. \$26-46 (half-price, ages 6-17). www.conspirare.org.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Two concerts, one night! *Mariachi Alas de Oro in Concert* Traditional mariachi music by some of SEU's finest young performers. *Wed., March 4, 6pm. Jones Auditorium. \$3. Steady* The St. Edward's Jazz Ensemble performs traditional and contemporary big-band jazz. *Wed., March 4, 7:30pm. Jones Auditorium. \$5. 428-1297.*

RIVER CITY POPS 25TH ANNIVERSARY & REUNION

This family-friendly event merges popular music with spirited choreography. Expect all manner of music, song, and dance as the Pops and alumni perform. *March 5-8. Thu-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Reagan Performing Arts Center, Highway 290 & Berkman. 350-7677. \$15 (\$10, seniors, students; \$7, ages 11 and younger). www.rivercitypops.org.*

LENTEN CONCERTS AT NOON Inspiring music, reflective hymnody, and food for soul and stomach, featuring a different artist each week. This week: Steven Robbins, flute. *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.*

AUSTIN CLASSICAL BALLET

presents

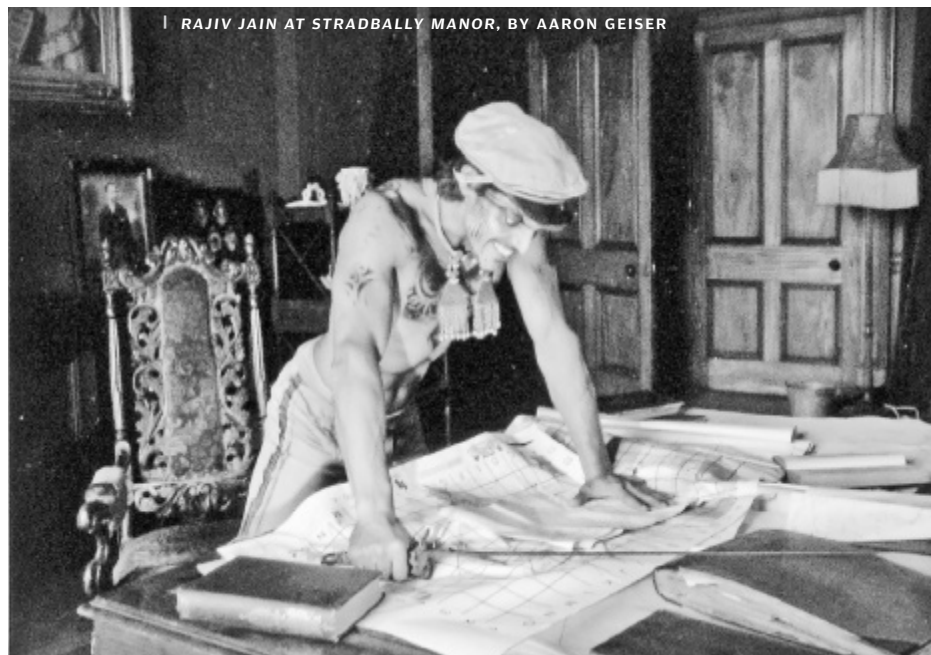
"Visions"

An enchanting program of classical & contemporary ballet works featuring music by Schubert, Rachmaninoff & Mendelssohn

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH
AUSTIN SCOTTISH RITE THEATRE
207 W. 18TH - ALL SEATS \$15

Tickets only at www.austinclassicalballet.com
For information, call (512) 762-4522

This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



IF+D

At IF+D, you'll find a range of art, furniture, and other stuff you might want. This shop in the 2nd Street District is the brainchild of Kristen Bolling, who pores over catalogs and websites and sets a nicely irreverent, humorous tone. The website says aptly: "Furniture, gifts, sarcasm, and sometimes lemonade." IF+D redecorates its walls every couple of months and periodically hosts art events in the evening. During South by Southwest, it will feature an array of poster art by locals such as Satch Grimley. This multipurpose space is well curated, with plenty of

couches and shelves, as well as knit snail plushies, plastic manga figures, and pillows embroidered with pickup trucks. With all the odd objects and local art on hand, this shop might have as much in common with the quirky Domy Books as with other furniture stores.

If "urban humor" is a classification, then items such as the glowing plastic pigeon lamps and the dishes made by Lovegrove & Repucci out of Brooklyn fit the bill. The white porcelain dishes are decorated with cobalt-blue graffiti hand styles, successfully combining a delft tea set with 1980s NYC subway art. They are just plain funny. Non Fiction Design, an Ohio collective, has been working with rat silhouettes cut out of flocked wallpaper. This could be a reference to the street artist Banksy or just a reaction to an infestation. Non Fiction Design also makes cool terracotta lamps that are shaped like bricks and are stamped on the sides with a found object on top and marbles for feet. They are a great balance of the familiar and the customized.

IF+D also carries one-of-a-kind pieces, such as the abstract mixed-media works by Renee Norman. These contain a lot of white; some of them resemble stacks of lozenges

or imaginary buildings. In any case, they sure look fresh and clean with midcentury modern furniture. Bolling said she hung them this month in honor of "Birth of the Cool," the Blanton Museum of Art's exhibition about Fifties modernism. This sounds timely and smart to me.

I enjoyed the contrast in style in the photographs of Austinite Aaron Geiser. *Papir* is a moody portrait of a man at night standing in front of his Airstream trailer and holding a bag of ice. Others feature trapeze artists, circus clowns, and other carny types. One has a shirtless, tattooed pirate man with maps and a sword in a wood-paneled room. The photographs are shot with a slow exposure and distinctly dramatic lighting. They are theatrical and narrative, quite complicated when compared to the slick conceptual humor of other shop items.

So IF+D is a good gallery, with a deep vision of the role of art and laughter in your home. Couch sales aren't so funny and clever and unique, so the gallery has some fun with the rest of the inventory. The IF+D business card declares, "We hate kittens," but don't be scared. That's a joke.

— Rachel Koper

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: LENTEN SACRED CONCERT SERIES 2009 Solo vocal music for the Lenten season, featuring spirituals, contemporary works, and traditional pieces. This week: singers from the David Small Voice Studio. *Through April 2. Thursdays, 12:05pm.* St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free. www.stmattsastin.org.

CLOSING

CONSPIRARE: RACHMANINOFF VESPERS An expanded choir adds weight to this, the highpoint 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. *Sat., Feb. 28, 8pm.* St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. \$26-46 (half-price, ages 6-17). 476-5775. www.conspirare.org.

visual arts

EVENTS

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN: ART NIGHT AUSTIN This is an exclusive, chauffeured journey to Austin's hottest galleries and museums, filled with artistic and culinary delights. *Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30-10pm.* 310/795-1442. \$75. www.artallianceaustin.org.

RUSSELL COLLECTION: RAMON VILANOVA The celebrated Catalan artist presents his "en plein air" landscapes during this, his first trip to the Lone Star State. (Tickets are required for Saturday's event — part of Art Night Austin. Call for reservations.) *Fri.-Sat., 6-8pm, Feb. 27-28.* Russell Collection Fine Art, 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440. www.russell-collection.com.

OPENING

EAST END GALLERY: KERRY AWN AND CINDY RASHKE The works of popular comedian and painter Awn are featured with Rashke's hotrod-pimping, Tiki-inflected creations in this ferociously local pairing. Reception: *Sat., Feb. 28, 5-10pm.* Exhibition: *Through March 29.* 1101 Navasota #4. www.myspace.com/austineastendgallery.

CLOSING

MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Grafico explores the centers' diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader community of printmaking. *Through March 1.* 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

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: TEXAS HILL COUNTRY LANDSCAPES Original paintings of Central Texas vistas by Hermon Adams, Manuel Garza, Cal Gaspard, Sally Minter, Rick Morris Patterson, Jim Rodgers, Don Ward, and many others. *Through Feb. 28.* 1219 W. Sixth, 495-9363.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ABSTRACT Curated by New York-based Maureen Mahony. *Through Feb. 28.* 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

ART ON 5TH: ART & WHIMSY A capricious group of artists presents fanciful paintings and other creations. *Through Feb. 28.* 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

BIRDHOUSE GALLERY: BUILT LIKE NESTS An exploration through the layers of image and experience that construct our modern aesthetic. *Through Feb. 28.* 1304 E. Cesar Chavez, 789-9242. www.birdhousegallery.com.

DIVERSEARTS: THE ROAD TO HOPE New East Gallery presents "A Photographic Glimpse of African-American Life, 1850-1960," including a number of rarely seen images from some of the 20th century's most celebrated documentary photographers. *Through Feb. 28.* 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

WALLY WORKMAN: ROB HARRELL The artist's newest paintings. *Through Feb. 28.* 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

BIG RED SUN Revitalized vintage furniture by Veronica Koltuniak, photography by Denise Prince, and the new line of Arkivos by MINIMIS Design. *Through Feb. 28.* 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688. www.bigredsunsun.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.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

AMOA DOWNTOWN: OUTSIDE REALISM AND STATES OF AMERICA 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 Rodríguez 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. *Through May 17.* 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

ART PALACE: BUSINESS IN THE FRONT, PARTY IN THE BACK In response to an art historical tradition of depicting the unclothed body in art and an equally complicated cultural tradition of modesty, Heyd Fontenot paints "naked people." *Through March 11.* 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaoadastudio.com.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall and glasswork by Kim Brill. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. *Through March 8.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

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. *Through May 17.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment.* 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepeaustinweird.com.

SYNCHRONICITY OF COLOR is Margo Sawyer's site-specific work for the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. *Through May 9.* 5004 Burnet, 371-1292.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

GAY FAY KELLY: BEYOND RECOGNITION Curated by Jerry DeFresne, featuring Cynthia Aldrete, Debra Broz, Brian Johnson, and Tim Kerr. *Through March 31.* 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: WONDEROUS INSTRUMENTS Take a curator-led tour, and see homemade, odd, or rare musical instruments; exotic tools; miraculous and magical objects; and more. Tours: Saturdays, 1-4pm, through May 30. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

IMAGINE ART: 12 X 12 Through March 25. 1314 W. 45th, 323-9390. www.rfbdtxas.org.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

SCOOTER'S COFFEEHOUSE: EMY MCGRAW Through March 31.

AMPLIFY CREDIT UNION Photography by Matt Lankes and George Holmes. Through April 18. 2608 Brockton.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

THE HIDEOUT: DAVID DE LARA Liger, liger, burning bright. Through Feb. 28. 617 Congress, 476-0473. www.thehideout.org.

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER The found-object art of Barbara Irwin is displayed with watercolor paintings of wildflowers and other works in mixed media by artist Keith Steber. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED: SEX-POSITIVE ART Forbidden Fruit is hosting a Female Orgasm Seminar to celebrate the one-year anniversary of dildos being legal in Texas (hurray for fauxcockery!), and they're looking for art for an accompanying exhibition. E-mail for details. jenna.marie.mellor@gmail.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

CARLOS CISNEROS briefs us on his South Texas legal thriller *The Case Runner*. Mon., March 2, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

RIP ESSELSTYN wants you to eat like a firefighter in his *The Engine 2 Diet*. He created a new meal plan for the firehouse, and everyone lost weight, reduced their cholesterol levels, and increased their energy levels. Sat., Feb. 28, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

MAKE IT WET SPITFEST XIV The "hottest spoken word competition, DJs, and live music showcase in Texas." Produced by La-Love Robinson, hosted by Zell Miller III. The open mic features a battle between DJ Power Tripp and DJ Eye One, plus Love's Birthday Celebration. Followed by the head-to-head battle among the hottest poets from all over. Donate two or three nonperishable food items for discount. Highly recommended. Sat., Feb. 28, 7pm. *The Independent* at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3000. \$15 (\$12, in advance). www.spitfest.com.

ELLEN SUSMAN presents *Danger Pay*, the memoir of her deceased sister, photojournalist Carol Spencer Mitchell, who covered the Middle East from 1984 to 1994 and came to the conclusion that Western coverage of the conflicts in that region were more a source of incitement than reportage. Fri., Feb. 27, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

A READING BY HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SCHOLAR JAMES YOUNG He wrote *At Memory's Edge: After-images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture*, *The Texture of Memory* (which won the National Jewish Book Award in 1994), and *Writing and Rewriting the Holocaust* (which won a Choice Outstanding Book Award for 1988). Thu., Feb. 26, 3:30pm. Alkek Library, Texas State, San Marcos. 512/268-6637. Free. www.english.txstate.edu/kap.



THE COLORFUL CREATIONS OF KERRY AWN AND CINDY RASCHKE PREPARE TO GALVANIZE YOUR EYEBONES AT EAST END GALLERY THIS WEEKEND.

GEORGE LEAKE reads selections from his new chapbook, *Coeur*. (See Poem of the Issue, at right.) Leake's work and passion for the depth of the poetic challenge is always recommended. Thu., Feb. 26, 7pm. 12th Street Books, 827 W. 12th, 499-8828. www.12thstreetbooks.com.

SHERRY JONES unveils her novel *The Jewel of Medina*, the controversial work Random House pulled for fear of offending the Muslim world with this tale of Muhammad's favorite wife, Aisha bint Abi Bakr. Beaufort Books picked it up, and no riots ensued, only good reviews. Thu., Feb. 26, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

MUSIC FROM THE COLLECTIONS: ANTHONY BURGESS Alan Roughley, executive director of the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, and pianist Dianne O'Hara read and perform works by Burgess, including segments of *A Clockwork Orange*, *This Man and Music*, and *Nothing Like the Sun*. Burgess was an accomplished and respected modern composer and visual artist, were you aware? Way cool. Thu., Feb. 26, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free. www.hrc.utexas.edu/webcast.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

STORY CIRCLE NETWORK Nonprofit organization for women, offering monthly reading and writing circles and more, in North, Central, and South Austin. 454-9833. www.storycircle.org.

SPIRITUALITY BOOK GROUP *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For* by Alice Walker. Thu., Feb. 26, 1pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

7% SOLUTION CLUB *Whose Body* by Dorothy Sayers. Mon., March 2, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB *The Great Train Robbery* by Michael Crichton. Wed., March 4, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

THE UTTER READING SERIES brings you the best new prose and poetry from writers right here in Central Texas. This week: **Peter Ferry**. Tue., March 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

THE JUNTO IN AUSTIN chews on the *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. Tue., March 3, 6:30-8:30pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION takes a *Telex* from Cuba by Rachel Kushner. Mon., March 2, 7pm. Little City, 916 Congress, 476-2489. www.littlecity.com.

FROM BOOKS TO MOVIES *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. Tue., March 3, 7:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: LOVE & FORGIVENESS *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee. Thu., Feb. 26, 7-8:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

AYN RAND'S ATLAS SHRUGGED: CELEBRATING THE BEST WITHIN US Here's a symposium offering contemporary perspectives on Ayn Rand's magnum opus, both as philosophy and as literature. Wed., March 4, 4-6:30pm. UT's ACES Auditorium, 201 E. 24th, 232-8249. Free. www.utbbtchairobjectivism.com.

THE MUCH ADO ABOUT PUBLISHING WORKSHOP presents *Surviving the Book Industry to Become Well-Published*, a workshop for professional writers, journalists, authors, and those on their way. See website for details. Tue., March 3, 6:30-9:30pm; Sat., March 7, 2-5pm. www.independentpublisher.com.

THE ADULT POETRY CIRCLE meets the first Tuesday of the month. Beginning and advanced poets welcome. Tue., March 3, 7-8:30pm. Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd., 974-3800. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

OPEN MICS

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. *Genuine Joe Coffeehouse*, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT Hosted by Thom the World Poet. Melissa, chanteuse of original poem and song, is your next feature. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. Mondays, 7-10pm. *The Hideout Theatre*, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm. *Hot Mama's Espresso Bar*, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso.

SPOKEN AND HEARD is co-hosted by Stacey Shea and Element 615. Uncensored round robin. Sundays, 7-9pm. *Kick Butt Coffee*, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.

LA TAZZA FRESCA Hosted by Kathleen Romana; featured poets perform before the mic is open. Fri., Feb. 27, 7-9pm. *La Tazza Fresca*, 519 W. 37th, 371-5383. latazzafresca@earthlink.net.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY READING features Barbara Youngblood Carr in a reading for AIPF volunteers. Thu., Feb. 26, 7pm. *NeWorlDeli*, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. www.newworldeli.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.



THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pmo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Wednesdays, 8pm. *Scout Inn & Bier Garten*, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stalwarts. *Vinny's Italian Cafe*, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

BARBARA BURNETT SMITH ASPIRING WRITERS PROJECT Six aspiring writers will be chosen and each matched with a published mentor for one-on-one sessions. This is not a contest; there is no judging and no fee; it is a wonderful opportunity for writers unpublished in the mystery field to talk to and be mentored by published authors. See website for details. Deadline: March 31. www.hotxsinc.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *Joe swims where there is no water. How the monkeys dance in your perfect garden trampling perfect roses (or what clings to god's dead skin). He does not want her to cry, to be broken, to feel abandoned, or is that the nature of a fearful god? Would the monkeys laugh setting their tails afire, the stench of pain wafting in heaven's halls? Angels & gods & monkeys die & ghosts become undone. What a beautiful river; the roses lit with laughter, their faces glistening.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

her cant across vast foam and crust

particle pause to tones unworn

rolling over berry bogs

snowflake on copse

her strong determined digits

grip the hairy sinewed nape

corping beast new to the world

rise from the deeps

breathe fumes on parched vale

— George Leake, from his newest chapbook, *Coeur*

film listings



Waltz With Bashir

D: Ari Folman; with the voices of Folman, Ori Sivan, Roni Dayg, Shmuel Frenkel, Ron Ben Yisahi, Dror Harazi, Carmi Cnaa'n, Boaz Rein Buskila. (R, 90 min., subtitled)

War distorts. Most obviously, it distorts soldiers and civilians, fragmenting flesh and traumatizing psyches, leaving in its wake a nagging uncertainty of self, of one's once and future place in the world. Armed conflict generates, above all, a sense of confusion, chaos, and turmoil that – for all involved – often echoes long past the cease-fire, the treaty, the end of hostilities, the interring of the dead. It infects everything it touches, like a hateful virus, and leaves even the strongest scarred and fissured in ways they often are not even aware of until much later. This is the blast radius of PTSD, the ordnance of nightmares, the Ouroboros of aggression and concomitant guilt. *Waltz With Bashir* is a dreamy, animated psycho-documentary about the attempt of director Folman (*Saint Clara*) to recall, exactly, what role – if any – he played in the massacre of Palestinian civilians (most of whom were women and children) at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut in 1982. At the time, Folman was a raw young soldier; the Israeli army was invading the Lebanese capital, tasked with quashing a Palestinian uprising triggered by the assassination of Lebanese President Bashir Gemayel. Twenty years later, Folman realizes he has no memory of his participation in those bloody events and sets off to track down and interview his former comrades in hopes of reconstructing what really happened. But the unstable nature of memories formed under fire is itself a recurrent stumbling block, and it's here that Folman

the director and Folman the long-ago soldier together create a sublime, at times devastatingly lyrical depiction of combat's essential surreality. A ghostly memory of his wartime self, walking naked out of the Mediterranean night toward an ominously quiet tower block queasily lit by the phosphorus glare of arcing military flares, is an image *Waltz With Bashir* returns to again and again. It may be the key to Folman's urban wartime amnesia. None of his old regiment seem to agree on what happened: when, to whom, and why. (The actual massacre at the camps was committed by the Christian Phalangist militia, but Folman the therapeutic documentarian knows in his gut he witnessed *something* and possibly failed to intervene.) *Waltz With Bashir* uses the actual voices of the men who were there, which lends this quasi-documentary a visceral punch. The animation is stark and vividly detailed. It's not rotoscoped in the way *A Scanner Darkly* was, but it shares much of the same fluid realism. Despite its grave subject matter, Folman and the animators of the Bridgit Folman Film Gang have created a beautiful film bulwarked by a terrible past. Be forewarned: Folman closes his film with a grisly, real-death denouement that may give you some nightmares of your own. As well it should.

– Marc Savlov

★★★★ Arbor

new reviews

★ I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG D: Philippe Claudel; with Kristen Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Serge Hazanavicius, Laurent Grevill, Frederic Pierrot, Claire Johnston, Catherine Hosmalin. (PG-13, 115 min., subtitled)

In the opening scene of *I've Loved You So Long*, the remarkable directorial debut of French novelist Claudel, mother of two Lea (Zylberstein) arrives at an airport to retrieve her older sister, Juliette (Thomas), and the tension between them when they greet each other almost has a life of its own. Juliette, we learn, has just been released from prison after 15 years, and it appears all that time inside has made her intolerant to human contact; she doesn't embrace her sister so much as summon the strength to brush against her for appearance's sake (all the while barely looking at her from under those heavy, disdainful eyelids). Back at Lea's apartment, things aren't much better. Juliette keeps an icy distance from Lea's two children, while Lea's husband views their new guest with suspicion bordering on hostility. Thomas, in one of the best performances of the year, is at her bravest in this early going, diving into a role that will initially inspire little sympathy from audiences. How could it? When Juliette yells at her 6-year-old niece – who couldn't be cuter if she were made out of gumdrops – we feel attacked, as if that were our daughter being chastised and not some character in a movie. But that outburst turns out to be an anomaly, a one-time explosion from a woman whose default state is deep, and deeply silent, misery – which is just what you'd expect from a woman (especially a French woman) who once committed a crime so heinous her parents felt justified in disowning her. But let's be honest: Any actress can do melancholy; it takes a special talent to recognize that there's a certain luxuriousness, a certain joy, to be found in longtime self-hatred, so much so that when it's interrupted by an outsider's contempt (whether that of a brother-in-law or a potential employer), the one doing the luxuriating can't help but respond with contempt of her own. It's as if Juliette, like some master painter pitying an arrogant novice, has been so well-schooled in the art of shame that the shame others try to pile on her comes off as so much self-righteous amateurism. And Lea, with her good intentions and childish insecurities, is the perfect target for Juliette's disdain. Their relationship grows and deepens over the course of the movie as we learn the reasons behind Juliette's imprisonment and Lea's distance, but even as Juliette inches closer to something resembling redemption, Thomas never gives in to the temptation to simplify or let audiences, or herself, off the hook. She knows that just as there's something gratifying in suffering, reaching for happiness comes with pain all its own. For Juliette, getting released from jail means little more than a change of address; the real prison is in her head ... and will never let her go. – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Dobie

JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE

D: Bruce Hendricks. (G, 76 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The tween music sensations take to the big screen under the able guidance of the same director who helmed last year's megahit movie *Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert*. The film follows the brothers onstage and backstage during their Burning Up Tour and features appearances from Demi Lovato and Taylor Swift.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION 2009

D: Various.

Not reviewed at press time. This tasteless-and-proud-of-it cartoon collection presents its annual extravaganza.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI

D: Andrzej

Bartkowiak; with Kristin Kreuk, Chris Klein, Neal McDonough, Michael Clarke Duncan, Moon Bloodgood. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this film based on a video-game franchise, a female martial artist seeks justice. It's directed by the cinematographer-turned-director Bartkowiak, who previously guided a similar format transition for *Doom*.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

TWO LOVERS

D: James Gray; with Joaquin

Phoenix, Gwyneth Paltrow, Vinessa Shaw, Isabella Rossellini, Moni Moshonov, John Ortiz, Bob Ari, Elias Koteas. (R, 110 min.)

Director Gray knows New York City like few other directors ever have. His films – *Little Odessa*, *The Yards*, *We Own the Night* – glint and grunt with the seemingly effortless task of bringing this paradoxically grand and most bilious of metropolises to great gasping cinematic life. His stories are redolent with the always hard-won sweat of toil and lovemaking, and if he makes New York sing (or, just as often, cry out, whether in agony or ecstasy or some sublime combination of the two), it is most often accomplished through his characters and their endlessly fascinating, occasionally banal, and frequently despairing lives. *Two Lovers* reunites Gray with Phoenix in what may well turn out to be the actor's best performance, given that he's recently announced his intention to quit the cameras for the rapper's mic and, apparently, self-destruct in public. That's not relevant to *Two Lovers*, thankfully. Phoenix plays Leonard Kraditor, a nebbishy, tic-bedeviled, heart- and head-sick man whom we first spy from a distance, attempting to end it all in Brighton Beach. Before the opening credits finish, Leonard remains, against his wishes, unfinished, and the rest of the film is spent illuminating, by degrees, the nature of his condition (lovesickness) and his growing attraction to two women: potential emotional rescuers and love interests both. The women couldn't be more different from each other, although they both fall, sort of, for the hapless Leonard in spite of themselves. Paltrow's

wild, gamine socialite Michelle telegraphs her own emotional back static in her very first scene. She's a willowy Champagne girl carrying on a relationship with Koteas' married Park Avenue swell, and her relationship to Leonard moves in fits and starts, echoing the ricochets of her heart. Her opposite in all ways, and the girl most likely to succeed at the tug-of-war for Leonard's affections, is Shaw's smart, understated, lovely Sandra. Leonard's monosyllabic neuroses may match Michelle's scattered mindset, but it's the caregiver Sandra who seems the better, wiser fit. *Two Lovers* is an intensely felt, character-driven film, and there's no stronger character onscreen – not even Leonard – than Leonard's wise, Jewish mother, Ruth, played with effortless, pure perfection by Rossellini. Hovering over Leonard, not unkindly, Ruth is a mostly mute witness to her son's doleful romantic conundrum. Rossellini steals every scene she's in, but never to the detriment of the story. She's her mother's daughter here, in every darkly luminescent shot, Bergmanesque and brilliant. Phoenix, who begins the film looking as though he were a drippy, droopy Jonathan Haze, the iconic East Village schlemiel of Roger Corman's *Little Shop of Horrors*, ends up, when all is said and undone, looking not a little like God's lonely man, Thomas Wolfe and Travis Bickle combined, not king of the city nor even a fool, but more like a pauper in the court of love, destitute and famished and craving kisses that never quite come. – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Derek Luke, Keshia Knight Pulliam, David Mann, Tamela J. Mann, Ion Overman, RonReaco Lee, Viola Davis. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Here's a question worth pondering: How does one analyze a movie that features a young man bursting into tears while admitting his complicity in the gang rape of a female friend, followed immediately by a slapsticky shouting match between TV's Judge Mathis and an actor dressed like a 75-year-old woman? Where does one even begin to talk about a film that's comfortable with juxtapositions of such magnitude? I've been watching movies my entire life, and I can honestly say I've never been more confused in a theatre than I was while watching Tyler Perry's *Madea Goes to Jail*.

Jail. And not because Madea doesn't actually go to jail until the film is almost over (though also that); I just couldn't find a way to reconcile the comic absurdity of Mable "Madea" Simmons (Perry) – the sassy, crass, belligerent, bawdy, self-righteous, over-the-top, I-can't-believe-she-just-said-that center of the Perry multimedia empire (with outposts on television and Broadway) – with the maudlin melodrama of Candace Washington, a twentysomething drug addict and streetwalker played by Pulliam (*The Cosby Show*'s Rudy, another image I couldn't quite get my head around), who is a lifelong victim of sexual and emotional violence. It's as if Perry took *Big Momma's House*, slapped it together with *The Accused*, closed his eyes, and prayed for coherence. Taken separately, the two parts of *Madea* would probably make for fine, if unremarkable, movies. Madea has already proven herself a cultural touchstone in other Perry hits such as *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* and *Madea's Family Reunion*, and it isn't hard to see why she's so popular. Like Falstaff, W.C. Fields, and Larry David before her, Madea is the gust of fresh air we all crave when society gets too self-important to bear (though that is precisely where the comparison between Madea, Falstaff, Fields, and David ends; I want that on record). And God knows there wouldn't be a Lifetime channel if melodramas with poor production values about abused women trying to turn their lives around didn't strike a chord with the audience. Stick the two together, however, and you get what one might politely call a "muddled composition": cubism and romanticism, Archie Bunker and Douglas Sirk, American cheese and wine tastings. Lucky for Perry, then, that he was able to snare Viola Davis. Davis, who was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award this year for her role in *Doubt*, is fantastic and formidable. As a preacher and social worker looking to help young women get off the streets, she's a no-nonsense harbor in a huge, swirling tempest of nonsense – an NBA starter slumming it at the YMCA. And though she can't save *Madea Goes to Jail*, she might be able to save a few of the souls who choose to sit through it.

– *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

openings & ratings

I've Loved You So Long (PG-13)

Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience (G)


Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2009 (NR)

Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (PG-13)

Two Lovers (R)

Waltz With Bashir (R)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- La bomba



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★★★★★
**FINALLY, THE YEAR'S
FIRST SERIOUS
AMERICAN MOVIE.**

– Joshua Rothkopf,
TIME OUT NEW YORK

JOAQUIN PHOENIX GWYNETH PALTROW VINESSA SHAW

two lovers

**"AN ELEGANT AND GRIPPING
ROMANTIC DRAMA."**

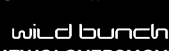
– Joe Morgenstern, WALL STREET JOURNAL

**"IT WELLS WITH SIGHTS AND
SOUNDS GUARANTEED TO LIFT,
NOT SINK, THE SPIRITS."**

– Anthony Lane, THE NEW YORKER



DIRECTED BY JAMES GRAY WRITTEN BY JAMES GRAY & RICHARD MENELLO



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showtimes

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - THURSDAY, MARCH 5

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.

Texas Film Series: *The Getaway*: Tue, 7:00pm
Texas Film Series: *The Legend of Billie Jean*: Wed, 7:00pm
Terror Tuesday: *Lifeorce*: Tue, 10:15pm
Waster Pancake: *The Matrix*: Fri-Sat, 7:35, 10:35
Monty Python and the Holy Grail *Quote-Along*: Thu (3/5), 7:00pm
No Shame Sing-Along: *Thu* (3/5), 10:15pm
Plague Town: Wed, 9:50pm
Weird Wednesday: *The Sinful Dwarf*: Wed, 12mid
Spike & Mike's Slick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2009: Fri-Sat, 9:15, 11:45; Sun, 9:15, 10:15; Mon-Tue, 9:45pm; Wed, 9:25, 11:55; Thu (3/5), 9:45pm
Music Monday: *Urgh! A Music War*: Mon, 10:00pm
Wendy and Lucy: Fri-Sat, 5:15, 7:00; Sun, 4:45, 7:00; Mon-Thu (3/5), 5:20, 7:30
Texas Film Series: *Written on the Wind*: Mon, 7:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.

Gran Torino: Fri-Wed, 12:30, 3:25, 6:45, 9:45; Thu (3/5), 12:30, 3:25
TV at the Alamo: *Heroes*: Mon, 8:00pm
He's Just Not That Into You: 12:00, 3:05, 7:00, 10:10
The International: Fri-Wed, 12:20, 3:30, 7:20, 10:20; Thu (3/5), 12:20, 3:30, 7:20
TV at the Alamo: *Lost*: Wed, 7:00pm
The Reader: Fri-Wed, 12:10, 3:15, 6:50, 10:10; Thu (3/5), 12:10, 3:15, 6:50
Revolutionary Road: 12:05, 3:00, 7:15, 10:15
Schmader Live: *Showgirls*: Thu (3/5), 7:30pm
Slumdog Millionaire: 12:15, 3:20, 7:30, 10:30
Schmader Live: *Straight: Thu* (3/5), 10:00pm
Taken: Fri-Tue, 12:25, 3:10, 7:10, 9:50; Wed, 12:25, 3:10, 9:50; Thu (3/5), 12:25, 7:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

Academy Award-Nominated Animated Shorts 2009: Fri, 1:35, 7:05; Sat, 7:05pm; Mon, 1:35, 7:05; Mon, 7:05pm; Tue, 1:35pm; Wed-Thu (3/5), 7:05pm
Academy Award-Nominated Live-Action Shorts 2009: Fri, Sun, 11:05am, 4:10pm; Mon, 4:10pm; Tue, 11:05am, 4:10pm; Wed-Thu (3/5), 4:10pm
Chocolater: 9:35pm
AFS: Close to Home: Tue, 7:00pm
Fanboys: Fri-Wed, 10:35pm
Kids Club: *The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T*: Sat, 12:00pm
Gran Torino: Fri, 7:40pm; Sat-Sun, 1:55, 7:40; Mon-Thu (3/5), 7:40pm
The International: Fri, 4:45pm; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 4:45pm; Mon, 4:45pm; Tue, 11:10am, 4:45pm; Wed-Thu (3/5), 4:45pm
The Reader: Fri-Sun, 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 3:50, 10:15; Tue, 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:15; Wed-Thu (3/5), 3:50, 7:10, 10:15
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Mon, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30; Tue, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Wed-Thu (3/5), 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
Two Lovers: Fri, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sat, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sun, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Mon, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Tue, 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Wed, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Thu (3/5), 4:00, 7:00, 10:20
The Wrestler: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; Tue, 2:05, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; Wed, 4:05, 10:10; Thu (3/5), 4:40, 7:30

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090.

Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
TV @ the Alamo: *Battlestar Galactica*: Fri, 12mid
TV @ the Alamo: *Dollhouse*: Fri, 12mid
TV @ the Alamo: *Heroes*: Mon, 9:30pm
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15; Mon, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15; Tue, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15; Wed, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15; Thu (3/5), 4:00, 7:15
TV @ the Alamo: *Lost*: Wed, 9:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Mon, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Tue, 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Wed-Thu (3/5), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
Taken: Fri-Sun, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Mon, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Tue, 1:30, 7:45, 10:10; Wed-Thu (3/5), 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Wrestler: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 3:50, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 3:50, 7:05; Tue, 1:00, 3:50, 7:05; Wed-Thu (3/5), 3:50, 7:05

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.

Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays.
Doubt: 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05
Frost/Nixon: 12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 9:50
Milk: 12:20, 3:10, 7:00, 10:00
The Reader: 12:25, 3:20, 6:30, 9:35
Revolutionary Road: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 1:10, 1:10; Sun, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:00, 10:10
AFF: School Play: Sun, 2:00pm
Slumdog Millionaire: 12:30, 3:30, 4:20, 6:40, 7:20, 9:40
Waltz With Bashir: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
The Wrestler: 12:50, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN.

Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Confessions of a Shopaholic: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 11:30, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:20, 9:30pm; Sun, 10:15am, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:20, 9:30pm; Mon-Wed, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:20, 9:30; Thu (3/5), 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 8:20
Coralline: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
Fired Up: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 1:40, 3:55, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45pm; Sun-Thu (3/5), 1:40, 3:55, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
Friday the 13th: 10:45pm
Gran Torino: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50pm; Sun-Thu (3/5), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
The International: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25pm; Sun-Thu (3/5), 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20pm; Mon-Wed, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20; Thu (3/5), 2:35, 4:50
The Pink Panther 2: Thu (3/5), 2:30, 4:45
The Pink Panther 2 (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15pm; Mon-Wed, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Push: 10:30pm
The Reader: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li: Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40pm; Mon-Wed, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40
Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li (closed captioned): Thu (3/5), 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40
Taken: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 1:40, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:40, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40
Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Confessions of a Shopaholic: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Coralline: Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
***Fired Up**: Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55
Friday the 13th: 7:45, 10:15
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 10:00; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:50, 6:50, 10:00
The International: Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm; Mon-Wed, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35; Thu (3/5), 2:20, 10:35
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
The Pink Panther 2: Fri, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
NCM Fathom/CARE: *A Powerful Noise*: Thu (3/5), 6:30pm
Push: Fri, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
***The Reader**: Fri, 1:50, 4:40; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:50, 4:40
***Slumdog Millionaire**: Fri, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:45; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:30, 6:40, 9:45
Taken: Fri, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:00, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30
***Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail**: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

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Confessions of a Shopaholic: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:05, 4:55, 7:30, 10:25
Coralline: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
***Fired Up**: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
Friday the 13th: 7:45, 10:10
Gran Torino: Fri-Sun, 12:55, 3:55, 7:00, 9:45; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:55, 7:00, 9:45
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 3:20, 6:35, 9:35; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:20, 6:35, 9:35
Hotel for Dogs: Fri-Sun, 12:05, 2:35, 5:05; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:35, 5:05
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55; Mon-Wed, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55; Thu (3/5), 2:50, 5:15, 7:35
The Pink Panther 2: Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
NCM Fathom/CARE: *A Powerful Noise*: Thu (3/5), 6:30pm
***The Reader**: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 6:55, 10:15; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:45, 6:55, 10:15
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:35, 6:45, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:35, 6:45, 9:40
***Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li**: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Taken: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
***Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail**: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 10:20pm; Mon-Wed, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 10:20; Thu (3/5), 2:10, 10:20
***The Wrestler**: Fri-Sun, 11:55am, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30

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Discounts daily before 5pm.
Bolt: Fri, 2:15, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:15, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05
Marley & Me: Fri, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (3/5), 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
Seven Pounds: Fri, 4:30, 7:15; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:30, 7:15; Mon-Thu (3/5), 4:30, 7:15
The Spirit: 10:00pm
The Tale of Despereaux: Fri, 3:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:00, 5:15, 8:00, 10:15
Twilight: Fri, 3:30, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:45; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:30, 7:00, 9:45
The Unborn: Fri, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:40, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40
Valkyrie: Fri, 3:15, 6:45, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 3:15, 6:45, 9:30; Mon-Thu (3/5), 3:15, 6:45, 9:30
Yes Man: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
Confessions of a Shopaholic: Fri, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
***Coralline**: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
***Fired Up**: Fri, 1:30, 4:40, 6:45, 9:10, 1:25; Sat, 10:40am, 1:00, 3:40, 6:45, 9:10, 11:25pm; Sun, 10:40am, 1:00, 3:40, 6:45, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:00, 3:40, 6:45, 9:10
Friday the 13th: Fri, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri, 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:25
The International: 8:00, 10:40

Jonas Brothers: *The 3D Concert Experience: Fri, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:30; Sat, 9:45am, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 9:45am, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:15, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 12:40, 3:20, 6:20, 9:00, 11:15; Sat, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:20, 6:20, 9:00, 11:15pm; Sun, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:20, 6:20, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:40, 3:20, 6:20, 9:00
Push: Fri, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:25
***The Reader**: Fri, 1:45, 4:50; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:45, 4:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:45, 4:50
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 7:05, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:50, 7:05, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:50, 3:50, 7:05, 10:00
***Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li**: Fri, 1:50, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:50, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
Taken: Fri, 2:00, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 2:00, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
***Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail**: Fri, 1:20, 4:20, 4:00, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:30, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 11:40, 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:30, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 6:40, 8:05, 9:30, 10:35

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.

Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.
Confessions of a Shopaholic: Fri, 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:40
***Coralline**: Fri, 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30
***Fired Up**: Fri, 1:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:55
Friday the 13th: Fri, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:25am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Gran Torino: Fri, 12:50, 6:45; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 12:50, 6:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:50, 6:45
He's Just Not That Into You: Fri, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
The International: 4:05, 10:20
Jonas Brothers: *The 3D Concert Experience: Fri, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30; Sat, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop: Fri, 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:35am, 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:40, 4:10, 6:50, 10:00
NCM Fathom/CARE: *A Powerful Noise*: Thu (3/5), 6:30pm
Push: Fri, 1:25, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:25, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:25, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25
***Slumdog Millionaire**: Fri, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
***Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li**: Fri, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:10
Taken: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/5), 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45
***Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail**: Fri, 12:45, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05, 6:55, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:30, 12:45, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05, 6:55, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30pm; Mon-Wed, 12:45, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05, 6:55, 8:00, 9:35, 10:30; Thu (3/5), 12:45, 2:20, 3:55, 5:05, 8:00

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
I've Loved You So Long: Fri, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15; Mon-Thu (3/5), 7:45, 10:15
Milk: Fri, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/5), 7:00, 9:40
The Reader: Fri, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; Mon-Thu (3/5), 7:15, 9:55
Slumdog Millionaire: Fri, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05; Mon-Thu (3/5), 7:30, 10:05

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Coralline (3-D): Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sun-Thu (3/5), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25
Fired Up: Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sun-Thu (3/5), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45,

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at 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 Dorte 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 vacillates 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

BRIDE WARS

D: Gary Winick; with Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen, Kristen Johnston. (PG, 87 min.)

One wonders what could have possibly recommended the mean-spirited, laughless *Bride Wars* to Hathaway. Surely not Hudson, whose effect on critics (and increasingly the box office) is not unlike that of a roach motel on its six-legged guests. Actually, I suppose some credit should be given to Hudson for playing against type here; putting aside her usual squishy bunny-rabbit roles, she plays the alpha dog Liv, a Manhattan lawyer who has subtly bullied her best friend,

Emma (Hathaway), for years. Both women have harbored since childhood the desire to marry at the Plaza Hotel in June, which is exactly the plan until a scheduling snafu places their two weddings on the same day. The situation quickly escalates from awkward fumbling to passive-aggressiveness, and then on to all-out guerrilla tactics. If you've seen the trailer, you already know the wages of war – the blue-hair sabotage, the tanning-salon incident, the wedding-aisle throwdown. (01/16/2009) – *Kimberley Jones*

● Tinseltown South

CHOCOLATE

D: Prachya Pinkaew; with Jija Yanin Vismistananda, Hiroshi Abe, Ammara Siriphong, Taphon Phopwandee, Pongpat Wachirabunjong. (R, 89 min., subtitled)

Chocolate, the new stunner from the director of the equally hyperkinetic *Ong-Bak*, is equal parts sentimental tale of a daughter's love for her ailing mother and one seriously sustained martial ballet of stunningly well choreographed slam-bam set-pieces. So far as I know, this is the only film (from anywhere, much less Thailand) to feature a young, female protagonist who's not only a whirling, leaping force of nature but is also ... autistic. Newcomer Vismistananda plays Zen, who, as the film's stateside tagline so eloquently puts it, is "a special-needs girl with a special need to kick some ass." Vismistananda is spectacular, not only as a martial artist but as a preternaturally gifted actor who consistently displays the full gamut of human emotion as viewed through the scrim of autism. Her sheer screen charisma is enough to knock you out. Sure, *Chocolate* is rife with melodrama, but where would avenging Thai angels-in-the-making be without it? (02/13/2009) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

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'* 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. No, the problem nipping at the designer heels of *Confessions* is not the state of the economy but, rather, the film's predictability. 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 with the akimbo aplomb of a seasoned screwball comedienne. (02/20/2009) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

CORALINE

D: Henry Selick; with the voices of Dakota Fanning, Teri Hatcher, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Ian McShane, John Hodgman, Robert Bailey Jr., Keith David. (PG, 100 min.)

Just as 3-D is heralded as the newest old trick in the cinema showman's grab bag, along comes *Coraline* – the first animated stop-motion feature to be created in 3-D – to remind us that there can be more than mere gimmickry in the souped-up imagery. Writer-director Selick (*James and the Giant Peach*

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THU, MAR 5	WENDY & LUCY MONTY PYTHON QUOTE-ALONG NO SHAME SING-ALONG SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FEST	520	730	700 1015 945

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slumdog millionaire

(12:15 3:20)
7:30 10:30

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Sun. - Thu. 11:45 1:35 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

SLUDOG MILLIONAIRE (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:35 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:35

TYLER PERRY'S MADEA GOES TO JAIL (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:05 12:35 2:25 2:55 4:45 5:15 7:10 7:35 9:45 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:05 12:35 2:25 2:55 4:45 5:15 7:10 7:35 9:45 9:55

FIRE UP (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25

FRIDAY THE 13TH (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20

CORALINE 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:10 9:25

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:15 3:55 7:00 9:35 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 1:15 3:55 7:00 9:35

TAKEN (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10 11:35
Sun. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:05 9:10

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45 11:59
Sun. - Thu. 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

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Scandinavian Film Fest

Scandinavian Film Fest American-Scandinavian Foundation **Texas Associates.** This sixth annual festival features several blocks of programming of short films and features. Suitable for families, the youth drama *Misa Mi* from Sweden screens at 1:30pm. *The World in Denmark*, a documentary, screens at 3:30pm. The Finnish romantic drama *Year of the Wolf* screens at 4:30pm, and the fest concludes with the Swedish drama *You, the Living* at 7pm. A party follows at 9:30pm in the lobby. For complete info, see www.scandinavianfilmfes.com/austin. @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Saturday, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 7pm.



and *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas*) again demonstrates his unparalleled mastery of the phantasmagoric image. Selick adapted *Coraline* for stop-motion screen puppets from versatile author Neil Gaiman's prize-winning young-adult novel. The storyline is a classic "grass is always greener" fable that perfectly reflects a child's provenance of whims and fears. Particularly at the end, when the ghosts of missing children enter the picture, *Coraline* may prove unsuitably macabre for the youngest viewers. Yet your children and you are unlikely to see a film anytime soon that has more of a handmade feel – a value unto itself. (02/06/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

D: David Fincher; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Julia Ormond, Taraji P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, Jason Flemyng, Jared Harris. (PG-13, 159 min.)

It's quite a feat, really, to have stretched F. Scott Fitzgerald's slender, unsentimental curio into a three-hour-long – very long – motion picture about Benjamin (Pitt), who is born with the arthritic creak of an old man and proceeds to age in reverse. Everything that was sharp in the original text has been rounded and buffed; Fitzgerald's cynical eye toward humans' fleeting attractions, and attractiveness, has been junked for a love story – you know the kind – that spans decades of rising hemlines and missed opportunities. Screenwriter Eric Roth transposes the action from antebellum Baltimore to Armistice Day in New Orleans (which accommodates an ineffective framing story involving Hurricane Katrina). The problem with this kind of episodic (un)coming-of-age tale – as with Roth's previous Oscar bait, *Forrest Gump* – is that too often, transitions, major life decisions, feel unmotivated. Fincher is a master craftsman, to be sure, but I didn't buy this story for a second. (12/26/2008) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Gateway, Metropolitan

DEFIANCE D: Edward Zwick; with Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos, Allan Corduner, Mark Feuerstein, Tomas Arana, Jodhi May. (R, 137 min.)

Defiance is the true story of the Bielski family, three Jewish brothers who, in 1941, escaped into the forest of their native Belarus to elude capture by the Nazis, set up a small ad hoc village, and ended up saving more than 1,200 Jewish lives through daring rescue raids and armed resistance. The story, in other words, is pure Hollywood gold, full of opportunities for stirring speeches, ethical quandaries, lessons about tolerance and humanity, and violence against Nazis. Zwick (*Glory*, *Blood Diamond*) has spent his entire career struggling to find the balance between opposing impulses – the sentimentalist's desire for emotional-historical heft and the artist's fascination with conflicted humanity – a struggle that's all over *Defiance*. Standing in for the first impulse is composer James Newton Howard, who never met a tender moment he didn't want to choke to death, but representing the second, thankfully, are Craig and Schreiber, who are more interested in psychological ambivalence than unblemished heroism. (01/16/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Gateway

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

DOUBT D: John Patrick Shanley; with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, Joseph Foster II. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Shanley adapted his Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play, *Doubt*, for the movies and also chose to direct the film. The cast he gathered is peerless, but unfortunately, the actors don't all behave as though they're performing in the same movie. A collection of acting styles, from the broad to the contained and the exacting to the unrestrained, creates an unevenness of tone and interpretation. Streep plays Sister Aloysius, the unwavering principal of the St. Nicholas school, into whose dominion comes the new young priest, Father Flynn (Hoffman). The ensuing struggle between the two over morality and power carries with it all the baggage of Catholic tradition and hierarchy, as well as the period's secular strife between men and women. It's a cerebral tug-of-war for the viewer, a struggle that's made only more opaque with the film's closing line of dialogue. Meanwhile, storms suddenly stir up outside, and lightbulbs repeatedly burst in Shanley's effort to cinematically underline the pent-up emotions within. (12/26/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

FANBOYS D: Kyle Newman; with Sam Huntington, Chris Marquette, Dan Fogler, Jay Baruchel, Kristen Bell, Christopher McDonald, Seth Rogen, Ethan Suplee, Danny Trejo. (PG-13, 90 min.)

Fanboys sets itself in the months leading up to the release of *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace*, when geekboys hearts were still full of hope. When one of their own is diagnosed with a terminal illness prior to *Episode I*'s release, the title's fanboys make it their holy crusade to drive cross-country to Lucas' Skywalker Ranch and break in to watch a rough cut of the film. *Fanboys* (written by Austin scriptwriter Ernie Cline) is something of a slow starter; its leads, Huntington and Marquette, share a laconic acting style and poker-face resemblance, and their characters' rift isn't terribly interesting. But the supporting players – Fogler, Baruchel, and Bell – give the film enough juice to coast to a second-act peyote trip (hosted by Trejo) that breaks the seal on gut-busting laughs. It comes as no surprise that the film is less about fandom as it is about the community fans create with one another. (02/06/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

Written on the Wind

Written On the Wind (1956) D: Douglas Sirk; with Rock Hudson, Lauren Bacall, Robert Stack, Dorothy Malone. (NR, 93 min.) **Texas Archive of the Moving Image: Wanted! Texas Film Series.** This oil-family story is way, way east of Eden. Among the pillars of a rich Texas oil family is a drunk-en, paranoid playboy (Stack), the woman who loves him (Bacall), the man who loves her (Hudson), and the half-sister (Malone) who loves him. Bring your own Texas-related film and video to the screening to sign up for TAMI's free digitization program. More information about TAMI can be found at www.texasarchive.org/events, by calling 485-3073, and by reading "Reclaiming Texas History, One Home Movie at a Time," p.54. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 7pm.

Days and Clouds

Days and Clouds (2007) D: Silvio Soldini; with Margherita Buy, Antonio Albanese, Giuseppe Battiston, Alba Rohrwacher. (NR, 115 min.) **Reel Independents.** In this award-winning Italian film, a married man loses his job and hides the info from his wife for two months, and once she learns the truth, the couple's refusal to tell their friends and family creates tensions that destroy the marriage. @St. John Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.



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.)

If you've seen *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 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, cheerleading camp). Have the laid-back one fall in love, against his better judgment; 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. (02/20/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FRIDAY THE 13TH D: Marcus Nispel; with Jared Padalecki, Danielle Panabaker, Amanda Righetti, Travis Van Winkle, Aaron Yoo, Derek Mears, Julianna Guill, Ben Feldman, Derek Mears. (R, 97 min.)

To the tune of the Cramps' "The Most Exalted Potentate of Love": "Here comes the madman you've been dreaming of; he's the most exalted potentate of blood; he's got a hockey mask that fits like a glove; he'll be coming 'round the lake to gut your love; he's the most exalted potentate of blood. He's the most celebrated horror hound around, a momma's boy who'll put you 6 feet down; he makes Madman Marz look like Johnny Guitar; he's good with a bow, and he dies real slow; he's the most exalted potentate of blood. But bad, this film's so bad! To flub the fans' most beloved butcher boy. Bad, this film's so bad! It's Bay and Nispel who oughta be destroyed. 'Cause it's Jason Voorhees wrote this book o' death, as he killed and died and then took another breath; but Platinum Dunes ain't Crystal Lake, and everything here is an utter fake, a dullsville yawnfest, a crummy Bay mistake. Mad, this makes me mad. He was the most exalted potentate of blood." (02/13/2009) – Marc Savlov

☼ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



FROST/NIXON D: Ron Howard; with Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Matthew Macfadyen, Rebecca Hall. (R, 122 min.)

Frost/Nixon is a behind-the-scenes account of the momentous interviews with Richard Nixon conducted by British TV personality David Frost in 1977, three years after the former president had resigned from office in disgrace. The film is adapted for the screen by Peter Morgan from his play and stars the play's two leads: Langella (who also won a Tony for this role) as Nixon and Sheen as Frost. Almost by definition, *Frost/Nixon* is a two-handed work, a psychological boxing match between the two protagonists, and Langella and Sheen, the actors, are evenly matched. Each man also counts a few coaches and assistants in his corner, making the taped interviews seem all the more like a prizefight. *Frost/Nixon*, like Morgan's *The Queen*, is at its best when it's examining the fragile intersection of media and politics. On its own, however, I'm not sure that this story of Frost's chutzpah and Nixon's intractability is inherently that gripping. (12/26/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor

GRAN TORINO D: Clint Eastwood; with Eastwood, Bee Vang, Ahney Her, Christopher Carley, John Carroll Lynch. (R, 116 min.)

Nick Schenk's *Gran Torino* screenplay wasn't written with Eastwood in mind as the film's star and director, but you'd never guess that was the case, so comfortably does the film fit the lauded filmmaker and icon's public persona and body of work. Eastwood's performance as Walt Kowalski perfectly caps his long career as an actor. As director, Eastwood's usual economical yet efficacious style marks the film, but it is his performance that is really the heart of this show. Still lithe and taut in his movement, Eastwood nevertheless allows his aging body to sag in places and fail him on occasion. Eastwood also finds the humorous aspects of the character – heard often in the instinctive growl the character directs toward all annoyances, be they his own money-grubbing family members, gangbangers, or the neighborhood priest. Eastwood plans to go on making more movies, but it's doubtful any will be as satisfying a career culmination as *Gran Torino*. (01/09/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU

D: Ken Kwapis; with Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Ben Affleck, Ginnifer Goodwin, Jennifer Connelly, Scarlett Johansson, Justin Long, Bradley Cooper, Kevin Connolly. (PG-13, 129 min.)

Adapted by Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein from the bestselling book of the same name, *He's Just Not That Into You* charts a loose constellation of Baltimore residents as they date, marry, break up, and make up. (Remember *The Wire*'s ethnically diverse, rough-and-tumble take on the town? Welcome to the Bizarro Baltimore, populated by the White and Whining.) There's some funny stuff here that doesn't involve degrading its female protagonists, and the cast, by and large, is appealing (especially the nicely dry Aniston and Goodwin, who has the eyes of a mischief-maker). But for every genuine moment of relationship insight the script proffers (and there are a few nuggets of gold), there are another five wincing examples of female delusion and hysteria. And how come none of these women appears to have anything to talk about other than

how to get a man? These are funny, smart, good-looking gals. Forget getting the man; work on getting a life. (02/13/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

HOTEL FOR DOGS D: Thor Freudenthal; with Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon, Don Cheadle, Johnny Simmons, Troy Gentile, Robinne Lee. (PG, 100 min.)

Hotel for Dogs is a family-friendly operation. A couple of kids – orphans, no less – covertly maintain their family dog, Friday, as they move from one uncaring foster home to the next after “losing” their parents. Currently, Andi (Nancy Drew’s Roberts) and Bruce (Austin of *Wizards of Waverly Place*) reside with the untalented rock musicians Lois (Kudrow) and Carl (Dillon), who’ve taken in the kids only for the support checks that come with them. Cheadle plays the well-meaning social worker tasked with the near-impossible job of plac-

ing 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 the dog hotel with all sorts of mechanical contrivances worthy of *Pee-wee’s Playhouse*. (01/23/2009) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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



Karen Berg, OK! MAGAZINE

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Mark S. Allen, CBS/CW TV

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Death of a Cyclist

Death of a Cyclist (1955) D: Juan Antonio Bardem; with Lucia Bosé, Alberto Closas, Otello Toso, Carlos Casaravilla. (NR, 88 min.) **Austin Cinematheque.** In this Spanish film, two lovers flee the scene after their car accidentally strikes a cyclist. They fear the exposure of their affair, but the consequences of their deception are rife with ethical challenges. @Texas Union Theatre, Monday, 7:30pm; free.



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, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, 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, Dobie, 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, 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

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

PUSH D: Paul McGuigan; with Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning, Camilla Belle, Djimon Hounsou, Maggie Siff, Scott Michael Campbell. (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, hoodied, 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 supersoldiers. Or something. (02/13/2009) – Marc Savlov

✧ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



Close to Home

Close to Home (2005) D: Vardit Bilu and Dalia Hager; with Smadar Sayar, Naama Schendar, Katia Zinbris. (NR, 98 min.) **Austin Film Society: Children of Abraham/Ibrahim – Films of the Middle East and North Africa.** Two young female soldiers are partners on the same Israeli patrol at a border checkpoint, but their carefree concerns with the details of their own lives provide a contrast to the precarious military situation in which they find themselves. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free.



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, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Dobie, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD D: Sam Mendes; with Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kathy Bates, Michael Shannon. (R, 119 min.)

I suppose you could call *Revolutionary Road* a movie about the killing effects of the suburbs – something director Mendes previously explored in his debut film, *American Beauty* – but that would be a facile reduction of a film that aims, far more cuttingly, to sandblast the myth of "specialness" – that very American idea that we are all destined for greatness. A seductive opening scene introduces Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet), before they've married and moved to Revolutionary Road. The film then cuts to a half-decade later: The Wheelers are expert brawlers by now, both of them chafing at the expectations of their gender roles. There's an airlessness to Mendes' picture that doesn't leave much room for error. One slight bobble from the (admittedly very good) leads, and the illusion crumbles. Not a bobble in sight, though, from bit player Shannon, who steals the whole picture in two short, shattering scenes. (01/09/2009)

– Kimberley Jones
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Tinseltown South

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE D: Danny Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor, Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

Slumdog Millionaire is a mad, thrilling, and per-versely luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*. It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. (12/12/2008)

– Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

TAKEN D: Pierre Morel; with Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Holly Valance, Leland Orser, Jon Gries, David Warshofsky. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Taken begins with an act of violence against an American. Ninety minutes and dozens of fights, chases, and explosions later, it ends with a sheik assassinated, at least 50 people murdered, a couple of swarthy foreigners tortured, and France pretty well knocked about. Call it the last cinematic gasp of the Bush era, with a Hollywood hero even Bill O'Reilly could love. Bryan (Neeson) is a former U.S. spy who goes on a vigilante rampage when his daughter (Grace) is kidnapped by a gang of Albanian sex traffickers after she goes to Paris to attend a U2 concert (which should be a lesson to teenagers everywhere). It's a brilliantly devious setup, conceived by co-writers Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen who know that moviegoers will give a wide ethical berth to any father fighting to save his daughter's life, while kicking feeble notions such as plausibility and morality out the window as they go. (02/06/2009)

– Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS D: Patrick Tatopoulos; with Michael Sheen, Bill Nighy, Rhona Mitra, Kevin Grevioux, Steven Mackintosh. (R, 92 min.)

It's a testament to Bill Nighy's cadaverous panache that this third entry in the ongoing exsanguinators vs. lycanthropes franchise (that's vampires and werewolves to anyone not weaned on *Famous Monsters*) is as tolerable as it is, which is barely. In this, the *Underworld* franchise's shark-jumping origin story-cum-prequel, Nighy returns as Viktor, the vampire king, a deliriously hammy role that the actor has been only too happy to, um, sink his teeth into with a creepy charm that borders on the absurd. But fans expecting to drool over series mainstay Kate Beckinsale, who previously engaged Nighy tooth and nail as the black-patent-leather-clad Selene, are in for a sad day at the bloodfest. Not only is Beckinsale's

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character absent, but she's been replaced as the series' female lead by *Boston Legal's* Mitra, who is cast here as Viktor's daughter Sonja, which frankly does no one, fanged or furry, any good at all. (01/30/2009) – Marc Savlov

★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE UNINVITED D: Thomas Guard, Charles Guard; with Emily Browning, Arielle Kebbel, Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn, Maya Massar, Kevin McNulty. (PG-13, 87 min.)

The Uninvited is a generically creepy remake of South Korean director Kim Jee-woon's lush and unnerving masterpiece *A Tale of Two Sisters*. UK siblings the Guard Brothers (working from a script by Lost alumnus Craig Rosenberg and Doug Miro) have got the eye, although it's not quite that of the Pang Brothers. And, to be fair, *The Uninvited* benefits from some outré cinematography courtesy of director of photography Dan Landin, who gets a real frisson out of the Vancouver-for-New England locations. Browning is Anna, fresh out of the asylum after the death of her mother in a "mysterious" fire sent her over the edge some years back. Welcoming her home is sister Alex (Kebbel) and rightfully concerned Dad (Strathairn), plus Dad's uninvited new squeeze (Banks). Dullish malign visions, unsurprising spectral messages, and a third-act revelation that's telegraphed much too far in advance, however, conspire to undo *The Uninvited* despite the Guards' best efforts. (02/06/2009) – Marc Savlov

★★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

VALKYRIE D: Bryan Singer; with Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Eddie Izzard. (PG-13, 110 min.)

We all know how it ends, and that foreknowledge dooms Singer's hotly anticipated and much troubled account of the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life by his own officers in July 1944. It's always good to see Hitler threatened or Nazis getting what's coming to them – just ask Indiana Jones – but Cruise, strident, glaring, and positively burbling over with blood and honor and love of Germany's perverted promise, makes for a problematic closet hero. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, one of a handful of officers who together plan a suitcase-bomb attack to be carried out at the Wolf's Lair retreat, is fitfully dour. There's more honest suspense in waiting for him to crack a smile (he doesn't, or at least not the famous Cruise version) during all the scheming than there is in anything having to do with the actual assassination attempt. Director Singer, however, pays scrupulous attention to period detail and the mechanics of desperation. (12/26/2008) – Marc Savlov

★★ Movies 8

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 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 (*Old Joy*) and co-writer Jon Raymond provide very little background detail (maybe too little). What we need to know is this: Wendy is untethered.

School Play

School Play (2008) D: Edward Rosenstein and Rick Velleu. (NR, 72 min.) **Austin Film Festival: Target Family Film Series.** A group of fifth-graders from upstate New York stages a performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, while this documentary provides a look into the lives of five particular children. @Arbor, Sunday, 2pm; free.



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. The film's prevailing sensation is one of an ever-upticking sense of being alone and trapped. (02/20/2009) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Ritz

THE WRESTLER D: Darren Aronofsky; with Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood, Mark Margolis, Todd Barry, Wass Stevens, Judah Friedlander, Ernest Miller. (R, 109 min.)

In the latest from Aronofsky, Rourke rips his tattered name out from the dustbin of history with his portrayal of Randy "the Ram" Robinson, an aging professional wrestler (and fellow dustbin inhabitant). Those looking for a grand discourse on the suffering nobility of the aging pseudo-athlete in modern, youth-obsessed America will probably go away disappointed. Aronofsky and screenwriter Robert Siegel are less interested in tragedy than they are the intimacy that develops between men engaged in close-contact battle and the contrivances needed to make that contact look as "real" as possible. Together they create innumerable fascinating moments that have the air of documentary truth. But let's be honest: The story of the waning athlete, the stripper he loves, and the daughter he left behind is an old one, and if *The Wrestler* is ever in danger of slipping into sentimentality, it's here. Thankfully, whenever the risk of cliché arises, Aronofsky takes us back into the ring. (01/09/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown South, Westgate

YES MAN D: Peyton Reed; with Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, Rhys Darby, Danny Masterson, Terence Stamp. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Carl (Carrey) is in a funk. Then he discovers a life-changing mantra: Say "yes" to every opportunity that presents itself. This plot gimmick veers suspiciously close to the 1997 Carrey vehicle *Liar Liar*, in which his character compulsively tells the truth, even though supernatural intervention is the cause. In contrast, *Yes Man* believes in free will, with Carl at first struggling to agree to requests small and large, whether it be friends getting him to pick up the bar tab or a homeless person asking for a ride. But soon he's showered with rewards, including a pretty new girlfriend played by actor/singer Deschanel, who's wide-eyed and good-hearted but without a lot of range – a fair description of the film itself. As the good results roll in and Carl starts uttering "yes" without hesitation, *Yes Man* becomes less a story and more a collection of set-pieces. (12/19/2008) – Theresa Everline

★★★ Movies 8

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

also playing

BOLT ★★★ Movies 8

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D
★★★ Highland

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX
★ Movies 8

INKHEART ★★★ Metropolitan

SEVEN POUNDS ★★★ Movies 8

TWILIGHT ★ Movies 8

MARLEY & ME ★★★ Movies 8

THE SPIRIT ★ Movies 8

THE UNBORN ★ Movies 8

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special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



A Powerful Noise (2008) *D: Tom Cappello. (NR, 91 min.)*
NCM Fathom/CARE: International Women's Day. The documentary chronicles the lives of three women from around the globe whose unyielding efforts against gender barriers help empower others in their community. One is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, another a survivor of the Bosnian War, and the last an activist in the slums of Mali. A town hall discussion with leading experts and celebrity activists will follow the national screening. Among the panelists are Christy Turlington Burns, Madeleine K. Albright, Natalie Portman, and Nicholas Kristof. @CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Thursday (3/5), 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 filmmaking 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 Ritz, 7pm;
Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

SPACES

Balancing the Cosmos (2009) *D: Andrew Weeks. (NR, 130 min.)* This documentary reveals the traditions of the Maya town of Santiago Atitlán in the Guatemalan highlands. @UTC Building (on the UT campus), 6:30pm.

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. @Donny Books, 7:30pm; \$5 suggested donation.

Through Thick and Thin (2007) *D: Sebastian Cordoba. (NR, 76 min.)* **aGLIFF: Monthly Screening Series.** The festival inaugurates its new monthly series with this documentary about seven binational gay and lesbian couples whose lives are dramatically affected by the current state of immigration laws in the U.S. Director Cordoba will be in attendance, and a launch party for the series will follow after the screening. @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 7pm; \$5, free for members of aGLIFF, AFF, AFS, Cine las Americas, and TSHM.

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 13 issue is Monday, March 2.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;
Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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SUNDAY 01

School Play (2008) See p.83.

MONDAY 02

Death of a Cyclist (1955) See p.82.

Heroes TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm; Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm.

Urgh! A Music War (1981) *D: Derek Burbidge. (NR, 96 min.)* **Music Monday.** In this cult performance relic from the punk/New Wave scene, 32 bands play – among them XTC, the Police, Oingo Boingo, Joan Jett, Devo, the Dead Kennedys, and the Go-Gos. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Written on the Wind (1956) See p.80.

SPACES

The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power (1992) *D: Various; narrated by Donald Sutherland. (NR)* **Documentary Night.** This program is part of a four-volume, eight-episode documentary series about the oil industry based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Daniel Yergin. The series will run throughout March. @MonkeyWrench Books, 7:30pm.

TUESDAY 03

Close to Home (2005) See p.82.

The Getaway (1972) *D: Sam Peckinpah; with Steve McQueen, Ali MacGraw, Ben Johnson, Bo Hopkins, Sally Struthers, Al Lettieri, Slim Pickens. (PG, 122 min.)* **Texas Archive of the Moving Image: Wanted! Texas Film Series.** The story comes from Jim Thompson's book, and the screenplay was written by Walter Hill. The star wattage is all McQueen and MacGraw, while the propulsion is all Peckinpah. Bring your own Texas-related film or video to the screening to sign up for TAMI's free digitization program. More information about TAMI can be found at www.texasarchive.org/events, by calling 485-3073, and by reading "Reclaiming Texas History, One Home Movie at a Time," p.54. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Lifeforce (1985) *D: Tobe Hooper; with Steve Railsback, Peter Firth, Frank Finlay, Mathilda May, Patrick Stewart. (R, 116 min.)* **Terror Tuesday.** A spaceship investigating Halley's Comet returns with alien creatures that drain human beings of their "lifeforce." @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.

Auditions for Machina Cinema San Antonio-based filmmaker Buddy Calvo is holding open auditions (males and females, ages 18-26) for an upcoming project. Sat., Feb. 28, 10am-2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. machinacinema@gmail.com.

Austin Film Society Summer Youth Camps You know those kids want to learn how to make movies; AFS youth filmmaking camps teach hands-on narrative and experimental techniques using digital video. The camps run Monday through Friday (9am-5pm) in June, July, and August and are appropriate for ages 12-15. See website for details, and register soon. \$250 (\$225, AFS members). www.austinfilm.org.

Austin Film Society: Awards Party in the Red Room The Red Room is AFS' enormous party tent adjacent to Stage 5, where the ninth annual Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards will be taking place. The party, hosted by Austin-based actors Dana Wheeler-Nicholson and Paul Saucido, will feature a live simulcast of the star-studded show, open bar, and hors d'oeuvres. Reservations required. See website for details. Thu., March 12, 8pm. 322-0145. \$100. www.austinfilm.org.

Austin School of Film Winter Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmschool.org/classes.

Reel Women: First Monday Mix No agenda, no schedule; just mingling, mixing, meeting, bragging, commiserating. Find someone you do (or don't) want to collaborate with. Recruit for your next project. Mon., March 2, 6-8pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free. www.reelwomen.org.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Registration All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. **Screenwriting Master Class** Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, through March 31. \$450. Also, private instruction and story consultation packages, seven hours of instruction, \$390. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

TXMPA Lobby Day The Texas Motion Picture Alliance invites you to join it – wear something red – in visiting the offices of local legislators to show support for competitive incentives in the industry. Up with film! Volunteer training: Tue., March 3, 7pm. Austin Studios, 1901 E. 51st. Lobby Day rally: Wed., March 4, 7:30am. South steps of the state Capitol. www.austinfilm.org.

WEDNESDAY 04

The Legend of Billie Jean **Texas Archive of the Moving Image: Wanted! Texas Film Series.** A Texas teen gets caught up in a cross-state fight for justice when bullies trash her brother's scooter. Bring your own Texas-related film or video to the screening to sign up for TAMI's free digitization program. More information about TAMI can be found at www.texasarchive.org/events, by calling 485-3073, and by reading "Reclaiming Texas History, One Home Movie at a Time," p.54. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm; Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Plague Town (2008) *D: David Gregory; with Josslyn DeCrosta, Erica Rhodes, David Lombard, Lindsay Goranson.* Bloodthirsty mutant children attack an American family searching for their roots in Ireland. Director Gregory will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm; free.

The Sinful Dwarf (1973) *D: Vidal Raski; with Clara Keller, Tony Eades, Anne Sparrow. (R, 92 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** In this demented Danish picture, a dwarf lures innocent young girls to his mom's house with the help of mechanical toy poodles. The girls are drugged, tied up, and abused by "clients" and/or sold into slavery. Occasionally, the dementia is interrupted by the dwarf's drunken mom performing musical numbers. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

Days and Clouds (2007) See p.80.

Team Everest: A Himalayan Journey (2007) *D: Andy Cockrum. (NR, 111 min.)* The documentary chronicles the experiences of the largest group of people with disabilities to trek to the Mount Everest Base Camp. The director will be in attendance for a Q&A following the screening. @Ragsdale Center, Mabee Ballroom (St. Edward's University), 4pm; free.

Where Is Leili? (2006) *D: Mohammad Shirvani. (NR, 73 min.)* **Iranian Film Appreciation Society of Austin: Iranian Music Films.** A documentary tribute to the life and work of contemporary Iranian composer and ethnomusicologist Mohammad Reza Darvishi. @CMA Auditorium A2.320 (on the UT campus), 6:30pm.

offscreen

THURSDAY 05

Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Quote-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

No Shame Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz,
10:15pm. (See Thu., 2/26.)

A Powerful Noise (2008) See p.84.

Showgirls (1995) D: Paul Verhoeven; with Elizabeth Berkley, Kyle MacLachlan, Gina Gershon. (NC-17, 97 min.) **David Schmdar Live.** The infa-

mous movie will screen along with live commentary from David Schmdar, a Seattle writer who is billed as the world's foremost authority on the film. He argues for its being the best "worst movie ever made." For more info, see www.drafthouse.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$12.

Straight (2002) (NR, 100 min.) **David Schmdar Live.** Stranger editor and columnist Schmdar will be on hand to present the film version of his solo play, which delves into the world of sexual-conversion therapy to "cure" homosexuals. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; \$8.50.

imax

Across the Sea of Time 3D (1995) D: Stephen Low; with Peter Reznick. (G, 51 min.) An 11-year-old Russian stowaway arrives in New York hoping to meet up with a branch of his family that came to America decades earlier. Armed with a stereopticon (a primitive precursor to today's 3-D) and a handful of old family photographs, he suddenly encounters the sights and sounds of modern New York. (*) Thu. (2/26), 11am, 2, 3, 5pm; Fri., 11am, 2, 3pm; Sat., 11am, 3, 6pm; Sun., 3, 6pm; Mon.-Thu. (3/5), 11am, 3, 6pm.

All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live! (2001) D: Martyn Atkins. (NR, 65 min.) Ends Friday. Thu. (2/26), 6, 7:30pm; Fri., 5, 7:30pm.

Beowulf: The IMAX Experience (2007) D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.) The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of Beowulf. Fri.-Sat., 9:45pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (2/26)-Sat., 10am, 1pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (3/5), 10am, 1pm.

U2 3D (2008) D: Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens. (G, 85 min.) In 3-D and on the IMAX screen, these Irish rockers really rattle and hum. (*) Sat, 8pm; Mon.-Thu. (3/5), 8pm.

Under the Sea 3D (2009) D: Howard Hall. (NR, 40 min.) The impact of global warming is examined in the waters of Southern Australia, New Guinea and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region. Sat., noon, 2, 4, 7pm; Sun., 2, 4, 7pm; Mon.-Thu. (3/5), noon, 2, 4, 7pm.

Wild Ocean 3D (2008) D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Thu. (2/26), noon, 4pm; Fri., noon, 6:30pm; Sat.-Thu. (3/5), 5pm.

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WANTED: TEXAS FILM SERIES



Written on the Wind
Monday, March 2



The Getaway
Tuesday, March 3



The Legend of Billie Jean
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music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings

No Idea Festival 2009

Blue Theater,
Thursday 26-
Saturday 28



MARIO DE VEGA

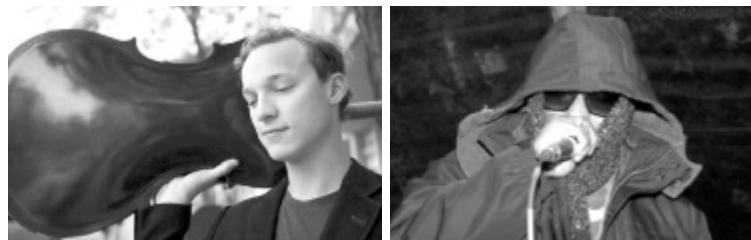
In its sixth year, the No Idea Festival is expanding when tightening belts is the order of the day. The Austin portion of the improvisational music

gathering features an international cast of players – Berlin guitarist **Annette Krebs**, Zurich percussionist **Jason Kahn**, and Mexico City sound artist **Mario de Vega** – as well as NYC trumpeter **Jawwad Taylor**, No Idea organizer/percussionist **Chris Cogburn**, Weird

Weeds drummer **Nick Hennies**, electro-vet **Rick Reed**, Houston trombonist **Dave Dove**, and more, all pairing up for various sets. Houston (March 1) and New Orleans (March 2) also get a few ideas of their own. Visit www.noideafestival.com for more info. – Audra Schroeder



Bill Cosby's jazz cutting contest with Jonathan Winters at austinchronicle.com/earache



JOHN ANDERSON

FUJIYA & MIYAGI Emo's, Friday 27

Lightbulbs, Fujiya & Miyagi's junior slump, still managed a bit of "Pussyfooting." The UK quartet's 2006 LP, *Transparent Things*, set a new standard in modern Krautrock – metronomic beats, Autobahn basslines, whispered nothings – but only newbie "Knickerbocker" took all four Brighton lads to screw it in. Their Club de Ville performance, October 2007, proved the live arena their true "Reeboks in Heaven." Project Jenny, Project Jan opens. – Raoul Hernandez

MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY Saxon Pub, Friday 27 Paramount Theatre, Sunday 1

Texan singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey just released *Buckaroo Blue Grass*, already one of the best bluegrass albums of 2009, and takes the spotlight this weekend. Friday night's set with Rodney Crowell at the Saxon stays intimate, while Sunday evening down at the Paramount is sure to be a barn burner as he pairs with Willie Nelson, Guy Clark, and Allen Shambelin, who has written hits for Bonnie Raitt, Randy Travis, and more. – Jim Caligiuri

JUDY COLLINS One World Theatre, Saturday 28

Few places are as well-suited to the marvelous voice of Judy Collins. She was already a beloved soprano on the East Coast folk scene when she hit with Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" in 1967. Also known for "Send in the Clowns" and "Amazing Grace," Collins' pipes have mellowed over the years, but her concerts remain a tribute to the sometimes-underrated art of vocal interpretation. 7 & 9:30pm. – Margaret Moser

in-stores

Friday: **That Damned Band**, **Esmerelda Strange**, **Izzy Cox**, **Warren Jackson Hearne**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 7pm
Saturday: The **Dark Water Hymnal**, End of an Ear, 6pm; the **Anchor**, **Sweet Bandana**, **Earth Eater**, **Newlywed**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 7pm

8088 RECORD COLLECTIVE CD RELEASE The Parlor, Saturday 28

Volume three of the Austin/Brooklyn label's compilation is a sonic road trip. Experimental, noise, and indie artists from Florida, Arkansas, North Carolina, Houston, Oklahoma, and Austin are featured on two discs, an aural buffet of underground flavor. Aunt's Analog, Betaplayer, Bridge Farmers, and Like Dogs take to the floor of the Parlor for the release. – Audra Schroeder

THE PRETENDERS Stubb's, Sunday 1

After a hometown Valentine's stop in Akron, Ohio, veteran boss-hoss Chrissie Hynde marches her Pretenders to Texas in support of their ninth studio release, 2008's heartland-inspired *Break Up the Concrete*. Drummer Martin Chambers maintains as the only other original member of Hynde's touring chain gang, but don't believe the Chrissie-lite complaints from the blogosphere. At 57, she'll still kick out your windows. American Bang opens. – Anne Harris

MI AMI Mohawk, Tuesday 3

Featuring former members of Dischord's Black Eyes, San Francisco trio Mi Ami breaks dub plates with pterodactyl-like vocals and African-tinged beats on debut *Watersports* (Quarterstick), returning for South by Southwest in a few weeks. Sonically similar Baltimore brothers Thank You give percussive concussions on new LP *Terrible Two* (Thrill Jockey). Locals Red X Red M headline; the Distant Seconds kick things off. – Audra Schroeder

DEREK TRUCKS La Zona Rosa, Wednesday 4

Doyle Bramhall II, southpaw book-end to Derek Trucks in Eric Clapton's touring band, comes off almost as purdy – musically speaking – as his six-string peer's spouse (Susan Tedeschi) on new Trucker disc *Already Free*. "Maybe This Time" and "Our Love" should, however, be just fine in the hands of the Allman Brother's sextet, Trucks' many miles of slide guitar still a thrilling Southern standard. Special guests not required, but you never know. – Raoul Hernandez

BEN SOLLEE Stubb's, Wednesday 4

Andrew Bird Jr. touring with Sam Beam's little brother? For one, Ben Sollee plays the cello, not violin, although the chamber pop on last year's *Learning to Bend* swayed with airy sincerity and the gentle assistance of Abigail Washburn and Béla Fleck. Fellow Kentucky colonel Daniel Martin Moore pours his soft murmur into an iron goblet via 2008 Sub Pop debut *Stray Age*. A new age of songwriter has begun. – Raoul Hernandez

KOOL KEITH Mohawk, Thursday 5

The fearless leader of the No Sweatpants Coalition, Kool Keith has more personas in the closet than R. Kelly. No matter which one steps out on any given occasion – Dr. Octagon, Black Elvis, Dr. Doom – the Ultramagnetic MC's flow is as fresh and freaky as his outlandish schizophrenia. Expect to meet his latest incarnation, the urban realist Tashan Dorsett. The highly suspicious Paramedic Fetus From the East opens. – Austin Powell

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

JOHNNY CASH BIRTHDAY BASH Continental Club, Friday 27

The Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash, Long Gone Daddys, Lucky Tubb, and many more blow out candles, benefit KOOP.

THE KA-NIVES Beerland, Friday 27

Houston, spaz up. Locals the Young, No No No Hopes, and Welfare Mothers kick in the door.

DIAGONALS CD RELEASE 501 Studios, Saturday 28

Neil Diamond's somewhere in the *Valley of the Cyclops*. Ugly Beats open, free!

DELTA SPIRIT Emo's, Saturday 28

San Diego sunshine soul and Americana. Other Lives and Dawes open.

TOSCA STRING QUARTET

Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, Sunday 1
The Golden Hornet Project strings up 10 years with the local ladies. 8pm.

MYSTERIOUS WAYS Antone's, Monday 2

Austin's U2 celebrates the real thing's *No Line on the Horizon*.

SCARCITY OF TANKS Club 1808, Tuesday 3

Cleveland's rotating collective of noise, plus the local grime of ST 37 and Cry Blood Apache.

MODEST MOUSE Stubb's, Wednesday 4

Not Dead after the ship sank.

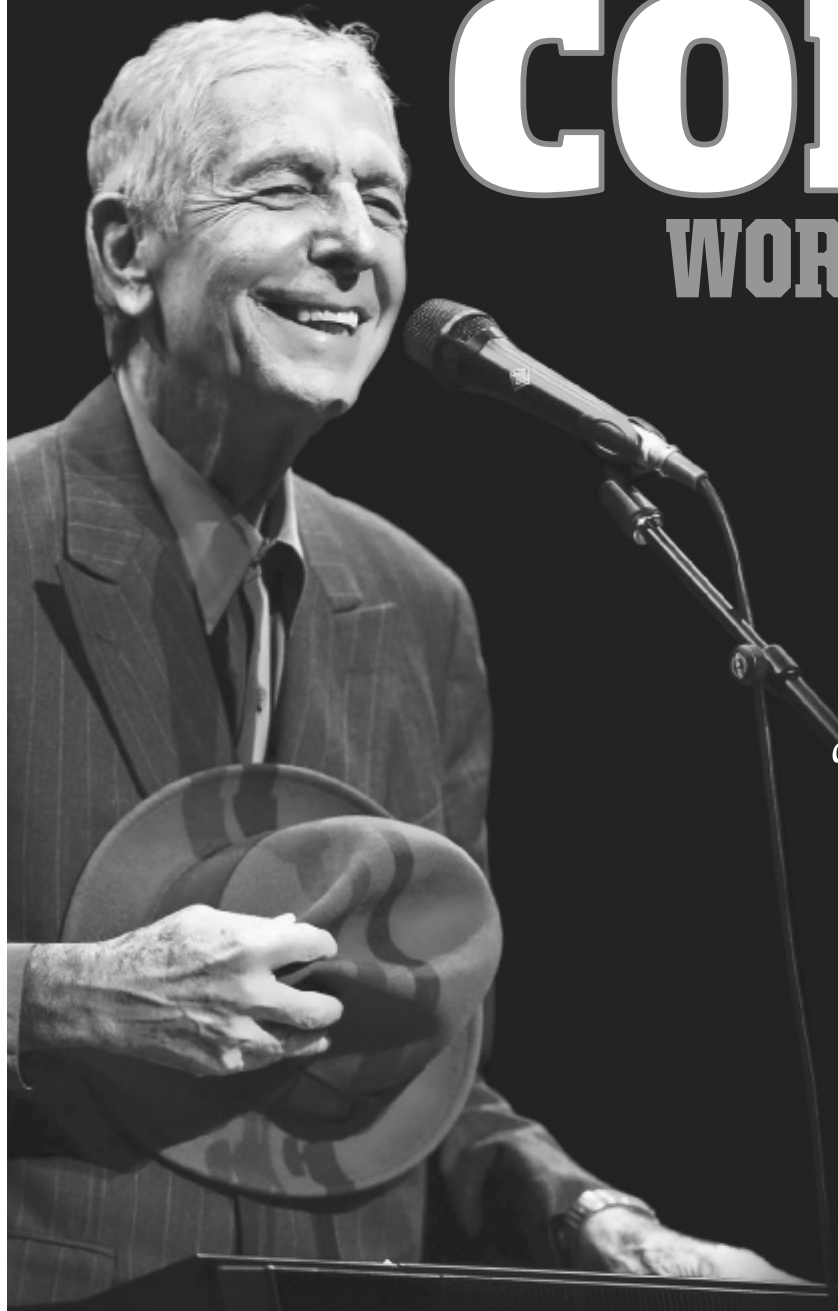
TÝR, ALESTORM, SUIDAKRA, RUINS OF HONOR

Red 7, Thursday 5
Folk and Celtic metal from abroad.

live music venues p.88 ● roadshows p.92 ● club listings p.95

LEONARD COHEN

WORLD TOUR 2009



The Australian - AU

"Leonard Cohen remains an artist of impeccable class"

- January 2009

Manchester Evening News - UK

"a unique, soul-stirring event, surely destined to be remembered as one of the great shows of the year"

- June 2008

The Guardian - UK

"...the greatest songwriter of his generation"

- January 2009

The Dominion Post - NZ

"...the best show I have ever seen"

- January 2009

FIRST U.S. PERFORMANCES IN OVER 15 YEARS

APRIL 2

Long
Center

**FRIDAY
APRIL 3**

NOKIA Theatre
at grand prairie

ON SALE FRIDAY 10AM



AEGLive.com

AUSTIN: THELONGCENTER.ORG • CHARGE: 512.474.LONG

DALLAS: ticketmaster.com • CHARGE: 1.800.745.3000

EVENT TIME AND DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LeonardCohen.com

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**SHINER TOP TEN
TEXAS ARTISTS**



- 1) WILLIE NELSON & ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
Willie & the Wheel
- 2) TRAIL OF DEAD
Century of Self
- 3) BEN KWELLER
Changing Horses
- 4) RUTHIE FOSTER
The Truth According to
- 5) THE GOURDS
Haymaker!
- 6) HEARTLESS BASTARDS
Mountain
- 7) LUCINDA WILLIAMS
Little Honey
- 8) PAT GREEN
What I'm for
- 9) GRUPO FANTASMA
Sonidos Gold
- 10) HAYES CARLL
Trouble in Mind



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Cactus
23RD & GUADALUPE

475-6515

Celebrating 30 Years @ The Cactus Cafe!



THUR & FRI • FEB 26 & 27
OLD FRIENDS SHINE LIKE DIAMONDS
GUY CLARK
THUR • GUEST STAR • GRAHAM WEBER
FRI • GUEST STAR • SLAID CLEAVES

SAT • FEB 28 • 8:30PM

ALIVE ON ARRIVAL @ THE CAFE


STEVE FORBERT
GUEST STAR • TROY CAMPBELL
TIX @ THE DOOR!

SUN & MON • FEB 1 & 2 • 8PM



AN EVENING AT THE CACTUS
RICHARD THOMPSON

TUE • MAR 3 • 8PM

ANA EGGE (CD RELEASE)
MICHAEL KINKAID
WITH WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS



WED • MAR 4 • 8PM



LEGENDARY SCOTTISH BAND
THE BATTLEFIELD BAND
TIX @ THE DOOR! • 8PM SHOW

THUR • MAR 5 • 8:30PM

THE ONE THE ONLY
BOB SCHNIEDER
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
TIX @ THE DOOR



FRI • MAR 6 • 8:30PM



RED HOUSE CD RELEASE
DANNY SCHMIDT
GUEST STAR • CARRIE ELKIN

SAT • MAR 7 • 7:30PM

11TH ANNUAL CACTUS
TOWNES VAN ZANDT
B-DAY SALUTE
WITH **BUTCH HANCOCK**
& **COMPADRES** • 7:30PM SHOW



TUE • MAR 10 • 8:30PM



CD RELEASE CELEBRATION
KAT EDMONSON

WED • MAR 11 • 8:30PM



MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
& **DANNY MALONE**

cactus.union.utexas.edu

3.13	SHAKE RUSSELL	3.24	TOM PACHECO
3.14	GURF MORLIX	3.25	GEORGE KAHUMOKU
3.20	KICKIN' OUT THE CACTUS JAMS	3.26	THE REFUGES
	WITH DAVID MARSH	3.26	GUY FORSYTH
3.21	SONGWRITER SHOWCASE	3.28	MARATHON
			WITH DARDEN SMITH

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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LIVE MUSIC VENUE
1619 S. 1st Street • 447-7700

LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE


THURSDAY 2/26

NO COVER!
CORNELL HURD BAND 8-10pm
CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF PAUL SKELTON





FRIDAY, 2/27

\$5 COVER!
GIRL GUITAR BOCA ABAJO 6-7pm
7:30-9pm
FOCO ROJO 9:30-11:30pm





SATURDAY, 2/28

\$8 COVER
GIRL GUITAR UNCLE LUCIUS 6:30-7:30pm
8-9:30pm
NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH! 10pm-12am



SUNDAY, 3/1

\$8 COVER
RICHARD SANGUINETTI 6:30-7:30pm
TOM GILLAM BAND 8-10pm





MONDAY, 2/23

CLOSED


TUESDAY, 3/3

NO COVER!
CHRIS JAMISON 6:30-7:30pm
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 8-10pm




WEDNESDAY, 3/4

NO COVER!
MJ STORRANCE 6-7:30pm
3RDTRY LEFTY 8-10pm



live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ACES LOUNGE, 222 E. Sixth, 477-2237
ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE AT THE RITZ, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320
THE AMSTERDAM, 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606
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
BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625)
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
THE BLUE THEATER, 916 Springdale, 927-1118
BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200
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
CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519
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
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
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
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586
FIDDLER'S HEARTH, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 535-5008
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
THE INDEPENDENT AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35, 485-3000
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
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
LONESTAR SK8 SHOP, 917 W. Anderson, 459-7827
LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800
LOUIE'S, 106, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997
LOVEJOYS, 604 Neches, 477-1268
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
MAIKO, 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888
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
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NEWORLELI, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170
NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969
NUEVO 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
OPAL DIVINE'S FREEHOUSE, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308
PANGAEA, 409 Colorado, 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 Lakewood Pointe, 512/267-1845
PLAYLAND SKATE CENTER, 8822 McCann, 452-1901
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE, 213 W. Fourth, 472-2782
RABBIT'S LOUNGE, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAINBOW CATTLE CO., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115
RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
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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
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN, 701 Main, Georgetown, 512/868-1300
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter, 288-9994
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT, 7010 Hwy. 71 W. #180, 579-0726
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SNAKE EYES VINYL, 1101 Navasota, 600-6950
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 606 W. 15th, 476-6757
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
THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358
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
TRIUMPH CAFE, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd., 343-1875
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY, 512 W. 29th, 480-9562
UNITY CHURCH OF AUSTIN, 5501 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3000
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

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

PATRICE PIKE & JOY DAVIS 10:00 \$10

PORTERDAVIS 8:00 \$10

JAMES BULLARD 12:30 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

LONE STAR STATE OF MIND

RODNEY CROWELL & MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY

9:00 \$35 ADVANCE, \$40 DOOR
WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

BUSTER JIGGS 12:30 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

OMAR & THE HOWLERS 8:00 \$10

FEVER TREE RISING 10:30 \$10

UNCLE LUCIUS 12:15 \$10

3:00 - NO SHOW PONIES - No Cover!

SUNDAY MARCH 1

ALLEN SHAMBLIN 10:00 No Cover!

BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL 8:00 \$10

CHELLE MURREY 3:00 - No Cover

MONDAY MARCH 2

BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND

8:30 \$10

MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 7:00 \$10

JEFF PLANKENHORN 11:00 \$5

AMERICAN ROULETTE 12:30 \$5

TUESDAY MARCH 3

THE BAND OF HEATHENS 8:00 \$10

SHURMAN 10:00 \$5

DERTYBIRD 12:30 \$5

5:30 No Cover Happy Hour **ROBBIE & THE ROGUES**

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

JAMES HYLAND FORMERLY W/ THE JUG BAND 10:00 \$7

PAUL WESLEY 8:00 \$5

STEVEN RAY WILL 12:00 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 - **THE STINGRAYS**

MARCH 13 & 14 - JOE ELY

MARCH 18 - IAN MCLAGAN

MARCH 19 - SLAID CLEAVES

ADVANCE TICKETS FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

IT'S ALL AT... **CONTINENTALCLUB.COM**

The Continental Club

MONDAY MARCH 2 **Oliver Giraud's Continental Graffiti**

THUR FEB 26 **HAPPY HOUR**

WOODSBOSS

SALSA NIGHT!

CHAPARRAL

TUESDAY MARCH 3 **PLANET GASPER**

H. H. 6:30 **WITH THE LEROI BROTHERS**

GRADY

12AM **ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 **H. H. GUY FORSYTH**

JAMES MCMURTRY

10:30PM **JON DEE GRAHAM**

THURSDAY MARCH 5 **HAPPY HOUR WOODSBOSS**

12AM **DREW SMITH'S LONELY CHOIR**

10PM **Jeremy Nail AND THE INCIDENTS**

DANA FALCONBERRY

FRIDAY MARCH 6 **HAPPY HOUR THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS**

12AM **DIAMOND SMUGGLERS**

T-BIRD & THE BREAKS

SATURDAY MARCH 7 **REDD VOLKAERT**

12AM **PONG DUKE!**

10PM **WITH GRAHAM & THE GOLDEN ARM TRIO**

FRIDAY FEB 27 **DOORS AT 4PM SHOW AT 8PM**

JOHNNY CASH BIRTHDAY BASH

BENEFITTING KOOP RADIO WITH...
BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH,
BUZZ CASON JEREMY STEDING,
THE CASH BAND, THE BAND
IN BLACK, LONG GONE DADDYS,
LUCKY TUBB & THE MODERN DAY
TROUBADORS, ROGER WALLACE,
BOB KING WITH GLENNA BELL,
THE SKELETONS, JT COLDPIRE, JOEL HOFFMAN
BAND & DEATH AND TEXAS!

SATURDAY FEB 28 **REDD VOLKAERT** 9:30PM

MATINEE 3-7PM **VIVA AEROBUS PROMOTION: FREE PLANE TICKET GIVEAWAY**

12AM **CHAPARRAL**

10PM **CORNELL HURD**

GOD BLESS PAUL SKELETON

SUNDAY MARCH 1 **HEYDALE** 10PM

12AM **WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL**

SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS MARCH 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

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\$2 DRINK SPECIALS
EVERY THURSDAY ALL NIGHT LONG
SUNDAYS: ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
\$2 DOMESTICS FRI & SAT UNTIL 11PM
\$2 DOMESTICS EVERY WEEKNIGHT

THURSDAY 2/26

INITIALS CD RELEASE PARTY 8PM-12 MID

DJ DIAMOND TIP 10PM-2AM

COLLEGE NIGHT \$2 HOLLAR
CURTIS GRIMES BAND 10PM-2AM

FRIDAY 2/27

ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE 10PM-2AM

IN THE PINK 10PM-2AM

SATURDAY 2/28

SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS 10PM-2AM

TIN CAN PHONE 10PM-2AM

SUNDAY 3/1

8PM-12AM **ALAN HAYNES SERVICE INDUSTRY**

MONDAY 3/2

BLUE MONDAY FEATURING MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYS 8PM-12 MID

TUESDAY 3/3

LIVE BAND KARAOKE 10PM-1AM

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ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

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603 RED RIVER

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

INSIDE EARLY: DOORS @4PM:
NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS:
THE FACELESS • MISERY INDEX
TONY DANZA TAPDANCE EXTRAVAGANZA
PREDOMINANT MORTIFICATION • DISFIGURED

MONDAY, MARCH 2

MILLER BREWING SERVICE INDUSTRY
APPRECIATION PARTY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

INSIDE: **THE SEAS • PEOPLE FOOD** CD RELEASE
HONEY THIEF • FRANTIC CLAM

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

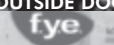
INSIDE: KISS FM PRESENTS
THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR
FURTHEST FROM THE STAR • GO ACTION TEAM

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

OUTSIDE DOORS AT 6PM:



W/ SUBCITY

TAKE ACTION

TOUR 2009

CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR

meg & dia

EVERY AVENUE

BREATHE CAROLINA

INSIDE: **HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS**
IGNITOR • YEAR OF THE KID • BAT CASTLE

*3/18-3/20 SKSX • 3/23 KNOCK-OUT, JOHNNY HOOTROCK (IN) • 3/31 THE TANKS, HEARTSEXPLODE, THE HAPPEN-INS (IN) • 4/1 BIG JOHN BATES & THE VOODOO DOLLS / KITT 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 (INSIDE, 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) • 4/18 DEL THE FUNKY HOMOSAPIEN (OUTSIDE, ON SALE SAT, 2/28) • 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 (OUTPATRO/INSIDE) NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS: NAPALM DEATH, KATAKLYSM, TOXIC HOLOCAUST, ABIGAIL WILLIAMS, TRAP THEM (OUTSIDE) • 4/28 MAE W/ PERSON I, BARCELONA, AND TOKYO (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 5/26 MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA W/ FUN (EX-MEMBERS OF THE FORMAT AND ANATHALLO), AUDREY SESSIONS & WINSTON AUDIO (INSIDE, ON SALE THURS 3/5) • 6/5 BACHELORETTE (INSIDE, ON SALE SAT 2/28)

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SHOWS ARE SELLING OUT

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
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

OUTSIDE: A BURLESQUE CUPCAKE COOKOFF
PASTRIES & PASTIES

INSIDE: **OLIVER FUTURE**
THE BOXING LESSON • MOTEL AVIV

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

FREE SHOW!
GIGOTRON BEST OF TEXAS
PARTY WITH FINALLY PUNK
THE HEX DISPENSERS • MANIKIN

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

EMO'S ANNEX:
HILLGRASS BLUEBILLY PRESENTS...
T-MODEL FORD • POSSESSED 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

INSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • GOSPEL TRUTH • A GIANT DOG
OUTSIDE: **TRIBUTE BAND MARATHON**

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

OUTFLOOR: DOORS @ 3PM:
STICK TO YOUR GUNS
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 • MERCY
OUTFLOOR: **ABANDON KANSAS**
COMPANION

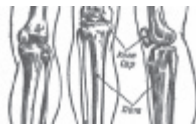


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Kate's

1 Good
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Benefit



SUNDAY MARCH 1

Del Castillo 3

Kacy Crowley 4

Johnny
Goudie 4:30

James Hyland 5

Amy Cook 5:30

Bob Schneider 6

Drew Smith y
Dustin Welch 6:30

Patrice Pike 7:30

Suzanna
Choffel 8:30

Dan Dyer 9:30

The Band
of Heathens 10:30

Warren Hood
y los Hoodlums 11:30

Tix: \$12 door.
\$10 advance thru



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26 / \$10
THE NEIGHBORHOOD STORY
PROJECT OF NEW ORLEANS
W/ MY FRIEND JEN
THE LITTLE ELMORE REED BLUES BAND
GREG IZOR & THE KICKERS
THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT
WARREN HOOD & MANY MORE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27

BEAUX LOY



CD RELEASE PARTY! DOORS 7 SHOW 8
DAVID JOHNSON
THE SOLDIER THREAD
THE SPOILED

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

JON DEE GRABAM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JON PARTY SHOW

10:45

JESSE SUBLETT
& THE MURDER 7
GREENSKY BLUEGRASS 11:30

MONDAY MARCH 2

FREEDY JOHNSTON 8:30
CRAIG MARSHALL 7
MADELYN CASCIO 11:45
NATHAN HUBBLE 10:30

TUESDAY MARCH 3

THANKS FOR THE WARNING 12
MARMALAKES 10:30
GOLDCURE 9:30
KNOW MORE ROBOTS 8:15
MATT MAYE 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR RYAN HARKRIDER 5:15

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4

DAN DYER 11:15
SUZANNA CHOFFEL
BIRTHDAY PARTY PARTY 9:30
CHERYL MURDOCK 7
JACOB JILES 12:30
NO COVER HAPPY HR FINGERPISTOL 5:15

UPCOMING SHOWS

THE BELLEVILLE
OUTFIT FEB
CRYBEAR 5TH

FEB
15TH

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AND THE ROOTS BAND

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WED MAR 04
THUR APR 09
MON APR 13
TUES APR 28

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THURSDAY FEB 26 *HIP HOP* DOORS 9:00
KIRBY DOMINANT
MSG CREW & FOOLS INC.

FRIDAY FEB 27 *DUB/ELECTRONICA* DOORS 9:00
GRIMY STYLES
OHN

SATURDAY FEB 28 *SKA/BLUES/ACOUSTIC* DOORS 9:00
VIC RUGGIERO
SOLO ACOUSTIC SET FROM THE LEAD SINGER OF THE SLACKERS
THE BANDULLUS, THE TRENCHTOWN TEXANS
PROPER VILLAIN SOUNDSYSTEM

WEDNESDAY MAR 04 *HIP HOP* DOORS 9:00
DUBB SICKS HIP HOP SHOW
CD RELEASE PARTY

UPCOMING SHOWS

03.09: DDDD TINCAN PHONE, ROCK
03.06: MILES OKAZAKI, NOBODY'S BUSINESS, BRANNEN TEMPLE'S
TEMPLE UNDERGROUND
03.07: SPES LIKE US & CHANNEL ONE
03.11: DUB TRANCE MISSION, CONTRABANDITS
03.12: FATBACK CIRCUS, BANKRUPT & THE BORROWERS, BOWING
STASSINEY, SOLAR BRIDGES
03.13: DUBKIDS WITH THE REDDIES
03.17: MOVING MATTER & BUMP

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Poodie's Hilltop ROADHOUSE No Bad Days

Friday, February 27
MICHAEL MEYERS
ROOM 99 (OPENER)

Saturday, February 28
JOHN DEERY BAND
KINGS OF HARD LUCK (OPENER)

Thursday, March 5
GEOFF UNION 8PM

Friday, March 6
JAMES MCMURTRY & THE HEARTLESS BASTARDS
JOHNNY BURKE BAND (OPENER)

Saturday, March 7
MICHAEL SHANE BORDEN
A.J. DOWNING & THE BUICK 6 (OPENER)

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\$2.50 OLD WHISKEY RIVER SHOTS
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BLOCK-BY-BLOCK COVERAGE

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/SXSW

CHRONICLE DAILIES ON STANDS

THURSDAY,
MARCH 19;

FRIDAY,
MARCH 20;

AND

SATURDAY,
MARCH 21

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
SXSW
2009
ISSUES

club listings

roadshows

february

THU 26

Bob Cheevers, the Amsterdam
Pretty Boy Thorson & the San Diego Chargers, Beerland
Bonnie Jones, Annette Krebs, Jason Kahn, Tatsuya Nakatani, Cooper-Moore, the Blue Theater
Guy Clark, Cactus Cafe
Freezepop, Elysium
Kirby Dominant, MSG Crew, Flamingo Cantina
Scott Reynolds, Headhunters
Crooks, Mohawk
Greg Izor & the Box Kickers, Momo's
KiloWatts, Maetrik, Plush
Exeter, Honey Thief, Red 7
Undergrowth, Hardline Face, Red Eyed Fly
Bay of Pigs, Room 710

FRI 27

Keller Williams, Antone's
The Ka-Nives, Welfare Mothers, Beerland
Mario de Vega, Jason Kahn, Bonnie Jones, Jawwaad Taylor, Dave Dove, Annette Krebs, Cooper-Moore, Joshua Beckman, Melanie Noel, the Blue Theater
Guy Clark, Cactus Cafe
Max Stalling, Cheatham Street Warehouse
Breaking Vegas, Club de Ville
Bob King w/ Glenna Bell, Long Gone Daddys, Continental Club
Sarah & the Octopus, King Louie, Creekside Lounge
Razorblade Dolls, Elysium
Fujiya & Miyagi, Project Jenny, Project Jan, Emo's
Trampled by Turtles, Lamberts
Sir James & Lady Jeanne Galway, Long Center for the Performing Arts
California Guitar Trio, One World Theatre
Wednesday 13, Dommin, Pickled Punks, Red 7

Curbcheck, Drowning Mona, Red Eyed Fly
Blood Royale, Room 710
Buster Jiggs, Michael Martin Murphey, Rodney Crowell, Saxon Pub
White Rhino, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
Esmerelda Strange, Snake Eyes Vinyl
G-Love & Special Sauce, Stubb's

SAT 28

Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers, Antone's
The Lovers, Austin Farmers' Market Downtown
Jawwaad Taylor, Dave Dove, Cooper-Moore, Jason Kahn, Joshua Beckman, Bonnie Jones, Annette Krebs, Mario de Vega, the Blue Theater
Steve Forbert, Cactus Cafe
The Lovers, Carousel Lounge
The Pines, Central Market North
Rodney Hayden, Cheatham Street Warehouse
Sons of Hercules, Creekside Lounge
Delta Spirit, Other Lives, Dawes, Emo's
Vic Ruggiero, Ryan Scroggins & the Trenchtown TXans, Flamingo Cantina
Junior Brown, Gruene Hall
Sir James & Lady Jeanne Galway, Long Center for the Performing Arts
Judy Collins, One World Theatre
Harry Bodine, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
Hammer, Trashy & the Kid, Red Eyed Fly
Glambilly, Room 710
CEK Blues Band, Knuckle Yummy, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten
William Elliot Whitmore, the Aggrolites, Stubb's

March

SUN 1

The Points, Beerland
Richard Thompson, Cactus Cafe
Riff Riders, Central Market South
The Faceless, Misery Index, Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza, Predominant Mortification, Emo's
Mutant Press, Hole in the Wall
Brightblack Morning Light, Rio en Medio, Mohawk
Michael Martin Murphey, Guy Clark, Paramount Theatre
Sick Pleasure, Room 710
The Pretenders, American Bang, Stubb's

MON 2

Richard Thompson, Cactus Cafe

TUE 3

Gordon Lightfoot, Bass Concert Hall
Scarcity of Tanks, Club 1808
Chris Jamison, Jovita's Thank You, Mi Ami, Mohawk
Arms & Sleepers, Red 7

WED 4

Relentless Jones, Buster Jiggs, Antone's
Battlefield Band, Cactus Cafe
Curbcheck, Headhunters
Derek Trucks Band, La Zona Rosa
The Visitations, Salvage Vanguard Theater
Outside: **Modest Mouse**;
Inside Later: **Ben Sollee, Daniel Martin Moore**, Stubb's

THU 5

White Tie Affair, Emo's
Johnny B. Connolly, Fiddler's Hearth
Rook, Flamingo Cantina
Kool Keith, Mohawk
Tyr, Alestorm, Suidakra, Red 7
Beyond Gods & Empires, Red Eyed Fly
F-Bombers, Deceased, Room

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

for your benefit

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 Elmore Reed, My Friend Jen, Warren Hood, Milkdrive, the Belleville Outfit, **Momo's**

FRI 27

KOOP Benefit, Johnny Cash's Birthday w/ Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash, Buzz Cason, Jeremy Steding, Cash Band, the Band in Black,

Long Gone Daddys, Lucky Tubb & the Modern Day Troubadours, Roger Wallace, Bob King w/ Glenna Bell, the Skeletons, J.T. Coldfire, Joel Hofmann Band, Death in Texas, **Continental Club**
SIMS Foundation Benefit w/ the Gourds, **Ruta Maya**

SUN 01

Kate Tomich Benefit w/ Kacy Crowley, Johnny Goudie, James Hyland, Amy Cook, Bob Schneider, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Band of Heathens, Dan Dyer, Suzanna Choffel, Patrice Pike, Drew Smith's Lonely Choir, **Momo's**

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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

WED, FEB 25 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **BO PORTER** NO COVER

THU, FEB 26 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, FEB 27 **CORNELL HURD**
SAT, FEB 28 PRIVATE PARTY ALL DAY CLOSED TO PUBLIC
TUE, MAR 3 **BO PORTER IN THE DANCEHALL**
BUDWEISER SPECIALS

WED, MAR 4 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **DALE WATSON** NO COVER

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Th 26 Bill Passalacqua 6pm
This Will Destroy You, Silver Pines 10pm

Fr 27 RC Banks 6pm
The Couch, Spin Alley, Buzz N' Bangs 9pm

Sa 28 Falcon Buddies, Prayer For Animals
Trio Del Rio 10pm

Su 1 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 2 Gerry's Kids 6pm
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Tu 3 The Joey Borja Association 6pm
Stegosaurus Lips, our favorite colors 9pm

We 4 Scott Wood 6pm
The Christophers, Ryan McGillicuddy 8:30

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THE GREENCARDS - FRED EAGLESMITH
HAYES CARLL - DAVE ALVIN & THE GUILTY WOMEN
BEAUSOLEIL AVEC MICHAEL DOUCET
RAY WYLIE HUBBARD - THE GIBSON BROTHERS
BLUE HIGHWAY - MARC BROUSSARD
BLACKIE AND THE RODEO KINGS
GREAT AMERICAN TAXI
(WITH VINCE HERMAN FROM LEFTOVER SALMON)
THE LEE BOYS - FLOUNDERS WITHOUT EYES
GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS
THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT - SARAH JAROSZ
SLIM RICHEY'S JITTERBUG VIPERS
LONE STAR SWING
WITH STRETCH DAWRSON & GEMMA HAYES
THE LOVELL SISTERS - JULIE FOWLIS
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SUN MAR 1



PRETENDERS
WITH AMERICAN BANG
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FRI MAR 6



CUT // COPY
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AND DJ KNIGHTLIFE
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SAT MAR 7




BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
WITH JOAN JONES FROM SUN 60
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MON MAR 30



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TUE MAR 31



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MIDDLE Cyclone
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FRI APR 3



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SAT APR 4



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WED APR 22



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FRI APR 24



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SAT APR 25



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IN THE CLUB

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**

SUN MAR 1

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH **THE BELLS OF JOY**

WED MAR 4 — DOORS 10PM
BENSOLLEE
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST **DANIEL MARTIN**

THU MAR 5 — DOORS 9PM
THE ARSSUPERNOVA
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FRI MAR 6 — DOORS 11:30PM
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 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.
SHAPESHAVE FANGS
 WITH **AGENT RIBBONS**
THE BUBBLES AND **SHEBOYGAN**

TUE MAR 17 — DOORS 9PM
WALTER TROUT
 WITH **MIKE ZITO**

WED MAR 25 — DOORS 9PM
FREE SHOW
SLEEPER STAR
 WITH **STARS & GODIM**
 AND **JILLIAN EDWARDS**

SAT MAR 28 — DOORS 9PM
HOWIE DAY

THU APR 2 — DOORS 9PM
SAM SLIVA
 AND **THE GOOD**
 WITH **JOHN DAVID KENT**
 AND **SOMEBODY'S DARLING**

SUN APR 5 — DOORS 8PM
WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS
 WITH **ROSIGOLAN**

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music Listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band has mentioned, your music will be featured.

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, Dan Dyer, Jeff Lofton, Goldcure, Starcastic Pheramone, Mulholland Drive (9:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Danny Britt (7:30)
- AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Neal Kassanoff, Sean Padilla
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Tessmer
- BEERLAND** Send Help, the Anchor, Pretty Boy Thorson & the San Diego Chargers
- 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
- 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)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** Tub
- COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
- CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Joseph Green, Bobbie, the Stampede, Chartreuse, In Beds
- DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kat Edmonson (8:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Violet Crown Revue w/ Liz Morphis, Stephan Karlsson (6:00)
- ELYSIUM** Freezepop
- 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 Toungeate (7:00)
- 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)
- FRIENDS** Black Bone Child (9:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Alvin Crow (9:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Charlie Shafter (6:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** Amber Lucille, A Letter of Warning, Scott Reynolds
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Future Clouds & Radar
- JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
- LA PALAPA** Brewer Nation
- LAMBERTS** Gary Clark Jr. & J.J. Moeller (7:00), DJ Fuckin' A (10:30)
- LOVEJOYS** Chris Toast, Big Mess
- 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)
- NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Basil's Broken Ankle
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Ray Primm, Kalu James (8:00)
- THE PARLOR** Reverend Glasseye, Wino Vino (9:00)
- PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Americana Showcase w/ Adam Carroll (7:00)
- PLUSH** Maetrik, KiloWatts
- 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 EYED FLY** Hardline Face, Undergrowth, Great American Freedom Machine, Violent Skies
- 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
- ROOM 710** Slo' Poke, Curse the Heavens, Bay of Pigs, Splithoof
- RUTA MAYA** The Monstas (8:00)
- SAXON PUB** James Hand (6:00), Porter Davis, Patrice Pike & Joy Davis, James Bullard (8:00)
- SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Shotgun Party, Jenny & the Corn Ponies, JWW & the Prospectors, Brennen Leigh (6:00)
- SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Zee Rock (7:30)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 • 7PM
CRAIG TOUNGATE
FRI & SAT, FEB 27 & 28 • 10PM • \$5
THE MONSTAS
MONDAY, MARCH 2 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX

EVANGELINE CAFE
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TUESDAY, MARCH 3
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 • 6PM
COWBOY JOHNSON
COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 8 • 6PM
THE BLUEBONNETS

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- ANDY CAMPBELL, SHOW BIDNESS

CHRONICLE

austinchronicle.com/chronic

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

912 RED RIVER



2/26 - **CROOKS**, Monarchs, Western Ghost House, Tyler Jordan - 10pm

2/27 - **BOLLYWOOD BASH BENEFIT** - 9pm

2/28 - **Proper Entertainment Presents: 4 ELEMENTS OF HIP HOP** (djs, mcs, street artists and 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), **Mi Ami**, The Distant Seconds - 10pm

3/4 - **THE DRY SEASON**, Abby Birds, The Drawing Board - 10pm

3/5 - **KOOL KEITH** (Dr. Doom vs Dr. Octogan), DJ Jester the Filipino Fist Afterparty - 9pm

3/6 - **QUIET COMPANY CD RELEASE** w/ The Rocket Boys, Jets Under Fire - 9pm (outside)

3/6 - **PLANTS AND ANIMALS** w/ TV Torso - 12am (inside)

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**, Glasses - 5-8pm

3/10 - **CAMP X-RAY VS THE NO NO NO HOPES**, The Altars - 10pm

3/11 - **ARIEL ABSHIRE**, The Black Shirts - 10pm

3/12 - **THE GEORGIAN COMPANY CD RELEASE** - 10pm

3/13 - **AMODA** (SXSW Interactive Edition) - 9pm

3/14 - **ATX EMERGE** - 9pm

611 E. 7TH



2/26 - **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** w/ Set Aflame, Consider the Source, Screaming at the Sky, Anguish for Augustine - 9pm

3/3 - **ARMS AND SLEEPERS**, Hotel Hotel, 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, 30yard Stare - 5pm; **LATE SHOW: BANGLADESH** w/ Course of Ruin, Within Chaos, Brotherhood, Horse Called War, Critical Assembly, Kaos Calling - 8pm

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), Hazard of Industry - 9pm

3/15 - **WEB AWARDS AFTERPARTY - BENEFIT FOR THE CHILDREN'S MUSIC FUND** featuring Bacon Shoe - 9pm

611 E. 7TH



FREE ALL THE TIME!
POOL, SKEE BALL, GAMES, ETC.

2/26 - **DJ QUITO** - funky ass shakin' electronic, indie & hip hop

2/27 - **THE SEX BROTHERS: 90s One-Hit Wonder Sextravaganza** (Clean Bobby and Jared7 spinning the absolute worst punk, rock, metal, hardcore, hipster grind and songs you didn't even know you hated!)

2/28 - **Waterloo Records DJ night w/ EDMUND AND TRACY**

3/3 - **DJ MIKE BELL** (of Lymbyc Systym)

3/4 - **THE GET \$ BROTHAZ** - old school hip-hop, free pool and \$2 wells all night

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), 4/17 - **Dengue Fever** (Mohawk), 4/17 - **Dan Deacon** (Longhorn Caverns), 4/25 - **Angry Samoans** (Red 7), 4/16 - **Cattle Decapitation** (Red 7), 4/28 - **Eddie and the Hotrods** (Red 7), 5/3 - **Sleepytime Gorilla Museum** (Red 7), 5/8 - **The PaperChase** (Mohawk), 5/28 - **Bob Log III** (Red 7), 6/2 - **Black Moth Super Rainbow** (Mohawk), 6/2 - **Mr. Lif** (Red 7), 6/5 - **Bonnie Prince Billy** (Mohawk), 6/28 - **The Brother Native/ Religious Girls** (Mohawk), 7/11 - **The Coathangers** (Mohawk)

UPCOMING

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

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/ MVSLZ, Many Birthdays, Coma in Algiers

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Brandon McHose (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Bob Showdown (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Slackey Family Band

WATERLOO RECORDS Asleep at the Wheel (5:00)

Z'TEJAS Tameca Jones

FRI 27

ACES LOUNGE Matt Hubbard, Suzanna Choffel, Southern Sirens (7:00)

THE AMSTERDAM Kittinger (9:00)

ANTONE'S Keller Williams

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Tony Airolidi (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Canopy, Sunset, Peel (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEAUTY BAR Prince Klassen, Like Dogs, Consider the Source, Betaplayer

BEERLAND Welfare Mothers, the No No No Hopes, the Young, the Ka-Nives

THE BELMONT DJ Veg (10:00)

THE BLUE THEATER No Idea Festival w/ Melanie Noel, Joshua Beckman, Chris Cogburn, Cooper-Moore, Annette Krebs, Dave Dove, Jawaad Taylor, Bonnie Jones, Chris Cogburn, Jason Kahn, Mario de Vega (8:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL The Sevvilles (5:00)

BOTTICELLI'S The Just Desserts

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE The Cornell Hurd Band

CACTUS CAFE Graham Weber, Guy Clark (8:30)

CAFE CAFFEINE Southpaw Jones (7:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Chapparral Dixielanders, Casa del Swanka

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Max Stalling

CHESTER'S ICE HOUSE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (7:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Tia Carrera, Breaking Vegas, Scorpion Child

CONTINENTAL CLUB KOOP Benefit, Johnny Cash's Birthday w/ Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash, Buzz Cason, Jeremy Steding, Cash Band, the Band in Black, Long Gone Daddys, Lucky Tubbs & the Modern Day Troubadours, Roger Wallace, Bob King w/ Glenna Bell, the Skeletons, J.T. Coldfire, Joel Hofmann Band, Death in Texas (8:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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 27
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND
swing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
THE LOST PINES
bluegrass, americana

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
JEFF LOFTON QUARTET
jazz

FRIDAY, MARCH 6
JUST DESSERTS
world music

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26
SON Y NO SON
cuban

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
RIFF RIDERS
western swing

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
T JARROD BONTA
jazz, western swing

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
cajun

upcoming at central park:

MARCH 7 - GULF COAST PLAYBOYS
MARCH 8 - SON Y NO SON
MARCH 13 - GREG GARING
MARCH 14 - LZ LOVE
MARCH 15 - CHICKEN STRUT
MARCH 16 - NORWUZ FESTIVAL with 1001 NIGHTS ORCHESTRA & ATASH

upcoming at westgate:

MARCH 11 - LOS CURANDEROS
MARCH 12 - AMANDA MORA
MARCH 15 - RUMBULLION
MARCH 18 - GREG GARING
MARCH 19 - VENSON & LEE
MARCH 22 - KAT EDMONDSON

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28

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101X PRESENTS

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U2 CD RELEASE PARTY



TUESDAY MAR 3 | DOORS 6 • SHOW 7
AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY **BLUES JAM**
BLUE TUESDAY. DEREK O'BRIEN
 & FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST
DAVID GRISSOM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM!!

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 | 7PM DOORS
RELENTLESS JONES 11:30
BUSTER JIGGS 10
STATESBORO REVUE 8

THURSDAY MAR 5 | DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
ANTONE'S WELCOME'S BACK
CORY MORROW
 W/ CURTIS GRIMES



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**FRIDAY MARCH 06 | EARLY
DOORS 7 • SHOW 8**

the
Bluebonnets

**LOU ANN
BARTON**

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FRIDAY MARCH 06 | 10PM

DEL CASTILLO




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SATURDAY MARCH 07

JUNIOR BROWN

with

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FLATCAR RATTlers**



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SUNDAY MARCH 8

BLUES MAFIA
VAN WILKS
ERIN IVEY
WITH THE FINEST KIND



WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

ERIC TESSMER BAND
JOSH ALLEN & THE WHISKY BROTHERS
AND MUCH LOVE

MONDAY MARCH 9

JEFF PLANKENHORN

BENTLI - BROKEN WHEEL

FRIDAY MARCH 13

BOB SCHNEIDER

GOOD LUCK ACADEMY

CHRIS BRECHT

DJ THAI PAUL

TUESDAY MARCH 10

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SATURDAY MARCH 14

 **CAROLYN
WONDERLAND**

 **GARY
CLARK JR.**

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SUNDAY MARCH 15
JONATHAN COULTON
W/ PAUL & STORM
FULLY SEATED CA SHOW
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MON 16 MAR **TOPAZ MINGO FISHTRAP**

SUN 22 MAR **T-BIRD & THE BREAKS**
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TUESDAY MARCH 17

JIMMIE VAUGHAN'S

BLUES PARTY

PLUS

PINETOP PERKINS

& HIS ALL STAR BAND

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TUESDAY APRIL 7

PLAIN WHITE T'S
with **DANGER RADIO**

ON SALE SAT 2/20 • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM 

SATURDAY APRIL 18
FROM THE **Jayhawks:**
Gary Louris
and
Mark Olson
- **Pinetop Perkins**
FULLY SEATED GA SHOW
ON SALE SAT 2/20 • FRONTGATEEVENTS.COM

SAT 28 MAR **THE SCABS**
MINGO FISHTRAP
ON SALE NOW - FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI 03 APR **ROBYN HITCHCOCK**
& THE VENUS 3
 ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI 10 APR **RAILROAD EARTH**
W/ SPLIT LIP RAYFIELD
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

WED 29 APR **THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM**
W/ HEARTLESS BASTARDS
A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
ON SALE NOW - EIGHTMILETICKETS.COM

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FULL BAR & LIVE MUSIC

THU 2/26, 8P
ZHENYA ROCK OF RED ELVISES
W/ IMMIGRANT KREW

FRI 2/27, 8P
**PHILLIP'S SONGWRITER
& STORYTELLERS ROUNDTABLE**

SAT 2/28, 8P
NORTHPOINT RUF RADMER

TUE 3/3, 7P
**LEEANN ATHERTON'S
GYPZEE HEART**

WED 3/4, 8P
**STEPHANIE BRADLEY
BLUES BAND**

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THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES

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/
CHARLIE TERRELL & THE MURDERED JOHNS
CEK BLUES BAND (ITALY)
KNUCKLE YUMMY
IZZY COX

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4, 8PM

AUSTIN POETRY SLAM

THURSDAY, MAR. 5, 9PM

MARIO MATTEOLI
LONESOME HEROES
DAVE INSLEY'S
CARELESS SMOKERS

FRIDAY, MAR. 6, 9PM

CORTO MALTESE
EP RELEASE SHOW
BRAZOS-LOXLY
IAN ORTH
(LEARNING SECRETS)

SATURDAY, MAR. 7, 5PM *EARLY*

FOR THE LOVE OF LEAH BENEFIT
HOBBLE-HONKY
SPLIT HOOF
PURE LUCK
CORINNE ROSE
BOX SPRING HOGS
MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL 5
THE SKELETONS
FLAMETRICK SUBS

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THURS MARCH 12, 6PM, MORE INFO AT
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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
\$2²⁵ WELLS ALL NIGHT!
\$1 JELLO SHOTS ALL NIGHT!

ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

**HALF-PRICE
APPETIZERS
MONDAY-
FRIDAY
4-10P**

200 E. 6th St.
CORNER OF 6TH & BRAZOS
MON-SAT 4PM-2AM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

COOL RIVER CAFE The Pictures

COTTON CLUB 3 X Texas

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Richard Henry, DJ Orion, King Louie, Slain Monarch, Sarah & the Octopus, We the Granada, Tornahdo (10:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Trent Turner & the Moontowers (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM George Carver, Beto y los Fairlanes

ELYSIUM Chant, Razorblade Dolls, SubNatural

EMO'S Inside: Project Jenny, Project Jan, Fugiya & Miyagi; Outside: White Sails, Masonic, Shatzl, Cruiserweight

EVANGELINE CAFE The Monstas (10:00)

THE FIFTH GALLERY 19 Lemurs, Furby Youth Choir, [m30w], m477h3w (8:30), John Gomi Beatimprint (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA OHN, Grimy Styles (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lindsay Wells (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Scott Wayne (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dancehall Cowboys (9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Wolf Dog, Nocturnal Sun, Johnny Gobbs, Hazard of Industry, Duke; Outside: Half Nelson, the Ramifications

HOLE IN THE WALL Til We're Blue or Destroy, Chili Cold Blood

IGUANA GRILL Bob Cheever

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Boca Abajo, Foco Rojo (6:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00), Trampled by Turtles, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang (10:30)

LONESTAR SK8 SHOP Serious Tracers, Love Collector, the Ape Shits (5:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Sir James & Lady Jeanne Galway w/ the Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Everydudes, Los Bad Apples, DJ Diamond Tip (6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (9:00)

MOMO'S David Johnson, the Spoiled, the Soldier Thread, Cobra Lush, Beaux Loy (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NEWORLELI Meng Ke Duo (7:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke (10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Alan Haynes (10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE California Guitar Trio (7:30, 9:30)

THE PARLOR Nicaragua (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE John Burkland (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Room 99, Michael Myers

QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE DJ Mondo

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 Pickled Punks, Dommin, Wednesday 13

RED EYED FLY Drowning Mona, Curbcheck, Deejer, Dawn Over Zero

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jason Arnold & the Stepsiders

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield & Ephraim Owens

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Lucky Strikes

ROOM 710 Criminal Mischief, Blank Generation, Roger's Porn Collection, Blood Royale

RUTA MAYA SIMS Foundation Benefit w/ the Gourds (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Rodney Crowell & Michael Martin Murphey, Buster Jiggs (9:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN White Rhino, I Kill Cars, Amplified Heat (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Space Rockers

SNAKE EYES VINYL Warren Jackson Hearne, Izzy Cox, Esmerelda Strange, That Damned Band (7:00)

STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley Band (8:00)

STUBB'S G-Love & Special Sauce

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Spin Alley, the Couch

TRIUMPH CAFE Rick Steinburg & the Stonecastle Family Band (7:00)

TROPHY'S Sons of Sancho, Opposite Day, Adrian & the Sickness, Muchos Backflips!

UNITY CHURCH OF AUSTIN Robbie Seay (7:00)

VICTORY GRILL Gospel to Hip-Hop w/ Chaos Click, Da Block Boi (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Wynn Taylor (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN James Robert Murray

SAT 28

ACES LOUNGE Southern Sirens, Suicide Kings

THE AMSTERDAM Jodi Adair (9:00)

ANTONE'S Mother Truckers, Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers (9:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Grammy-Nominated* Jimmie Dale Gilmore in Concert at Congregation Beth Israel



*Come On Back was nominated for a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album

Only \$18 per person!

Saturday, February 28, 2009
8:00 pm Concert in Sanctuary

Meet Jimmie Dale Gilmore!

6:30 pm "Meet and Greet"

For \$54 you can attend the meet and greet and the concert. You will be able to meet Jimmie Dale Gilmore and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres before the concert.

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2/26 FLASHLIGHT PARTY
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MELODY MURDER & ZEAL

**2/27 BETAPLAYER &
CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
W/LIKE DOGS & PRINCE KLASSEN

**2/28 LEARNING SECRETS W/
RUNAWAY**

**3/1 THE BUSINESSMAN DIS
PRIZZY PRIZZY PLEASE**
W/Lost Controls

**3/4 THE AUTHORS W/
NEW ROMAN TIMES**

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Thu 2.26
SPLIT HOOF
BAY OF PIGS
CURSE THE HEAVENS
SLO' POKE

Fri 2.27
BLOOD ROYALE
ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION
BLANK GENERATION
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Sat 2.28
TURBO 350
THE BEAUMONTS
THE SCARY MONDELOS
GLAMBILLY 7pm: The Locals

Sun 3.1
SICK PLEASURE
BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA
BUZZCRUSHER
ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION
ADRENALINE PIGS
MICAH OMEGA & THE NEON KNIGHTS

Mon 3.2
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 3.3
SCOTT REYNOLDS
FRANK MUSTARD PROJECT

Wed 3.4
CODE NAME CODE
LEFT DEER
ONE STEP PROGRAM

UPCOMING SHOWS
3.5 13th Victim, F-Bombers 3.6 Hudson Falcons, Born To Lose, Sore Losers
3.7 Gentlemen's Social Club, Ghoultown 3.8 Make Austin Weirder Part 9

606 E 7th St. 480.5988

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Mon-Fri 5pm ★ Sat-Sun 4pm
HH til 9pm & All night Thr

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THR FEB 26
10PM In Beds, Chartruese
the Stampede, Bobbie, Joseph Green

FRI FEB 27
10PM Tornahdo
We the Granada
Sarah & the Octopus, Slain Monarch

SAT FEB 28
10PM Sons of Hercules
Transgressors, Churchwood
Candi & the Cavaties

WED MAR 4
10PM Thirty Yard Stare
Glasses, The Capitalists Kids

UPCOMING SHOWS
3/5 Scary Mondellos, 3/6 Blood Royale, 3/7 Power Squid

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**fr 27 The Ka-Nives, Silver
Shampoo, The Young, No No No
Hopes, The Welfare Mothers**

**sa 28 Soundclash: Soul, Mod,
Reggae Dance Party**

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2/26(T): SCOTT REYNOLDS(ALL)A LETTER OF WARNING, AUSTIN FINEST MUSICAL ACT, AMBER LUCILLE
2/27(F): 1-DUKE, 12-HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY, 11-JOHNNY GOBBS, 10-NOCTURNAL SUN, 8-WOLFDG
2/28(S): 1-BORN TO LOSE, 12-HARD LUCK HEROS, 11-BASELINE BUMS, 10-HEAD PANIC, 8-WOLFDG
3/1(S): ATOMIC HONKY TONK SHOWCASE- ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA, DAVE INSLEY
3/2(M): MELLOW MONDAYS- HAPPY HOUR \$1BUD/BUD LIGHTS!
3/3(T): NEW FOUND GLORYHOLE, FIESTA EXPLOSION • 3/4(W): CURBCHECK, WITHIN EDDY

CANNIBAL CLUB STAGE 2/26(T): ARARAT THROW DOWN: HOOKAHS, HONEYS & HENNA W/DJ BULLET SPINS (10PM)
2/27(F): 12:30-RAMIFICATIONS, 11:30-HALF NELSON 2/28(S): 11:30-SQUARED OFF, 10:30-ONE LAST SHOT, 9:30-CRASHROOM 9
3/3(T): BILL DAVIS' SINGER/SONGWRITERS • 3/4(W): MATT'S OPEN-MIC PATIO

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THURSDAY-FEBRUARY 26
VIOLENT SKIES
FREEDOM MACHINE
UNDERGROWTH
HARDLINE FACE

FRIDAY-FEBRUARY 27
DROWN OVER ZERO
DEEJER
CURBCHECK
DROWNING MONA
LOUVER THAN LUNACY

SATURDAY-FEBRUARY 28
HAMMER
TRASHY & THE KID
PEYTON GIN
EL CHARCO
UNDERDRIVEN

SUNDAY-MARCH 1
MUSIC LAB
BATTLE OF THE BANDS
FIRST ROUND - DAY FIVE
VULCAN'S ANVIL
RUDE RACHEL
KOVEN THE LEVIATHAN
SOUNDFIELD
AQUA JONES

MONDAY-MARCH 2
MARTIAL ARTS
3 NOT SO VERY GOOD
MARTIAL ARTS CLASSICS

TUESDAY-MARCH 3
REVEREND JONNY FLASH
BEE STING SESSIONS
DEREK T. WASHINGTON
JULIA RICHARDSON

WEDNESDAY-MARCH 4
EARLE BROWN
UGLY ELIPANT
8 BALL DOWN
BETRAYED BY SARDON
MATTHEWS IPOD NIGHT

THURSDAY-MARCH 5
BEYOND GODS & EMPIRES
UNSPEAKABLE THINGS
PRIDE LIKE LIONS
THE STAMPEDE

FRIDAY-MARCH 6
SIXES & EIGHTS
ACHACHAY
KITTINGER
JOE'S ROCKET SHOPPE
SATELLITE SOLDIERS

SATURDAY-MARCH 7
EVOLENO
CD RELEASE SHOW
FIVE DOLLAR FRIEND
SEDUM
LIFE ON LOAN

UPCOMING SHOWS
03-13 - TOMSTONE UNION CD RELEASE W/ FOR THE MOST PART
03-14 - WHITE DENIM, BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEY BEARS
03-26 - SCOTT A. BIRAM
03-27 - ONE EYED DOLL TOUR KICKOFF SHOW
04-02 - UNCLE FOCKER, AMERICAN GRAVEYARD
04-10 - HOBBERNED REUNION SHOW - TIX ON SALE

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freezepop 12AM

www.myspace.com/freezepop
Before Dawn 11PM
www.myspace.com/thebandbeforedawn
The Future Process 10PM
www.myspace.com/thefutureprocess

Friday • Feb 27 **LIVE MUSIC!**

subNatural 12 AM
www.myspace.com/subnatural
The Razorblade Dolls 11 PM
www.myspace.com/therazorbladedolls
Chant 10 PM
www.myspace.com/chant
with DJ MINIMUS

Saturday • Feb 28 **HAVEN**
goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Mar 1 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE
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for best WATCHMEN Costumes!

Tuesday • Mar 3 **ROCK BAND**
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our stage, our lights, our console, your ROCK BAND

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UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu. Mar 5 • Live! KLUB SIN - featuring
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Midwest Monster, The Skeletons

Fri. Mar 6 • Live! REVAMP TOUR -
DJ Hardware & Sin (of Ministry/RevCo)
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sieker Band
(7:30)

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET
DOWNTOWN The Lovers
(10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Venson
& Lee

BEERLAND Bounce w/ Captain
Jim, Topper James, Admiral
Hooker

THE BELMONT DJ Veg (10:00)

THE BLUE THEATER No Idea
Festival w/ Mario de Vega,
Annette Krebs, Bonnie
Jones, Joshua Beckman,
Jason Kahn, Rick Reed,
Chris Cogburn, Cooper-
Moore, Dave Dove, Jawwaad
Taylor (8:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Gatling &
Hoffpaur (5:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Paul Luedke
Collective

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Steve Forbert
(8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/
Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Infinite
Partials, the Lovers, Ethan
Kennedy

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
The Pines (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
HalleyAnna, Rodney Hayden

CLUB DE VILLE The Unbearables
CD Release (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Cornell
Hurd Band (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The
Sophisticates

COPA BAR & GRILL Hard Proof
Afrobeat, Rattletree
Marimba (10:00)

COTTON CLUB The Debonaires

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Candi & the
Cavities, Transgressors,
Churchwood, Sons of
Hercules

DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet

ELEPHANT ROOM Miles Davis
Tribute, "Birth of the Cool"
Afterparty w/ Jeff Lofton
Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Inside: Dawes, Other
Lives, Delta Spirit; Outside:
Invisible Children Benefit w/
Blowing Trees, Zlam Dunk,
the Diving Captain, Corto
Maltese

END OF AN EAR Dark Water
Hymnal CD Release (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE The Monstas
(10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Proper
Villain Soundsystem, Ryan
Scroggins & the Trenchtown
TXans, Bandulus, Vic
Ruggiero (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Woode
Wood (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Jason Arnold & the
Stepsiders

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
T. Jarrod Bonta (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Erik Hokkanen,
Gary Claxton (1:00), Junior
Brown (9:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL The Pons,
Deaf Ears, Militant Babies

IGUANA GRILL Kevin Higgins &
Barbara Malteze

THE INDEPENDENT AT 501
STUDIOS The Ugly Beats, the
Diagonals CD Release

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Uncle
Lucius, Nakia & His
Southern Cousins (6:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Nasty Clan,
the Lonesome Heroes,
Streetlight Suzy, Bus Stop
Stallions

LAMBERTS McLemore Avenue,
Bobby Trimble (10:00)

LATITUDE 30 Jabarvy (9:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS Sir James
& Lady Jeanne Galway
w/ the Austin Symphony
Orchestra (8:00)

CHRONIC

**EARACHE'S SPIRITUAL
AWAKENING AT LYKKE LI:**

"Lykke is wearing a **black cloak** with
ripped black tights and a ruffled black
dress and maybe **Spandex shorts**.
Her hair is unbrushed. The guy behind
me yells '**Wiccan!**' like she should
burn at the stake."

- AUDRA SCHROEDER, SCHADENFREUDE

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SUZANNA CHOFFEL
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TUESDAY, 3/3
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AUSTIN COLLINS
W/ DJANGO WALKER
\$ 7.50 LONG STAR TALLBOYS ALL NIGHT LONG

FRIDAY, 3/6
NAKIA
& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS
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Buzz Cason
Lucky Tubb and the Modern Day Troubadours
The Band in Black
Long Gone Daddys
Jeremy Steding
The Cash Band
The Skeletons
Joel Hoffman Band
Roger Wallace
Death & Texas
Bob King with Glenna Bell
JT Goldfire

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WATERLOO

Ice House

☆ ☆ THIS WEEK ☆ ☆

6TH & LAMAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 7PM
THE HUDSONS

FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 7PM
JAMES ROBERT MURRAY
SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 7PM
DANIEL DAVID

38TH & MEDICAL

THURSDAY, FEB. 26 **BRANDON MCHOSE**

SATURDAY, FEB. 28
JAMES ROBERT MURRAY

SUNDAY, MAR. 1 **JAZZ BRUNCH WITH
THE JEFF LOFTON QUARTET 11AM**
WILL DUNLAP'S JAM 7PM

THURSDAY, MAR. 3, 7PM **WILL DUNLAP**

FRIDAY, MAR. 4, 7PM **PTARMIGAN**

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 7PM **THE SLACKY FAMILY**

FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 7PM **SIX SONS OF A GUN**

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 10PM **BOB SHOWDOWN**

FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 10PM
WYNN TAYLOR

SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 10PM
BOBBY KENNEDY

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4, 10PM **KARAOKE!!!**

WATERLOOICEHOUSE.COM

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Uncle Bruno,
DJ Protege (9:00)

MAIKO DJ Skot Kees, Trey Lopez

MOHAWK Four Elements of Hip
Hop (7:00)

MOMO'S Greensky Bluegrass,
Jon Dee Graham

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer
(11:30am)

NEWORLEDELI Fredy Argir (7:00)

**NORTH BY NORTHWEST
RESTAURANT & BREWERY**
Stephen Doster & Bill
Carter (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Ben Danaher
(10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Eric Tessmer
(10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Judy
Collins (7:30, 9:30)

THE PARLOR 8088 Record
Collective CD Release w/
Like Dogs, Bridge Farmers,
Betaplayer, Aunt's Analog

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Harry
Bodine (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Kings of Hard Luck, John
Deery Band

QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE DJ Dojo
(9:00)

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues
(9:00)

RED 7 Outside: Goodnight
Goddess CD Release;
Inside: Waterloo DJ's
Edmund & Tracy

RED EYED FLY Underdriven, El
Charco, Trashy & the Kid,
Hammer

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco
(6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Moon Howlers

ROADHOUSE RAGS Cayce Rose
& the Mindgames, Mario
Matteoli (7:00)

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Mark
Kazanoff, Nick Connelly

ROOM 710 Glamilly, Scary
Mondelos, the Beaumonts,
Turbo 350

RUTA MAYA The Flight Plan, the
El Guapos, the Authors
(2:00), Full Service CD
Release (9:30)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Miss
Bree & Rusty (7:30)

SAXON PUB Omar & the
Howlers, Fever Tree Rising,
Uncle Lucius (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Izzy
Cox, Knuckle Yummy, CEK
Blues Band, Charlie Terrell
& the Murdered Johns, Sin
City Social Club (8:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS LC Rocks
(10:00)

SNAKE EYES VINYL Newlywed,
Earth Eater, Sweet Banana,
the Anchor (7:00)

STARDUST CLUB Al Monti

STUBB'S Samantha Crain, the
Aggrolites, Flogging Molly,
William Elliot Whitmore

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Casa
del Swanka (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Trio del Rio,
Prayer for Animals, Falcon
Buddies

VICTORY GRILL Gospel to Hip-
Hop w/ Natomi Austin Artha
Nik, Yo Benny, Charmaine,
Darryl Darks, J. Redd, Los
Splendi2, G. Jetson, First
Class Fresh, Daniel Conti
(7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH
STREET** James Robert
Murray (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE
GROVE** Bobby Kennedy
(10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN
Daniel David

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER
LANE** Six Sons of a Gun

SUN 01

**ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE
AT THE RITZ** Tosca
String Quartet (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish
Tunes Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Deadly Companions,
Manikin, the Points

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J.
Kline (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Richard
Thompson (8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/
Brian

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Jeff
Lofton Quartet (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Riff
Riders (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
Texas Fx

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale!
(10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris
Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin
Spice

EMO'S Disfigured, Predominant
Mortification, Tony Danza
Tapdance Extravaganza,
Misery Index, the Faceless

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)

GRUENE HALL Gurf Morlix CD
Release (noon), Guy Forsyth
(4:00)

HEADHUNTERS Dave Insley's
Careless Smokers, Horse
Opera, the Original Mexican
Bob

HOLE IN THE WALL Mutant Press

JOVITA'S Richard Sanguinetti,
Tom Gilliam (6:30)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens,
Brannen Temple, Red Young
(7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson
(9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE OJ & the
Broncos (10:00)

MANUELS Tony Campise &
David Webb (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial
Golden Crown Harmonizers
(12:30)

MOHAWK Rio en Medio,
Brightblack Morning Light
(8:00)

MOMO'S Kate Tomich
Benefit w/ Kacy Crowley,
Johnny Goudie, James
Hyland, Amy Cook, Bob
Schneider, Warren Hood
& the Hoodlums, Band
of Heathens, Dan Dyer,
Suzanna Choffel, Patrice
Pike, Drew Smith's Lonely
Choir (4:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open
Mic w/ Chris Davis (4:00)

NUOVO LEÓN Mariachi
Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz
(11:00am)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Guy Clark,
Willie Nelson, Michael
Martin Murphey, Allen
Shamblin (8:00)

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Open
Mic (4:00)

PLAYLAND SKATE CENTER Texas
Rollergirls w/ DJ Grommit,
DJ Sedonya Face, Amplified
Heat (6:30)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/
Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/
Glenn Allen

ROADHOUSE RAGS Mary Welch
y los Curanderos, the
Monstas (6:00)

ROOM 710 Micah Omega,
Adrenaline Pigs, Buzzcrusher,
Roger's Porn Collection,
Blunt Force Trauma,
Sick Pleasure

RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band
(7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/
Billy D

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Conspire w/ Craig Hella
Johnson (2:30)

STUBB'S American Bang, the
Pretenders

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song
Session (2:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat
Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate
Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360
Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz
Guerra

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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READY TO FUNK!!!! 8PM-1AM

FRI 2/27 THE GOURDS
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DOORS @ 9PM

SAT 2/28 2PM-6PM AUSTIN LOVES AFRICA FEST
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Big Band Hits of 30's, 40's & 50's
Monster Big Band
Get Your Swing on at 7 PM

SUN 3/1 No Cover! 7 PM Dub Transistor
Dreadbeard, Gypsyzen
Dr. Dubbist, Mr. Brown
Relac soundfactory, Proper Villain

TUE 3/3 TUESDAY OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music
Happy Hour All Night Long!

WED 3/4 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

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2538 GUADALUPE

THURSDAY february 26
the Archibalds
the Spoolley Show
Future Clouds
and Radar 10 pm
outside: NEEDLES and PINS Record
Party hosted by Angel Von Ripper 11pm

FRIDAY february 27
Chile Cold Blood \$3
Til We're Blue
or Destroy 10pm
Happy Hour: the Spoolley Show 6pm

SATURDAY february 28
the Pons \$3
the Deaf Ears
Militant Babies

SUNDAY march 1
Electric Courage Machine
Mutant Press
A Giant Dog 10pm

MONDAY march 2
Leo Rondeau
Mario Matteoli
Cayce Rose and the
Mind Games
Happy Hour: the McKay Brothers 6pm
Outside: Dave Insley (acoustic) 7:30

TUESDAY march 3
Clyde and Clem's
Whiskey Business
James Bullard
9pm
Happy Hour: the NORTONS 6pm

WEDNESDAY march 4
Long Gone Daddys
Chadd Thomas and the
Crazy Kings
Almo Loos and the
Hoop and Hollers
10pm
outside: Rob Jewett Trio

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THURS FEB 26 THE STONE RIVER BOYS

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DOORS@9PM, \$10 COVER

FRI FEB 27 DJ ENFERNO

FRI FEB 28 DJ KURUPT

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WEDNESDAY
Open Mic 8pm-1am

THURSDAY
8:30pm-1am
KARAOKE

SUNDAY & TUESDAY
Poker League 5:30-8:30pm

FRIDAY Live Music (2/27)
NO COVER **K ST. JOHN & WHISKY HAZE**

SATURDAY Live Music (2/28)
NO COVER **PRIDE & JOY** STEVIE RAY VAUGHN TRIBUTE

FRIDAY Live Music (3/6) NO COVER
JOHNNY HOOTROCK & BURLESQUE GIRL

SATURDAY Live Music (3/7)
NO COVER **ROBYN OVERALL**

MONDAY Live Music (3/9)
NO COVER **JEREMY MILLER BAND**

FRIDAY Live Music (3/13)
NO COVER **SHURFLO**

SATURDAY Live Music (3/14)
\$5 COVER **ADRIAN & THA SICKNESS THUNDEROSA, CHUK COOLEY & THE DEMON HAMMERS**

MONDAY Live Music (3/16)
NO COVER **DESTINATION DELROY**

FRIDAY Live Music (3/20)
NO COVER **8 BALL DOWN**

SATURDAY Live Music (3/21)
NO COVER **LINSAY WELLS & HILDA LOMMAS**

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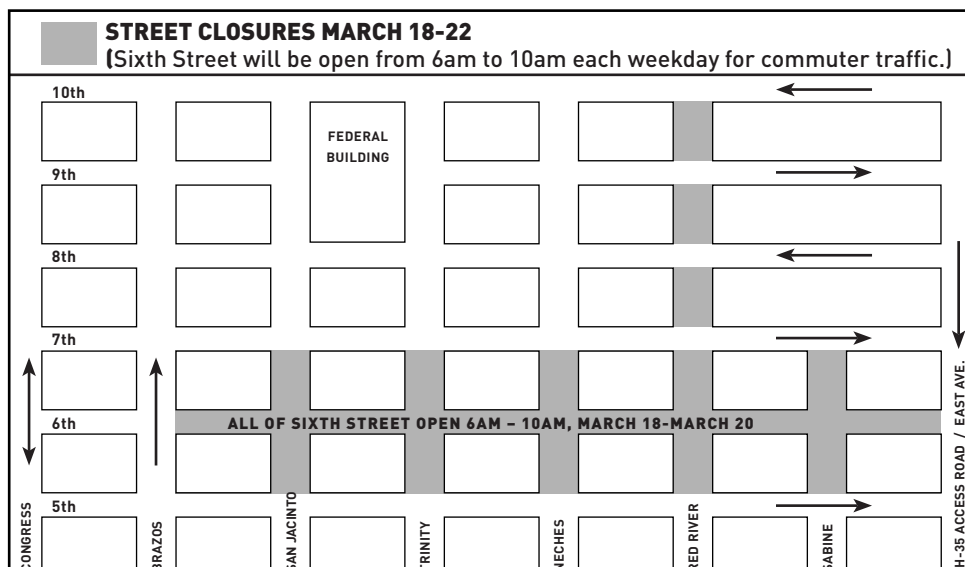
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Downtown SXSW street closures, from 6am on March 18 to 4am on March 22

- 1 Sixth Street will be open 6am-10am on weekdays. It will be open for deliveries on weekdays, 10am-4pm. It will be closed all day Saturday, March 21.
- 2 The north-south routes that cross Sixth Street between Fifth and Seventh Streets from San Jacinto Boulevard to Sabine Street, plus Red River blocks between intersections from Seventh to 10th streets will be closed, starting March 18. (see map)
- 3 Visitors are encouraged to check Capital Metro bus routes, or if driving, use area parking garages.

www.sxsw.com • www.cityofaustin.org

LC ROCKS

FRIDAY 9:30

SPEARING BRITNEY

SATURDAY 9:30

	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINERS 9:30
THU 26	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	suede
FRI 27	TRENT DURHAM BAND	LC ROCKS
SAT 28		spear ing britney
SUN 1		suede
MON 2	IN THESE SHOES	RIVAL CITY
TUE 3	GRAND HOTEL	THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
WED 4	JOSH & JASON	SPAZMATICS

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Jeff Lofton Quartet (11:00am), Will Dunlap Band (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Jukebox Heroes (10:00)

WHIP IN Ana Egge (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 02

ANTONE'S Mysterious Ways CD Release (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CACTUS CAFE Richard Thompson (8:30)

CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally (6:00)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

CORK & CO. Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Milkdrive, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Haydn Vitera, the Spoiled (9:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Franklin's Blues

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

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)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids (6:00)

TUE 03

ACES LOUNGE Austin Collins & Django Walker

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, David Grissom (9:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASS CONCERT HALL Gordon Lightfoot (8:00)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BEERLAND Comedy Trainwreck

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Bo Porter

CACTUS CAFE What Made Milwaukee Famous, Ana Egge, Michael Kinkaid (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Just Desserts, Geoff Union & Big Sky Tonight

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor & the Bottom Dollar Band, Midnight River Choir (9:00)

CLUB 1808 Cry Blood Apache, ST 37, Scarcity of Tanks

CONTINENTAL CLUB Planet Casper (6:30), Frogleg (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Milkdrive, Tony Campise (6:00)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes Band (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Fiesta Explosion, New Found Glory Hole; Outside: Bill Davis' Singer-Songwriter Stage

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

JOVITA'S Chris Jamison, Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Karaoke w/ Claus Von Blomie (10:00)

MOHAWK The Distant Seconds, Mi Ami, Thank You, Red X Red M (10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne Sutton & Patrice Pike, Karl Morgan (8:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chicken Dog (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED 7 Chief Rival, Hotel Hotel, Arms & Sleepers

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

ROOM 710 Frank Mustard Project

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)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Gypzee Heart, Leeann Atherton, Zhenya Rock (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Five Ways From Sunday

T.C.'S LOUNGE Eastside Band (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN The Joey Borja Association, Our Favorite Colors, Stegosaurus

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Michael Reaux & the Outriders (7:00)

WED 04

ACES LOUNGE Jumping From Jets

THE AMSTERDAM Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)

ANTONE'S Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue, Buster Jiggs, Relentless Jones (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dale Watson (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Battlefield Band (7:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Soulphonics, Black Molly

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH T. Jarrod Bonta (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Guy Forsyth (6:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Capitalist Kids, the Glasses, 30-Yard Stare

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Kenny & Matt

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Liz Morphis, Ephraim Owens

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WED. 3/4 10pm \$5

Under Age & After Hours Dog at Large

FRI. 3/6 10pm \$5

Warren Hood

SAT. 3/7 10pm \$10 adv & door

Sittin', Singin' & Supper Sessions w/
Colin Gilmore w/ Jimmie Dale Gilmore

WED. 3/11 10pm \$10 adv & \$15 door

Dale Watson

THUR. 3/12 10pm \$10

Gary Glark Jr.

FRI. 3/13 10pm \$10 adv & door

Under Age & After Hours Carson Brock Group

SAT. 3/14 10pm \$5

St. Patrick's Day! Uncle Lucius

TUE. 3/17 10pm \$5

Redd Volkaert

THUR. 3/26 10pm \$8

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EOTO ESKMO

FRI 06 MAR

BLUETECH OTT

SAT 07 MAR

RING THE ALARM

DJ BABY G, JAH MIGHTY, JR. VIBES ON THE MIC

FRI 13 MAR

PAPA MALI TRIO

MCLEMORE AVENUE & THE ROOSTER BLUES

SAT 14 MAR

ELIOT LIPP

MICHNA RAW PAW

MON 16 MAR

20X2 INTERACTIVE EVENT

UPCOMING SHOWS:

3/12: William Stidham Art /HAMM Benefit 3/17: The Egg w/ 20:20 Soundsystem, Kraak and Smaak, & Pretty Lights PA Set 3/27: LARRY Reunion Show 3/28: JFJO 3/30: The Academy Is... Acoustic Tour w/ This Providence & Evan Taubenfeld 4/4: Ring The Alarm 4/8: Gavin DeGraw w/ Angel Taylor 4/10: SOTEG w/ Govinda 4/11: The Gaslamp Killer w/ Nosaj Thing 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 w/ Cave Singers & Golden Boots 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 4/28: Lez Zeppelin 5/7: Perpetual Groove 5/11: Elvis Perkins In Dearland 5/15: Centro-Matic w/ Monahans & Future Clouds and Radar 6/3: Langhorne Slim

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHOWS AND TO BOOK YOUR BAND'S LIVE RECORDING SESSION- GO TO: THEPARISHROOM.COM

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Opening: Dustin Welch

SAT. 3/7 9pm \$15 adv & door

Redd Volkaert

THUR. 3/12 9pm \$10

T-Bird & the Breaks

FRI. 3/13 9pm \$8 adv/\$10 door

Ray Wylie Hubbard

SAT. 3/14 9pm \$15 adv & door

Roky Erickson's Ice Cream Social

THUR. 3/10 1pm \$25 adv & door

Jimmy LaFave

THUR. 3/10 9pm \$12 adv & \$15 door

Bob Schneider

FRI. 3/20 8pm \$15 adv & door

Bob Schneider's TX Bluegrass Massacre

SAT. 3/21 9:30pm \$15 adv & door

Will Taylor & Strings Attached

Abbey Road & Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts

SAT. 3/28 9pm \$15 adv & door

Brave Combo

FRI. 4/10 9pm \$10 adv & \$12 door

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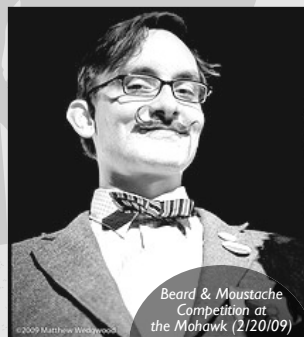
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S People Food CD Release

EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Most Often Rewound, DJ Notion, Cali Zack, Elemental Dialect, Storm Shadow, Smoke Jumpers (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Inside: Within Eddy, Curbcheck; Outside: Matt's Open Mic

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE Erin Ivey (6:00), Erin Ivey & Eddy Hobizal (7:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

JOVITA'S M.J. Torrance, 3rd Try Lefty (6:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LA ZONA ROSA Derek Trucks Band

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Charlie Terrell & the Murdered Johns; Lucky Jam w/ Penni, Soundfield, Tandoorifinger (7:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes (8:00)

MOHAWK The Drawing Board, Abby Birds, the Dry Season (10:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H Project (10:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)

PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY Betrayed By Sorrow (8:00)

RED FEZ Atash (10:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 Code Named Code, Base, One-Step Program

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER His Astroturban, the Visitations (8:00)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

STUBB'S Outside: Modest Mouse; Inside Later: Daniel Martin Moore, Ben Sollee

T.C.'S LOUNGE Soul Track Mind (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood, the Christophers, Ryan McGillicuddy

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THU 05

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

ACES LOUNGE Blind 6

THE AMSTERDAM John Neilson & Matt Thompson (9:00)

ANTONE'S Curtis Grimes, Cory Morrow (9:00)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Karaoke Spectacular w/ Joey Pescado & the Glamour Girls

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee

BEERLAND John Wesley Coleman, the Stuffies, Frank Smith, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves

THE BELMONT Jeff Lofton Quartet (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

CACTUS CAFE Bob Schneider (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Devil Bat, Spot, Book of Shadows

CEDAR STREET Mysterious Ways (9:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Park

CLUB DE VILLE Bryce Clifford

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Scary Mondelos

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Silvie Rider, Butch Miles & the Jazz Express

EMO'S Go Action Team, Furthest From the Star, White Tie Affair

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis (7:00)

FIDDLER'S HEARTH Johnny B. Connolly, Jeff Moore (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Rook, Tin Can Phone, Doco (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Ponty Bone

HOLE IN THE WALL Time Out

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS Gary Clark Jr., J.J. Moeller (7:00)

LOVEJOYS Horse Opera, JWW & the Prospectors

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Phil Brown (6:00)

MOHAWK Outside: Paramedic Fetus From the East, Kool Keith; Inside Later: DJ Jester the Filipino Fist

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Jim Bryant (6:30)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Eric Tessmer (10:30)

OPAL DIVINE'S FREEHOUSE In the Attic: Colin Gilmore (9:00)

PANGAEA Phoenix Saga, Dans la Lune, the Alice Rose, the Steps, Fastball (8:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Americana Showcase (7:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Geoff Union (8:00)

QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE DJ Cue

RED 7 Ruins of Honor, Suidakra, Alestorm, Týr

RED EYED FLY The Stampede, Pride Like Lions, Unspeakable Things, Beyond Gods & Empires

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

ROOM 710 Suede Uppers, Deceased, F-Bombers, 13th Victim

RUTA MAYA The Real Heroes, the Channel, Future Clouds & Radar (8:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, the Lonesome Heroes, Mario Matteoli (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Chris Boss

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Nathan Hamilton, Funk-o-Tron

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Slim Richey's Dream Band (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.



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TUESDAY, MAR. 3

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WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4

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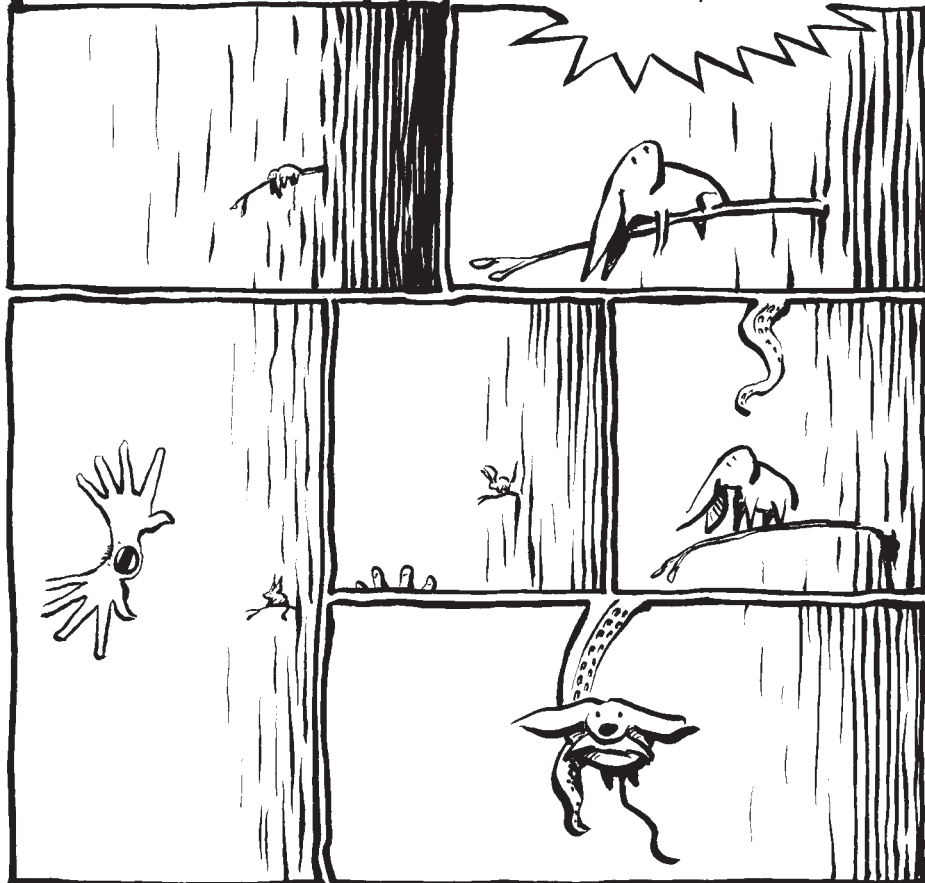
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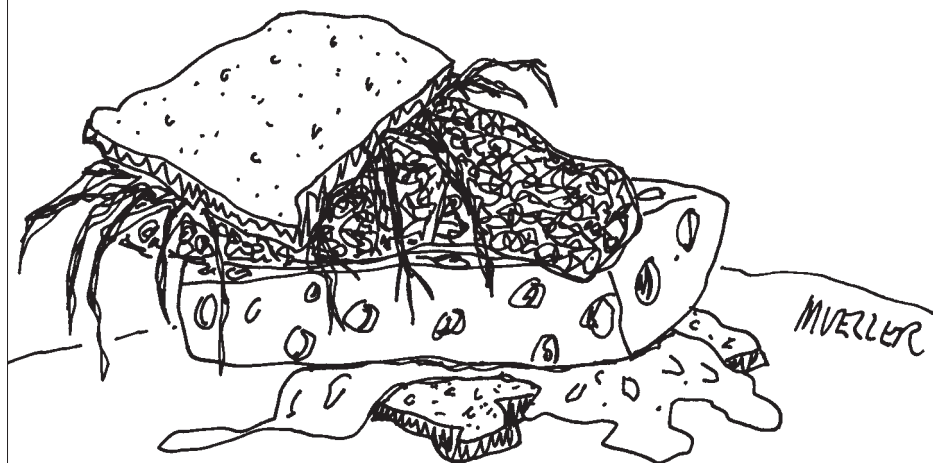
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According to his law partner, William Herndon, in 1834 Abraham Lincoln wrote "a little book on infidelity" in which he questioned "the divinity of Christ - Special Inspiration - Revelation &c." He reluctantly burned it, when his friends warned him it would damage his career.

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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CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTER-
ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
ALFREDO LOPEZ, Deceased,
No. C-1-PB-09-000006 in Pro-
bate Court Number One of
Travis County, Texas.

The alleged heir(s) at law in
the above numbered and en-
titled estate, filed on Febru-
ary 09, 2009, an Application to
Determine Heirship and
Application for Letters of In-
dependent Administration in
the said estate and
request(s) that the said Court
determine who are the heirs
and only heirs of the said AL-
FREDO LOPEZ, Deceased,
and their respective shares
and interests in such estate.
Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from
date of publication of this ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing such application should
they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of
its issuance, it shall be re-
turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT at office in Travis
County, Texas, on February
10, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ ROXANNE
TORREZ

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO GERARDO MONREAL
and TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN THE ES-
TATE OF JOSE FRANCISCO
AGUILAR, Deceased, No.
85765 in Probate Court Num-
ber One of Travis County,
Texas.

TRICIA GRAY DEATS aka
TRICIA GRAY and all alleged
heir(s) at law in the above
numbered and entitled es-
tate, filed on the 20th day of
January, 2009, a First
Amended Application to De-
termine Heirship in the said
estate and request(s) that the
said Court determine who are
the heirs and only heirs of the
said JOSE FRANCISCO
AGUILAR, Deceased, and
their respective shares and
interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from
date of publication of this ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing such application should
they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of
its issuance, it shall be re-
turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT at office in Travis
County, Texas, this 3rd
day of February, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTER-
ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
ALFREDO LOPEZ, Deceased,
No. C-1-PB-09-000006 in Pro-
bate Court Number One of
Travis County, Texas.

The alleged heir(s) at law in
the above numbered and en-
titled estate, filed on Febru-
ary 09, 2009, an Application to
Determine Heirship and
Application for Letters of In-
dependent Administration in
the said estate and
request(s) that the said Court
determine who are the heirs
and only heirs of the said AL-
FREDO LOPEZ, Deceased,
and their respective shares
and interests in such estate.
Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from
date of publication of this ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing such application should
they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of
its issuance, it shall be re-
turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT at office in Travis
County, Texas, on February
10, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

SUCCESSORS AND
ASSIGNS BY AND THROUGH
ITS ATTORNEY OF RECORD,
MARK G. TORABI OF
BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER
TURNER & ENGEL, LLP,
15000 SURVEYOR BLVD.,
ADDISON, TEXAS 75001,
972-386-5040, BROUGHT
SUIT AGAINST
DEFENDANTS MELVIN
GAHLEY, MARLENE
GAHLEY, AND THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF KARL
GAHLEY, TO ENFORCE THE
VENDOR'S LIEN ON AND
ASSERT SUPERIOR TITLE TO
THE PROPERTY LOCATED
AT 8901 GLENN LANE,
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78753 AND
LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS:
LOT FOUR (4) BLOCK "C",
NORTH LAMAR PARK,
SECTION ONE (1), A
SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY
OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS
COUNTY, TEXAS,
ACCORDING TO THE MAP
OR PLAT OF RECORD IN
VOLUME 15, PAGE 35, PLAT
RECORDS OF TRAVIS
COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE
FULLY APPEARS FROM
PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL
PETITION ON FILE IN THIS
OFFICE, AND WHICH
REFERENCE IS HERE MADE
FOR ALL INTENTS AND
PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my
hand and the seal of said
court at Austin, Texas,
January 28, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-
MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ ALEJANDRA
MEDRANO-CHAPA, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
MARK TORABI
BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER
TURNER & ENGEL, LLP
15000 SURVEYOR
BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
ADDISON, TX 75001
BUSINESS PHONE: (972)386-
5040
FAX: (972)341-0734

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTER-
ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF
JAMES HERSHEL GEEN, De-
ceased, No. C-1-PB-09-
000048 in Probate Court
Number One of Travis
County, Texas.

JEFFREY RANDY GEEN and
all alleged heir(s) at law in
the above numbered and en-
titled estate, filed on Febru-
ary 17, 2009, an Application
to Determine Heirship and Is-
suanace of Letters of Inde-
pendent Administration in the
said estate and request(s)
that the said Court determine
who are the heirs and only
heirs of the said JAMES HER-
SHEL GEEN, Deceased, and
their respective shares and
interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from
date of publication of this ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing such application should
they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of
its issuance, it shall be re-
turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT at office in Travis
County, Texas, on February
17, 2009.

County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF SEPHTS
FLEMINGS JR, Deceased,

No. 89710 in Probate Court
Number One of Travis
County, Texas.

SHARON HERRING alleged
heir(s) at law in the above
numbered and entitled es-
tate, filed on the 25TH day of
NOVEMBER, 2008, an Appli-
cation to Determine Heirship
and For Letters of Independ-
ent Administration in the said
estate and request(s) that the
said Court determine who are
the heirs and only heirs of the
said SEPHTS FLEMINGS JR,
Deceased, and their respec-
tive shares and interests in
such estate.

Said application will be heard
and acted on by said Court
at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the
first Monday next after the
expiration of ten days from
date of publication of this ci-
tation, at the County Court-
house in Travis County, Tex-
as.

All persons interested in said
estate are hereby cited to ap-
pear before said Honorable
Court at said above men-
tioned time and place by fil-
ing a written answer contest-
ing such application should
they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served
within 90 days after date of
its issuance, it shall be re-
turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
AND THE SEAL OF SAID
COURT at office in Travis
County, Texas, this 4th
day of December, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ M. C. Arzola

CLERK OF THE COURT
PATTI NEILL, DISTRICT
CLERK
100 EAST THIRD STREET,
#200
SWEETWATER, TEXAS
79556
Petitioner's Attorney or Pe-
titioner
Lance Hall, Attorney at Law,
412 E. 3rd
Sweetwater, TX 79556

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Jaime Avila-Acuna and
to all whom it may concern,
Respondent. "You have been
sued. You may employ an at-
torney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer
with the clerk who issued this
citation by 10:00 a.m. on the
Monday next following the
expiration of twenty days af-
ter you were served this cita-
tion and petition, a default
judgment may be taken
against you."

The petition of John Adrian
Solano and Jose Garcia, Pe-
titioner, was filed in the Court
of NOLAN County, Texas, on
the 9th day of January, 2009,
against Jaime Avila-Acuna,
Isadia Perez, James Garza
and Allstate Respondent(s)
number 18896 and entitled
John Adrian Solano and Jose
Garcia, Plaintiffs, vs. Jaime
Avila-Acuna, Isadia Perez,
James Garza and Allstate,
Defendants.

The suite requests*
THIS SUIT IS AN ORIGINAL
PETITION, AND MAY BE
READ IN THE NOLAN
COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR COURT-
HOUSE, #200, SWEETWA-
TER, TEXAS

The Court has authority in
this suit to enter any judg-
ment which will be binding
on you.

Issued and given under my
hand and the Seal of said
Court at Sweetwater, Texas,
this 30th day of January,
A.D. 2009.

Attest:
PATTI NEILL, CLERK, of the
32nd District Court, NOLAN
COUNTY, TX

(seal) By: Connie Jamison
Deputy

CLERK OF THE COURT
PATTI NEILL, DISTRICT
CLERK
100 EAST THIRD STREET,
#200
SWEETWATER, TEXAS
79556
Petitioner's Attorney or Pe-
titioner

Lance Hall, Attorney at Law,
412 E. 3rd

Sweetwater, TX 79556
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Isadia Perez and to all
whom it may concern, Re-
spondent. "You have been
sued. You may employ an at-
torney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer
with the clerk who issued this
citation by 10:00 a.m. on the
Monday next following the
expiration of twenty days af-
ter you were served this cita-
tion and petition, a default
judgment may be taken
against you."

The petition of John Adrian
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of NOLAN County, Texas, on
the 9th day of January, 2009,
against Jaime Avila-Acuna,
Isadia Perez, James Garza
and Allstate Respondent(s)
number 18896 and entitled
John Adrian Solano and Jose
Garcia, Plaintiffs, vs. Jaime
Avila-Acuna, Isadia Perez,
James Garza and Allstate,
Defendants.

The suite requests*
THIS SUIT IS AN ORIGINAL
PETITION, AND MAY BE
READ IN THE NOLAN
COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR COURT-
HOUSE, #200, SWEETWA-
TER, TEXAS

The Court has authority in
this suit to enter any judg-
ment which will be binding
on you.

Issued and given under my
hand and the Seal of said
Court at Sweetwater, Texas,
this 30th day of January,
A.D. 2009.

Attest:
PATTI NEILL, CLERK, of the
32nd District Court, NOLAN
COUNTY, TX

(seal) By: Connie Jamison
Deputy

CLERK OF THE COURT
PATTI NEILL, DISTRICT
CLERK
100 EAST THIRD STREET,
#200
SWEETWATER, TEXAS
79556
Petitioner's Attorney or Pe-
titioner
Lance Hall, Attorney at Law,
412 E. 3rd
Sweetwater, TX 79556

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: James Garza and to all
whom it may concern, Re-
spondent. "You have been
sued. You may employ an at-
torney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer
with the clerk who issued this
citation by 10:00 a.m. on the
Monday next following the
expiration of twenty days af-
ter you were served this cita-
tion and petition, a default
judgment may be taken
against you."

The petition of John Adrian
Solano and Jose Garcia, Pe-
titioner, was filed in the Court
of NOLAN County, Texas, on
the 9th day of January, 2009,
against Jaime Avila-Acuna,
Isadia Perez, James Garza
and Allstate Respondent(s)
number 18896 and entitled
John Adrian Solano and Jose
Garcia, Plaintiffs, vs. Jaime
Avila-Acuna, Isadia Perez,
James Garza and Allstate,
Defendants.

The suite requests*
THIS SUIT IS AN ORIGINAL
PETITION, AND MAY BE
READ IN THE NOLAN
COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR COURT-
HOUSE, #200, SWEETWA-
TER, TEXAS

The Court has authority in
this suit to enter any judg-
ment which will be binding
on you.

Issued and given under my
hand and the Seal of said
Court at Sweetwater, Texas,
this 30th day of January,
A.D. 2009.

Attest:
PATTI NEILL, CLERK, of the
32nd District Court, NOLAN
COUNTY, TX

(seal) By: Connie Jamison
Deputy

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE
OF CONSTRUCTION
IFB NO. B090179-JW

Notice is hereby given that
sealed bids for the FERGU-

SON LANE-TUSCANY WAY
CONNECTOR ROAD &
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
(IFB No. B090179-JW), a pro-
ject consisting primarily of
roadway pavement widening,
overlay, new curb and gutter
construction, storm drainage
systems, erosion and siltation
controls, waterline, water
quality ponds, drainage
channels and miscellaneous
associated improvements, for
Ferguson Lane from Wall St.
to Sprinkle Lane and for Tus-
cany Way Extension from Ex-
change St. to Sprinkle Lane
in Travis County Precinct=1,
will be received by Cyd
Grimes, Travis County Pur-
chasing Agent, at the **Travis
County Purchasing Office,**
314 West 11th Street, 4th
Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX
78701 until **2:00 P. M. CST,**
MARCH 18, 2009, then pub-
licly opened and read aloud.
Note: The Time-Date Stamp
Clock located at the front
counter of the Travis
County Purchasing Office,
will serve as the **OFFICIAL**
CLOCK for the purpose of
verifying the date and time
of receipt of bids.

Copies of plans and speci-
fications may be obtained
from the **TRAVIS COUNTY**
PURCHASING OFFICE. A re-
fundable deposit of **\$100.00**
in the form of a cashier's
check, money order, or com-
pany check payable to
"Travis County" will be re-
quired for each set of bid
documents that is issued.
**The deposit will be re-
funded if the drawings and**
specifications are returned
in good condition within 21
calendar days of the bid
opening. Copies of plans
and specifications may be
viewed free of charge in the
Travis County Purchasing Of-
fice. In addition, plans and
specifications will be made
available for viewing free of
charge at various Austin-area
Plan Rooms indicated in list
below.

**An optional pre-bid con-
ference will be held on**
MARCH 4, 2009 at 10:00
A.M., est at the Travis
County Purchasing Office,
Conference Room, 314
West 11th Street, 4th Floor,
Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701.
A bid security in the amount
of five percent (5%) of the
total bid amount will be re-
quired. Payments will be
made for completed work in
progressive payments with
the County retaining five per-
cent (5%) of each payment
until final acceptance of the
project. Payments will be
made by check. A Payment
Bond is required in the
amount of one-hundred per-
cent (100%) of the contract
amount, if the contract
amount exceeds \$25,000. A
Performance Bond is re-
quired in the amount of one-
hundred percent (100%) of
the contract amount, if the
contract amount exceeds
\$100,000. Bidder should use
unit pricing, except as pro-
vided for in the Specifications

Historically Underutilized
Businesses including Con-
tractors, Subcontractors, and
Suppliers are encouraged to
participate in this project
consistent with the goals of
the Commissioners Court.
Contractors will be required
to comply with all applicable
Equal Employment Opportu-
nity laws and regulations, all
Federal, State, and local reg-
ulations for construction safe-
ty and health standards.

The successful bidder must
commence work upon iss-
uance by County of a written
Notice to Proceed. The
County reserves the right to
reject any and all bids and to
waive any informality in the
bids received. Bids may not
be withdrawn for ninety (90)
calendar days after the date
on which they are opened.

CYD GRIMES
TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHAS-
ING AGENT

NO. 89860 IN RE ESTATE
OF LOIS ANNE NEWELL,
DECEASED
IN THE PROBATE COURT
NO. ONE TRAVIS COUNTY,
TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of LOIS ANNE
NEWELL, Deceased, were is-
sued on January 27, 2009, in

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

SPIDERWEB IN FUEL LINE NOT AS UNUSUAL AS YOU THINK

Dear Tom and Ray:

I was driving my 2007 Forester to work the other day when the check engine light came on (it has about 15,000 miles on it). I brought it in to the dealer. The computer said it was code P1443, Evaporation Control Solenoid Malfunction. They cleaned a spiderweb out of the charcoal canister hose. Does this sound right, or am I getting hosed? (It was covered by the warranty – but I am suspicious that something else might actually be wrong with the vehicle, and it will reappear after the warranty runs out.) What do you think? – Mary

TOM: Believe it or not, Mary, this is said to be a pretty common problem. We’ve never seen it in our shop, but we’ve read about it. I guess gasoline is the Chanel No. 5 of the arachnid world.

RAY: We’ve seen a number of service bulletins over the years alerting us to the dreaded spiderweb-in-the-fuel-line problem. In your case, there probably was a bunch of webby stuff in the fresh-air intake line to the evaporative emissions canister. That was preventing the fuel tank from breathing properly (fresh air has to enter the gas tank to fill up the space left by the used gasoline; otherwise, the tank will slowly implode). That set off your check engine light.

TOM: So I don’t think the dealer is hiding anything or trying to cover up some other problem. I’d guess that he told you exactly what was wrong, and he fixed it.

RAY: Of course, in order to prevent this from happening again, he’ll want to sell you the specially made Subaru Bird of Prey to eat any future little “line blockers.”

* * *

Stop the madness! You can stop driving like a knucklehead, and you’ll help your car in the process. Learn how your driving habits can harm your car in Tom and Ray’s pamphlet “Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!” Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the “Car Talk” website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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continued

legal notices

er/dryer, saws, lawn equipment, wood, ladder, tool boxes

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Delinquent Tenants

PS Orangeo, Inc. hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord’s Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the **12th & 13th of March 2009** on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Thursday March 12th 2009 9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1053 TERRY LEE HICKMAN, CHAIR, ICE CHEST, RECORD ALBUMS

1097 ANGELA BALDWIN, BOXES

2032 LEO WATSON, BED, BOXES, TABLE

2053 KATHLEEN ATWOOD, SOFA, BOXES, LAWN EQUIPMENT

3035 CHRISTOPHER STRAIT, BOXES, DRESSER, WASHTR

3093 BRIANA DELLYN MED-EARIS, BOXES, BED, TOTES

4065 AUBREY THOMAS, CHAIR, TABLE, BOXES

5045 JASON MOORE, TV, BOXES, TOTES

5063 SUSAN SCHMOKER, BOXES, BAGS, SUITCASE

9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

2050 Audrey Grant, Boxes, bags, mattress

5000 Janie Sanchez, Boxes, bags, totes

8007 Jason Villarreal, Boxes, bags, totes

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

B016 Natalie Patterson, Boxes, bags, totes

B114 Elhma Sanchez, Boxes, bags, totes

C012 Alpha Oumar Ball, Boxes, bags, totes

D031 Shandell Bentley, Bags, totes, clothing

D035 Kateri Chauret-Guzman, Boxes, Bags, totes

D064 Jorge Ramiro Valdez, Boxes, bags, totes

D066 Helen Fearce, Boxes, bags, totes

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reini, Austin, TX., 78751

110 Nash Franson, boxes, totes, stereo

164 Richard Dunnuck, all items in unit

182 Nash Franson, Boxes, bags, bicycle

428 Brian Vagi, Boxes, totes, bicycle

471 Tracy Levesque, Boxes, bags, coffee table

478 Ann Richter, Boxes, bags, totes

480 Brannen Temple, Boxes, bicycle, drums

633 Deidre Walker, Mattress, totes, clothing

804 Tommy Recio, Mattress, totes, clothing

934 Spencer Masslieno-Alen, Desk, coffee table, vacuum

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

111 Mary Helen Gaas, Boxes, bags, clothing

210 Magdalen Mills, Bags, Bed, clothing

405 Tanya Campbell, Bags, Mattress, clothing

530 Christi Richardson, Boxes, cough, table

546 Artemio Orozco, Table, refrigerator, tires

1111 David Buckingham, Chair, couch, boxes

1224 James Howard Grant, Boxes, Totes, toolbox

1505 Craig Gatewood, Boxes, bags, totes

3054 Annette Gutierrez, boxes, totes, toys

3160 Michael Smith, Boxes, bags, totes

N1225 Todd Readeaux, Bags, bed, boxes

N1402 Matthew Fagan, Boxes, dresser, bicycle

N2315 Tanya Walker, Boxes, clothing, suitcase

N2321 Aniceto Aguinaga, Boxes, washer, dryer

N3360 Stevin Woody, Desk, chair, stereo

N3362 John Hernandez, Boxes, TV, couch

N3389 Brannen Temple, Boxes, couch, drums

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A031 Mark Brown, Toolbox, table saw, band saw

A052 Gina Mendez, Boxes, Bed frame, chest of drawers

A059 Tommy Thompson, Boxes, Dryer, washer

A100 Deryl Bunton, Bed, boxes, table

B019 Owen Summers, Couch, Table, chair

B022 Sheila Horton, boxes, stereo, table

B032 Aaron Rojas, vacuum, washer, refrigerator

B044 Derrick Russell, Power tools, compressor, toolbox

C018 William Voges, Boxes, bags, totes

D025 Albert Camacho, Boxes, Dresser, dryer

E027 Raymond Paul Swan, Boxes, bags, clothing

F001 Harold James Hopkins, Bags, boxes, toys

F025 Brian Dennis, Bicycle, bed, boxes

G011 Jerry Burgener, Boxes, filing cabinets, totes

H010 Kimberly Glassford, Baby stroller, bed, desk

H050 Peter An Nguyen, Arcade console, casino table

12:30pm Public Storage @ 8128 N Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

B008 Kim Johnson, Boxes, bags, totes

C012 Timetria Barfield, TV, mattress, bicycle

E081 Ronnie Messer, Boxes, bags, totes

E091 Marvin Calhoun, Cabinet, chair stereo

E122 Anna Daniels, Bags, boxes, totes

E131 Zenda River, Bags, bed, boxes

Friday March 13th 2009 9:30am Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

1117 Marvin Harris, boxes, couch, tv

4116 John Lamphear, boxes, chest of drawers, ladder

4130 Robert Garcia, Bags, clothing, desk

5121 Nicole Kenney, Bed, boxes, clothing

6117 Sharon Jones, Boxes, bags, tv

8121 Alicia Komorowski, boxes, bags, totes.

8122 Virginia Rosalez, boxes, bags, totes

8169 Wayne Ikebuchi, Boxes, bags, toys

10:00am Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

0214 Misty Bauer, Boxes, bags, bicycle

1326 Rolinda Salinas, Bags, computer, toys

2252 Laurel Yurchick, TV, totes, boxes

2301 Debra Wendler, Boxes, bags, totes

10:30am Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

1017 Darren Manzella, Mattress, Chest of drawer, totes

5091 Caitlin Deichmann, Boxes, microwave, tv

B004 Shirley Blessin, Boxes, bags, totes

C009 Al Thompson, Boxes, lawn equipment, sports equipment

11:00am Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

2060 Texas Department of Insurance, Boxes

2072 James Perry, 40 cases of soda

A017 Texas Department of Insurance, Boxes

B013 Texas Department of Insurance, Boxes

B017 Bonner Bankston, Bed, chair, couch

C028 Jennifer Pearce, Boxes, bags, totes

E048 Brian Risinger, 15 rolls of carpeting

11:30am Public Storage @ 12318 N Mopac Expressway, Austin, TX 78758

A020 Joseph L Sutherland, bags, boxes, chair

A021 Nash Roger, Bicycle, boxes, totes

A062 Chris Simmons, Bicycle, boxes, tv

B106 Laura Caraveo, Boxes, pictures, table

B132 Jennifer Stewart, Bags, chair, wheelchair

C318 Henry Rountree, Bed, table, tv

D525 Diana M Anderson, Boxes, desk, totes

D553 Jennifer Oestreich, Dresser, totes, Bed head-board

12:00pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

E042 Lewis Ward, Boxes, couch, upholstered chair

E067 Alfredo Bernal, Bed, couch, desk

E170 Cynthia Ledesma, Bags, microwave, TV

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord’s lien. Sale is 10:00 am, **Saturday, March 14, 2009** at 5405 Wason Road, Austin, TX. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash.

Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces of the following tenants: **HACIENDA PRODUCTS INC/ RICK LINDA**, old doors, misc. construction materials; **LISA MARIE BOVEE**, world globes, suitcase, misc. school/teaching supplies; **JONATHON URIAH WOLFERS**, office desks, chairs, filing cabinets, weights, mattresses, misc. office supplies; **ALFREDO GONZALES**, leather sofa, upholstered sofa, tires, trunk, high chair, microwave, dresser, misc. household items; **JUSTIN OREM**, wooden rocking chair, headboard, stroller, office chair, mirror, computers, misc. household items; **CHAD PEEVY**, igloo coolers, golf clubs, Rubbermaid coolers, folding tables, dolly, misc. household items; Contact Crystal Witsee, 383-8787 at South Austin Self Storage, 5405 Wason Road, Austin, TX 78745.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM ROSS MUCKLE, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of William Ross Muckle, an incapacitated person, were issued on February 13, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-089616 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to CHARLES A. MUCKLE. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the guardian at the following address: Charles A. Muckle, Guardian of the Estate of William Ross Muckle, an Incapacitated Person, c/o Don E. Walden 7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 19th day of February, 2009.

NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON, Independent Executor of the Estate of ARCHIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON, Deceased

6242 Burnet Road, #52 Austin, Texas 78756

DATED this 23rd day of February, 2009.

NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON, Independent Executor of the

ruary, 2009.

/s/ Don E. Walden

State Bar No. 20672800

Attorney for Guardian

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SUZANNE MOORE, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Suzanne Moore, Deceased, were issued on February 19, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-090033 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Margaret Moore, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Margaret Moore,

Independent Executor, Estate of Suzanne Moore, Deceased c/o Don E. Walden

7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Don E. Walden

State Bar No. 20672800

Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MYRTLE GUINN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MYRTLE GUINN, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2009, in Cause No. C1-PB-09-089973, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: JANICE GUINN HENRY AND CONSTANCE GUINN GILES, Independent Co-Executors. The residence of the Independent Co-Executors is Austin, Travis County, Texas. The post office address is: Estate of MYRTLE GUINN Law Office of Diane Hebner 507 West 7th Street Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 17th day of February, 2009.

Law Office of Diane Hebner 507 West 7th Street Austin, TX 78701-2831 (512)477-4158 Telephone (512)477-2126 Fax By: /s/ Diane Hebner

Attorney for Independent Co-Executors

State Bar No. 09367300

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ARCHIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ARCHIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON, Deceased, were granted on the 19th day of February, 2009, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-090044 in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON Independent Executor

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Based on instruction of the Independent Executor that claims be addressed in care of the Independent Executor’s attorney, the address to which claims may be presented is:

NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON Independent Executor Estate of ARCHIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON, Deceased c/o Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink

5742 Burnet Road, #52 Austin, Texas 78756

DATED this 23rd day of February, 2009.

NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON, Independent Executor of the

Estate of ARCHIE FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON, Deceased

by: /s/ Rhonda H. Brink Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink

5247 Burnet Road #52 Austin, Texas 78756

Phone: (512) 454-8400

FAX: (512) 454-2055

Attorney for NITA CAROL WILLIAMSON

Independent Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GRAHAM RHYS PHILLIPS, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship for the Estate of Graham Rhys Phillips, an incapacitated person, were issued on December 22, 2008, in Cause No. 89,646 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to DONNA H. PHILLIPS.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the guardian at the following address:

Donna H. Phillips, Guardian of the Estate of Graham Rhys Phillips, an Incapacitated Person, c/o Don E. Walden 7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Don E. Walden

State Bar No. 20672800

Attorney for Guardian

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruth G. Heckler, Deceased, were issued to Robert L. Heckler, Jr. and Lynn Heckler Christopher as Co-Executors on February 3, 2009, in Cause No. 89,887, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representatives’ attorney, as follows:

Robert L. Heckler, Jr. and Lynn Heckler Christopher c/o Edsam M. Ingram 1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520 Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 18th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram

ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Harold Ray Rice, Deceased, were issued to Ernest Harold Eppright on February 19, 2009, in Cause No. 89,989, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative’s attorney, as follows:

Ernest Harold Eppright c/o Edsam M. Ingram 1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520 Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram

ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Adin H. Hall were issued on the 19th day of February, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-090021, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to: Elizabeth B. Hall, Independent

Executor of the Estate of Adin H. Hall, Deceased.

The residence of the Independent Executor is: Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Street, Apt. 333, Austin, Texas 78731.

The mailing address is:

Estate of Adin H. Hall, c/o: DANIEL M. LANEY, Attorney at Law, 1250 Capital of Texas Highway South, Building III, Suite 400 Cielo Center, Austin, Texas 78746. The phone number for the attorney for the estate if (512) 329-2016 and the fax number is (512) 329-2018.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 19th day of February, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Daniel M. Laney Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Omer E. Evans, Deceased, were issued on February 19, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-090000, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Colleen Evans Andrews.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Gayle Cipriano

Attorney at Law

7903 Bracken Court Austin, TX 78731

DATED the 27th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Gayle Cipriano

Attorney for Colleen Evans Andrews

State Bar No.: 03783500

7903 Bracken Court Austin, TX 78731

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Vincent

DePaul McGarry, Deceased, were issued on February 19, 2009, in Cause No. 089929, pending in the Probate Court No. ONE, Travis County, Texas, to: Martha Lynn

(Craddock) McGarry.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Thomas J. O'Meara, Jr.

Attorney at Law

919 Congress Avenue,
Suite 1150

Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Thomas J. O'Meara, Jr.
Attorney for Allan K. Chrisman

State Bar No.: 15279500

919 Congress Ave.,

Suite 1150

Austin, TX 78701

Telephone: (512) 441-1411

Facsimile: (512) 441-1410

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of F.N. KELLEY, Deceased, were issued on February 10, 2009, in Cause No. 89896, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: ADELE KELLEY STEWART and ANNE KELLEY BOTOMS, Co-Independent Executors.

The mailing address of the Co-Independent Executors is in Travis County, Texas; the post office address is: Adele Kelley Stewart and

Anne Kelley Bottoms

c/o Joseph S. Babb
Law Office of Joseph S. Babb

P.O. Drawer 50231
Austin, Texas 78763

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 24th day of February, 2009.

Law Office of Joseph S. Babb

By: /s/ Joseph S. Babb

State Bar Number 01478700

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE OF F. N. KELLEY, DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ROBERT D. FREEMAN, a/k/a ROBERT DAVID FREEMAN, Deceased, were issued on February 17, 2009, in Cause No. 09-0060-CP4, pending in the Probate Court of Williamson County, Texas, to: CHERYL LYNN FREEMAN.

The residence of the Executor is in Travis County, Texas; the post office address is:

c/o Kirt H. Kiester

Kiester, Lockwood & Babb, L.L.P.

611 West 14th St., Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 18th day of February, 2009.

KIESTER, LOCKWOOD & BABB, L.L.P.

By /s/ Kirt H. Kiester

State Bar No. 11393000

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of VIVIAN L. KINGSBURY, a/k/a VIVIAN LOIS KINGSBURY, Deceased, were issued on February 5, 2009, in Cause No. 89,949, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: SANDRA K. OLIPHINT n/k/a SANDRA K. HARRIS.

The residence of the Executor is in Travis County, Texas; the post office address is:

c/o Kirt H. Kiester

Kiester, Lockwood &

Ciccone, L.L.P.

611 West 14th St., Suite 100

Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 17th day of February, 2009.

KIESTER, LOCKWOOD & CICCONE, L.L.P.

By /s/ Kirt H. Kiester

State Bar No. 11393000

ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Transportation and Extraterritorial Services, RFS S090174-OJ

Opens: March 9, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent,

Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Floor Covering Time and Material, B090175-NB

Opens: March 16, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

2. OEM Parts and Labor (Heavy Duty Road Machinery, Grounds Machinery, Motorcycles), B090185-NB

Opens: March 16, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767.

Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The suc-

cessful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration for the Estate of Dora Lu Parks, Deceased, were issued on February 19, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-089629, pending in Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Terry Randall Parks.

The residence of the Decedent is in Travis County, Texas, and the mailing address at which claims may be presented is: Representative, Estate of Dora Lu Parks,

c/o Neal W. Hardin,

Attorney at Law

1150 Lakeway Drive,
Suite 101,

Austin, Texas 78734
(512) 502-8514

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 24th day of February, 2009.

NEAL W. HARDIN, P.C.

1150 Lakeway Drive, Suite

101

Austin, Texas 78734
(512) 502-8514 (Office)

(512) 261-3223 (Fax)

By: /s/ Neal W. Hardin

State Bar No. 08967500

Attorney for Terry Randall Parks

Independent Executor of the Estate of Dora Lu Parks, Deceased

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1998 CIVIC Four door, auto, 150K., in process of 65 point check. Auto., \$4450. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

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2007 NISSAN Versa, four door, 25,000 miles. Very, very clean. Can trade. Factory warranty. \$12,950. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

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LUSCIOUS LUSTY MISTRESS

Not looking for anything in real life, just some online naughty fun. I'm into male/female subs, as long as you're sexy, intelligent & creative. NOT into submitting or switching. **FemmeDomme72**, 36, **#129046**

U MAN ENOUGH

I've played rebound, Cougar, I've been on my own. I am happy and content with myself and my life. Open to a LTR if the right guy comes along. **Ms-Spontaneous**, 37, **#128825**

MISTRESS 4 YOU

Mistress seeking submissives, pain sluts, sissyboys, and such. Think you can handle it? **christalrose**, 37, **#128824**

MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. **litred**, 31, **#128782**

INTELLECTUAL SUBMISSIVE

If you have a decent vocabulary, a dry sense of humor, and an I.Q. in the triple digits, in addition to a dominating flair in the bedroom then write me. **Bella34**, 35, **#126130**

MALE BODY LOVER

Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. **rockett2222**, 35, **#124473**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpar-tygurl1985**, 23, **#119045**

BREAK THE SHELL!!

hey wasupp looking for some fun kindah of a shy guy looking for some-one to explore my sexuality with!!!! **eddiATX**, 27, **#129405**

DP INTEREST

She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wnating to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 32, **#128950**

SENSUAL AND SEXUAL

We are a married couple that is looking to play with others. We like to spice it up a bit. **green**, 38, **#128660**

HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 34, **#128804**

CLASSY COUPLE FOREPLAY

Attractive couple in 30s looking for Woman/Couple. Attracted to you & you to us.For fun drama free erotic pleasure. Should be Open-minded, discreet,playful not pushy. I'm bi, he's straight. **TexasSugar**, 34, **#128373**

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL

We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. **srcn4fun**, 32, **#128004**

NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!

Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! **ATX-Couple4you**, 32, **#127995**

B OUR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex,and more sex. **newbies**, 36, **#127079**

FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or fe-males only. **080764**, 44, **#124403**

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experienting with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, pas-sionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 49, **#123217**

WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris_and_jack**, 36, **#122165**

ADVENTUROUS, DISCRETE, FUN

Experienced couple that loves to play with adventurous couples. Select single males, females, and groups welcome. We are very clean, DDF, and expect the same. We require extreme discretion. **kulcpl**, 40, **#116581**

THREE'S NOTTA CROWD

We are a very happily married 30-year-old couple that thoroughly enjoys sex. We are looking for a female (or couple) that is height fweight proportionate (few extra pounds is good). **damonhunkins**, 33, **#116307**

BI-SWINGING CPL. DOM/SUB/ ROLEPLAYING

She bi. 46, 5'4", 110 #'s., Dom. Mistress w males, switch/females. He bi., 48, 5'8", 190 #'s., Sub w women, switch/males. **BiCplnAustinTx**, 49, **#115767**

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER

You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US:Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 32, **#121712**

GIRL PLAYMATES

Experienced sexy bi hottie looking for other femme hotties to play with. **Catwalk**, 31, **#119900**

SEXY...YET PRACTICAL.

Cute, curvy, and fit woman looking for sensual and fun experiences with a like-minded man or couple (man&woman). Not into hard-core or wilder tastes-just good, giving, and game partners. **sexyyetpractical**, 38, **#129424**

SEX KITTEN

I'm a sexy, fun gal ready to live out my fantasies. I want a hot couple, either girl-girl or girl-guy, to welcome me into their world. Help me explore! **PrettyPlayful**, 30, **#129420**

RAINMAKING TRUTHSEEKER

I am an attractive nineteen-year-old bisexual female. I consider creativity, health, and honesty to be the most relevant traits in a person. I'm looking to be friends first. Be real. **sweet-eighteen**, 19, **#128243**

SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER

My master will control and teach me. He should be sucessful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean-42DDD**, 37, **#127400**

WETLIPS

im a wild sex kittin with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for sexy e-mails, ill talk dirty! **highheels23**, 23, **#126858**

BUDDY WITH BENEFITS

Looking for a good-looking, masculine, white guy, around 25-45, average to stocky. You'll host. Send face pics. Stats in online ad. **speedy246**, 30, **#115688**

HORNY, SLAVE, OPEN2NETHING

early 20's male. Decent shape. looking for that special dirty and discreet thing out there. Interested in women and men. E-mails first, then hookup. **PNDAXrrrrr**, 23, **#129428**

MATURE SECURE TANMAN

Well trained in soft kink and love to spoil you. Looking to spice a couples sex appetite or explore one on one with different types of men and women. **wookster1957**, 51, **#129042**

CURIOUS FUNSEEKER

I am looking for someone who is also curious and willing to try different things to have discreet encounters or exchange e-mails; no strings attached. **Pugio**, 29, **#128472**

NO STRINGS ATTACHED!!!

My requests are simple... Discreet,sex,no relationships!!! I am looking for a good one-on-one with the right lady, or a lil company(couple). Whatever the case maybe, I love sex :). **Scatter**, 31, **#128434**

HORNDOG, DEVIANT, DORK

just here looking for some discreet fun open to try new things never say never I always say! **church700**, 26, **#128258**

BLONDE SHEMALE

Sexy T-Girl Top. Seeking NSA hot Fun encounters at night. I prefer Hot Jock Boys. Im Blonde and Hot and Curvey and Talented at having FUN. **Blonde-Hottie**, 34, **#101055**

EAGER TO PLEASE

Laid back but playful here, looking for the same. I tend to be drawn to older women, but that is not a requirement. **FunLovingRomance**, 27, **#129439**

IWANNAPLAYTOO

I'm the FNG around here looking for someone outside the box. I'm not looking for a wholesome midwestern girl. I wanna play. I down for anything that catches my imagination. **Sweet-Sexyness**, 28, **#129394**

COSMOPOLITAN SEEKING LOLITA

traditional 1950s romance, Jackie Gleason on the turntable. Mature-minded, finely-tuned ladies only. Do you enjoy: Guy Lombardo, cheap wine, movies at the Alamo? UT physics PhD with broad scholarly interests. **physicist**, 24, **#129383**

UNINHIBITED DISCRETE FUN!

successful professional, strong sex drive and desire to explore hot, naughty, uninhibited fun with the right woman or couple. fit and attractive, nice and respectful. love to give pleasure. **discretepleasure**, 34, **#129194**

I LOVE EARS.

Very easy going guy love to play and have fun with others. I enjoy dancing,movies,outdoors etc. **spiderss**, 28, **#129121**

NICENBIG

have loads of fun sex and hang out. I'm only into women.girls not picky like to meet older women 25-36 serious no serious as long as no lies. **latin_daddy**, 19, **#129106**

RIPPEDCHILLER

respectful, smart, but an adverage guy,lean, and ripped. Green eyes, short brownish blonde hair, and really just looking for some discrete in-counters or email. nothing serious just some fun. **1433**, 21, **#128971**

NEED TWO WOMEN!

I simply need more than one woman to satisfy my sexual proovess... not bragging, just really bored with one on one sex, so if you've got a friend and what to have some fun look me up! **Slaine**, 33, **#128937**

SEX MACHINE

New to Austin, here to meet some highly sexual woman for some no strings attached play. **cboy86**, 23, **#128934**

SEXYYETPRACTICAL

SEXY...YET PRACTICAL.

I'm a cute, curvy, and fit woman looking for sensual and fun experiences with a like-minded man or couple (man and woman). My personal style is definitely of the t-shirt and flip-flop variety, and I don't make many concessions to the silly notions of conventional feminine beauty.

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Twenty years from now, when you look back on the time you spent in Austin (and this is, of course, assuming that the polar ice caps have melted and you own a beach house in either Amarillo or Oklahoma City), what do you think you'll remember most – that time you dropped \$600 on the *We Own the Night* package at Qua or the Wednesday nights you spent at the Continental Club with Guy Forsyth, Jon Dee Graham, and James McMurtry? Take some time on that one, Sparky. Let it simmer. Here's the thing: A bottle of Cristal, a few shots of Patrón, and a night of fluorescent-toothed-overbite disco dancing with guys in baroque-print polyester shirts and frosted tips is some heady shit indeed, but that memory will burn out about the time your hangover headache kicks in the next morning. And is that the taste of KY in your mouth? Maybe another shot of tequila is in order, or maybe you could use a slight cultural adjustment. As much as some people would like it to be, Austin isn't South Beach or Vegas or North Dallas. Not yet. If that's your bag (the one with the hose hanging off of it?), those places have plenty of openings. Here in Austin, however, we're still mostly free of valets, velvet ropes, and muscled dudes in tight shirts with clipboards. We don't try to keep the riffraff out because we know deep down inside we are the riffraff. We clean up well enough, sure, but we're not on a first-name basis with the guy behind the counter at the dry cleaners. We look a little ruffled and frumpy, and we just don't care. Why? Because we got game, yo. We're interesting riffraff. We can hold a conversation about something other than last night's TMZ, the Kardashians, or the Christian Audigier shirt we just bought that looks like a bunch of tattoos engaged in a spirited clusterfuck. For better or worse, the Austin aesthetic is a little more flip-flops, boxer shorts, backyard barbecues, and bong hits – it's more about being than looking. Most importantly, Austin looks like a big, world-class city, but it's really not. There will always be some boisterous, booze-breathed old hippie or redneck who will violate the sanctity of your VIP section and then ... goddamnit ... actually turn out to be a VIP. Maybe he'll serve as a gentle reminder to unpucker that starfish and really enjoy yourself instead of just acting like it. Four fellows that nicely fit that description will be appearing at the Paramount this Sunday for the 2009 Texas Heritage Songwriters' Homecoming Concert: Willie Nelson, Guy Clark, Allen Shamblin, and Michael Martin Murphey. All are ingenious and accomplished songwriters from Texas, even though they may not necessarily live here, and all, with the possible exception of Shamblin, look like they could be the squeeze guy on the corner. They're also all into country music, which may not be your thing, but you don't have to be a blood relative of that banjo pickin' kid from *Deliverance* in order to appreciate their artistry. In fact, if you're a little stuck up about your music, this might just be the thing that pops your cork.

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Lovers Lane


free!


women


SEEKING


men


FLOURESCENTADOLESCENT
Konichiwa! Hola! Hi! I'm interesting because I'm international...or at least I definitely claim that. I'm inquisitive but afraid. Show me how to not be afraid? **MuseMeMashups**, 20,  **#129468**

WELL HELLO!!
I am easy going and love any type of sport/activity. I guess if you want to know more about me then you have to ask! **Lexy1399**, 25,  **#129442**


DELIGHTFUL REDHEAD
I'm quirky, but I manage to function in normal society. College grad, loves horror movies. If you have a skewed sense of humor, you'll make me laugh. **HundredDollarBaby**, 25,  **#129023**

LIFE IS INCREDIBLE
Passionate, creative, crazy author seeks a new muse for love, laughter and inspiration. Must believe that life is beautiful, even when at its darkest, and desire to chase their dreams. **MidnightPoet**, 31,  **#129368**


SWEET AND BUBBLY
Looking for someone to start things off as friends and see where things go! Into the arts, music and local Austin establishments. **FunAn-dArtsy**, 24,  **#129339**


OPEN, SARCASTIC, AFFECTIONATE
New to the Austin area, I'm looking to meet great people to have fun with, so feel free to get in touch and we can see if it's a match. **caroatx**, 29,  **#129320**

GIRL NEXT DOOR
I am outgoing & sarcastic, have a great sense of humor and love to laugh, I can go out and have a good time or chill all day,love the outdoors. **mawniegirl**, 22,  **#129292**

CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT
I love reading, movies, dancing, history, traveling, food. Family and friends are very important. I also have a soft spot for animals and two loves of my life, my dogs. **Walking-TalkingTulip**, 25,  **#129271**

MUSIC JUNKY
Looking for someone to go to shows with and great conversation! **franny333**, 35,  **#123598**

UNIQUE, SHY, CREATIVE
I am a shy, honest, naive, tomboy, with feminine emotions. I am a quick learner, yet know little. I am attracted to intelligent, honest, motivated, sweet, goofy boys/men. **Sunflare**, 32,  **#129249**

FUN AND OPEN
It says to describe how delightful I am. I am not sure I can express into words how utterly delightful I am. (Sarcasm is one of my things). **Kthrob**, 24,  **#129211**


FUN LOVIN GIRL
Just moved here, thought I would give this a go. Love outdoors, sports, travel-ing, good converstaion, a great book, fresh coffee, enjoying a good wine or beer! **laylaj83**, 25,  **#129213**


HERE FOR LOVE
i am an easy ing girl that love to live life to the fullest, i am loving caring and very romantic. **Tgirl**, 23,  **#129186**

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!


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FAUX ROCKSTAR
My idea of a fun Friday night is find-ing a good book at the local book shop and going to coffee shops. I enjoy running the trail around Town Lake. **LovesToRun**, 18,  **#129198**

COOKY REDHEAD
vegetarian that fully embraces the goofy Austin lifestyle. love to dance, time with family & friends, enjoying the live music scene around Austin. **SarahKM**, 27,  **#129129**

HONEST,SWEAT BLK FEMALE
Austinite 27yr. five-three 120 long black hair mid-way my back brown eyes looking for intelligent,fun,drama free male Love to stay active and enjoy life with someone a cup of pas-sion. **London4u**, 27,  **#129127**


FUN SIMPLE GIRL
I'm a simple girl looking for fun. I'm into great food, company and music. Cooking, watching a movie or playing a phase 10 is always a fun night. **ForLo-veofCAKE1**, 23,  **#129124**


HONEST, SWEET, REAL
divorced and would like to find some-one to spend time with who is honest and approaches life with integrity & truth. **swtpeaintx**, 37,  **#129068**


men

SEEKING


women

REALLY?
Intellectual, liberal, pseudo-cool uber-geek, fire performer, ex-scientist, occasional artist, who loves cooking looking for cool, laid back, in shape female pervert type to hang with when we can find time. **zaidou**, 35,  **#129486**


MUPPETS
I'm down to earth. I'm a hopeless romantic, very affectionate. I like the outdoors:gardening, hiking, camping...I love movies & music. **SergioP**, 32,  **#129474**


CALLINGPROCRASTINATIO-NAHOBBYSINCE1983
laughter gets you somewhere, a smile provokes a song, sad and true defines the color blue, and a boy who's been looking too long. **adhdork**, 25,  **#129471**


JUST MOVED HERE
I just moved here from Arizona and I'm in the process of getting settled in. I love music, making it, listening to it, and talking about it. **Steaz**, 23,  **#129467**

LET'S ROCK!!!
I'm a drummer and that has been my passion for 20+ years. Im laid back, confident, independent, and humorous. If this sounds like you too should give me a shout. **hw1012**, 26,  **#129466**


LIKE TO SAIL?
I'm just a hard working, hard playing nice, fun guy & gentleman. Are there any ladies out there in search of that? If you are interested, drop me a line! **TRIAD107**, 53,  **#129463**


TRIPLE-STAMPED A DOUBLE-STAMP..
I want to meet new people, and go out, and have fun! I have absolutely no expectations. I am in the moment. Wanna share the moment? **bond-companystooge**, 43,  **#129462**

DON'T PICK ME
I only yearn for what each and every heart desires. To love and be loved, that is the purpose, isn't it? **Hypatos**, 33,  **#129449**

GIANT. CHARMING. IRREVERENT.
You're tall, I'm tall, why haven't we had dinner yet? Is it because I haven't asked? Damn it. Well then, care to go on a crime spree? You're outta smokes. **Tall_Fella**, 29,  **#129461**


ANOTHERLOSTSOUL
Really, Im just a guy with a dog. Im laid back. I play music. Im looking for someone to just spend some time with. No major commitments, just some fun. **Gonzo12**, 24,  **#129414**


2 LEGIT
Honest and open minded. I am a mu-sician and love all music. I consider myself a funny guy. I just like having a good time all the time. **2legit**, 29,  **#129412**


BACKGROUND CHECK!
About Me: extroverted, open minded, love music, raised with good morals, non-judgemental, hard working and harding playing, simple pleasures, love fish, active, positive energy. You???? **chaustx**, 32,  **#129422**


THE ROMANTIC
I am a romantic guy who likes to walk hand in hand, to caress while watching movies and say fine words to the person loved. **leandro_tx**, 28,  **#129419**

LETS ROCK!
I'm a good ole Texas boy looking to have a great time with a fun girl. If you love Austin, outdoors,cold beer and to laugh we have alot in com-mon. **Textbear**, 26,  **#129406**

THAT BALD GUY!
I am serious about laughing and laughing about being serious. I will tell you stories that will make you laugh and then cry from laughing. **webcat**, 36,  **#129398**

WATER DATES
i visit austin every other weekend. i have family in austin but live in houston. i have friends in austin but would like to date outside my circle of friends. **JBlaze**, 31,  **#129375**

NO SURRENDER...
I like to meet ALL sorts of people as long as your Honest about your ac-tions... **PsyRec101**, 26,  **#129372**

DORKY YET REFINED
Just looking for some casulal dating, but won't argue with fate. I'm pretty easy going, like going to concerts, salsa dancing, learning, training, and I can't live without music. **Darth_Fabuloso**, 29,  **#129371**

SHY GEEKY KLUTZ
quiet, dorky but outgoing klutz who can be found often at the dog park. i enjoy baking, going to shows, mov-ies and book/record stores. everyday is filled with fun knowledge. **god-less_fibber**, 34,  **#129356**

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CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!


women


SEEKING

women


NEW TO AUSTIN
Lets see the sites and hope romance blossoms. I'm a spontaneous, sarcastic, romantic chick. Originally from Hollywood California. **NewLez-inTown**, 24,  **#129376**


SSSEXICAN
i live my life one day at a time. love morning coffee, watching movies, live music, cooking, sports, mt. bon-nell, & people with a sense of humor. call me :). **posdata**, 28,  **#129223**


SEXY ENCHILADA
Three toed mango peeler searching for wicked lesbian infielder. Like screaming and marking territory with urine? Let's make banana enchiladas together in my bathtub. You bring the salsa. **bay84**, 24,  **#129160**

DELICIOUS JAMS OHYEAH
I love tattoos, reggae, live music, boardshorts, outdoorsyness, lips, mr. chen, adventure, laughing, reading, writing, biology, random trivia, and rockband. I want your body. **Natis-faction**, 23,  **#128909**

SARCASM GALORE
I'm new to the Austin area, and look-ing to meet some cool new people to show me around this lovely place.I love traveling, cooking, dancing, electronic music, & watching movies. **erinlagrif**, 26,  **#128758**

BROWN BUTCH SEEKS
Hello, my name is Chris. I'm 30 years old. I would like to find some cool people with whom I can break bread, exchange music and ideas, thoughts, vibes....saliva eventually. **chrisg2369**, 30,  **#128732**


ADORABLE, DREADLOCKED, SEXINESS
i'm all about meeting new people and having fun.i like to dance, jog, bike rides, watch movies, travel, go to concerts, and check out new restaurants.let's hang out! **E137071**, 27,  **#128500**


SMARTASSCHICK
Laid-back, 33 year-old professional,soft-butch (whatever the hell that means??!!). I would like to meet an attractive, chill woman who has a brain and can have a stimulat-ing convo, good kisser. **cooshrock-ets**, 33,  **#128395**

men


SEEKING


men


LAID BACK
I'm just an average guy here who gets into many things from cooking and reading to kyacking and wine and beer tasting. **aherman3880**, 28,  **#129387**


UNCONVENTIONAL, NON-SCENE, MASCULINE
Non-scene unconventional bearded guy n2 coffeeshouses & outdoors lkng 4 similar types. **Talby**, 41,  **#129374**

SHY CARING ROMANTIC
Im a very laid back easy going type guy I like the outdoors reading going out etc I love meeting new people & traveling Like guys that are in shape. **mgt2005**, 45,  **#101030**


MR.SQUIRREL AND I
I'm in Austin till the 19th. I go to college in NY. I'm like one of those enigmatic fortune cookie messages. I'm not entirely sure how to describe myself. **nelson**, 19,  **#128894**

LAID BACK GUY
Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. **AustinRomance**, 31,  **#128768**

NOT HIBERNATING YET
People accuse me of having a huge heart, 50s bearish male seeks young-er bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff, kissing and making out. **ronintex**, 58,  **#115402**

AUSTIN BORN
I'm emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I'm looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. **jmnzptrck**, 41,  **#127798**

HOPE DIES LAST
haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! **Blue**, 23,  **#101322**

GUY IN BUDA
seeking nice and outgoing men for fun in and out of the bedroom. men who stay active or just quiet time at home, lets get busy or just relax. **rudyinbuda**, 42,  **#126941**

SpiritOfLosAltos

▼

PICK ME PICK ME!

I would love to meet someone to travel with. I'm abso-lutely fascinated with people who have gone out and seen the world. I've only had a few places checked off my list but hopefully more soon- Im a music junkie and love to go see shows around the city.


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
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YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN
I'm a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? **inuyasha86**, 22, ♀, 📷, 📱, #125037

JUST friends

SILLY, METAL, CHICK
Hey just looking for some kick ass friends. I love Lonestar, metal, and anything fun out side. Hit me up and maybe we can do all this together! **Miatortilla**, 26, ♀, 📷, 📱, #129401
ALWAYS SMILING
Love meeting new people, eating out, enjoying the city and live music! Did anyone else have as much fun as I did at Carnaval? Let's grab coffee and reminisce! **PhoenixsPistole**, 20, 📷, #129221

VINTAGE VIVANT TAPDANCER
The Ladies' Society for the Reinstatement of Proper Undergarments is a society club that meets monthly for tea. We discuss undergarments, cucumber sandwiches, and stain our stockings with jam. Ladiesonly. **doublespeak**, 26, 📷, #129385

BOLD N TRUE
I'm a free spirit, send me an email. **talent37**, 23, 📷, #129216

HELLO
I'm a good listener and enjoy conversations that go beyond superficial small talk. I enjoy talking about politics, scientific and spiritual philosophy, and film. **IzuLove**, 24, 📷, #129163

GO DEAR HUNTER
Im max Im straight forward, truthful, and typically quiet I solve problems, I think too much, possibly read too much on top of that. **shapie08**, 25, 📷, #128961

LOVE TO LIVE
Ive been in Austin for two yrs&half. working&studying.couldnt have chance to meet people find friends. now Im taking break from studying. trying to find someone who can take me out show me austin. **nana**, 31, 📷, #128817

CRAVING MORE TATTOOS!!
tattoos,odd,spooky, strange ,taboo,dark,things fascinate me.Openminded & down to earth but don't like when things taken to the extreme-for instance,excessive body piercings. a workaholic,not very emotional,introverted,not shy but quiet, positively realistic, witty,playfully feisty,candid,&much more. **olivia825**, 27, 📷, #128795

THE APPLE EATER
just see me in action at work and you will see my true nature. i am a giver and a nurturer. i am realistic, proud, joyous, adventurous, outgoing.. **brookerhymeswith**, 24, 📷, #128765

READY 2 CHILL!!!
My name is Liz and I'm looking for a person to hang out with and chill and nobody that is NOT looking for love just PURE FUN. No BS! **lizabe85**, 23, 📷, #128731

messages

HOLD MY HEART and my head is spinning when planets align so rare. Didn't know what I was looking for 'til I heard the voices in my ear and turned to feel your eyes shoot a laser beam right through with a bolt of blue...

PRIBABY, A THOUSAND kisses deep. forever love, Miss

I WISHING YOU the best on your brightest day. I am your witness, friend and love for all times. You are my laughing catalyst with rose-colored glasses and my lccoe on a hot summer day! Happy 47th!! Birthday Bettina

BLUE MONDAY
Sitting in that white El Camino. Cloudy, cold, Monday. You drove by in your blue truck and it wasn't so bad. Were you looking at me through those sunglasses? **When: Monday, February 16. Where: 45th/Burnet. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903867**

PARAPROF TRAINING
blonde cutie with colored eyes, can't get your gorgeous smile out of my head. me: brown-eyed girl w/ red cardigan that purposely passed you a 2nd time. conversation and drinks? **When: Friday, February 13. Where: Kealing. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903866**

TWIN LION TIGER
You: dressed in black with friend. Pierced nose. heels. Incredibly gorgeous. Me: white long sleeve shirt with coworkers. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Wanna try something else for lunch? **When: Monday, February 16. Where: twin lion. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903865**

SQUIRREL MELTS
Tiny, dark-haired waitress at Mangia. I waited by the bar wearing a t-shirt like yours. I could just sleep in those eyes. I bet you could beat me at Scrabble. **When: Saturday, February 14. Where: Mangia Lake Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903863**

LOST AT HEB
You: Evangeline Lilly look-alike wearing white shirt/blue jeans, long wavy brown hair. Me: "Wishing to be Sawyer" in black shirt, glasses and Red Sox cap. Need help off that island? **When: Sunday, February 15. Where: HEB (I-35 & Parmer @ 5:30pm). You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #903861**

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MOHAWK: BEARD NIGHT
I talked to you in upstairs greenroom about proper handshakes. Your name Alora or Elora? You wearing grey skirt (I think) with dark hair and worked for state legislature. **When: Friday, February 20. Where: Mohawk Nightclub. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903895**

PARTYBEAR AT SHANGRILA
You: looking superhot at Shangri-La with a bear shirt and some killer tights. We locked eyes a bunch but you were hanging out with other doods. Let's bite lips sometime. **When: Thursday, February 12. Where: ShangriLa. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903894**

RUTA MAYA
Me: Short, blond girl in a dress dancing ridiculously. You: Sam, wearing a plaid shirt and khaki pants. You danced with me, but had to go. I'd like another dance. **When: Saturday, February 21. Where: Ruta Maya. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903893**

AT EPOCH 5
I guess I'll just wait and see Maybe one day you'll talk to me Then I know I'll be crazy in love My wits flow high like a dove **When: Sunday, February 22. Where: Epoch. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903892**

ZILKER LOCKED CAR
I asked about the hangers you had but wanted to ask more: like if you're single or if you wanted to talk sometime, somewhere. Loved the tats btw. **When: Sunday, February 22. Where: Zilker Park. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903886**

ON MY PATIO...
Red haired one, glasses, lives in the apartment above me (#117)... white her car, red is hair - smiles and smiles, never says hello. Wine sometime? We both want to know. **When: Sunday, February 22. Where: Near home, coming and going. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903885**

ADDY HEYBALE 2/20
Thank you for the Thank you. Another dance? **When: Friday, February 20. Where: Broken Spoke. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903878**

RIVERSIDE HISTORY CLASS
you were in my history class at riverside last sem. i think your name was alex. u had a mohawk for a while and a tribal tat. im blonde. **When: Saturday, November 22, 2008. Where: riverside campus. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903884**

MOMO'S 2/20
10 pm. You: White button-down shirt, dark hair, after five shadow. Me: Long cream sweater, brunette shoulder-length hair. Love to meet you for a glass of wine. **When: Friday, February 20. Where: Momo's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903883**

MORGAN@KAHUNA:S-FRI
Spoke with you about Barton Springs, Shady Grove on Saturdays, and school! Summit BTW, would like to have lunch? Shady? Chuy?? Barton Springs **When: Friday, February 20. Where: KAHUNA'S FRIDAYS NIGHT. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903881**

MYSTERIOUS AT WHEATSVILLE
Lovely Rita, you were tall and captivating. You gave me a fortune and a hug. I was wearing a hat and beard (Marshall). Would love to talk more about tea? **When: Thursday, February 19. Where: Wheatsville Co-Op. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903880**

RED-FLANNEL, S.I.N. SUNDAY
exchanged glances you: brunette, nice-smile, red-flannel me: blue sweater, missed bball shots place was too awkward tosayhello, friend said you were headed to ny next morning? drink at normal bar? **When: Sunday, February 15. Where: N Lamar, bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903877**

DANCING AT OCH
I was dancing when I looked down saw you and we briefly exchanged smiles. Im kinda small, wear glasses and wished I had just said "Hi." **When: Saturday, February 7. Where: OCH. You: Man. Me: Man. #903864**

DIDN'T EXCHANGE NUMBERS
I had lotsa fun that night too. We didn't exchange numbers though. **When: Saturday, February 7. Where: a coupla clubs. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903868**

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for Feb. 27-March 5

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I've been asked by the leaders of the Piscean Support Group to pat you on the back – and add a tender, friendly kick in the butt while I'm at – in celebration of your recent promise to leave your safety zone. They're a bit worried that you'll be so enamored with the new reserve of courage you've discovered lurking in your depths that you won't muster the incentive to actually use that courage to its hilt. Please prove them wrong. Show us all what it's like for a sensitive soul with a lyrical heart to seek raw adventure in virgin territory.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Beware of people who act like polite jerks or tone-deaf music critics or emotionally numb lovers. While they may be able to teach you a lot about what you don't need, they're not worthy candidates for enduring relationships. Now let's turn our attention to the question of who exactly does belong on your future team. What encouraging voices should you draw into your inner sphere? What smart adventurers should be solicited as staunch allies? Which respectful helpers should be rewarded for the good influences they've had on you? It's an excellent time to make those determinations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When Ireland's top bookmaker first opened the betting on the existence of God last September, the odds were 20-1 against and quickly rose to 33-1. But more recently, they've been down to 4-1. Is this evidence that the Supreme Being is close to a big disclosure? Is some concrete proof about to appear? If I were evaluating the state of your imminent destiny, I'd say yes – maybe not in a way that would satisfy a raging atheist and maybe not with the blatant splash of an obvious divine intervention. But don't even dismiss those possibilities, Taurus. It is the season of miracles and epiphanies for you. You should expect sublime help and inspiration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): My friend Riley was the first member of her family to attend college. None of her hardscrabble Irish forebears had ever pursued higher education. In her senior year, Riley began having nightmares of her relatives trying to stop her from finishing school. In one recurring dream, her great-grandfather burned all her textbooks. In another, a mob of aunts and uncles tackled her and held her down as she tried to get to class. Despite these psychic obstacles, Riley persevered in her studies and eventually got her diploma. The week after graduating, she had another dream: A host of her ancestors came to her in the form of a great choir singing songs in praise of her success. Riley's psychotherapist speculated that the dream meant she had not only overcome the inertia of her heritage but had also healed an ancient wound of her family. I believe this is akin to an accomplishment you will be capable of in the coming months.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I'm in quest of new role models. There have been some good ones in my life, and I'm grateful for how they've awakened me, but right now I need fresh heroes worth emulating. Know any? I'm not dogmatic about what I'm looking for and am willing to be surprised, but here are a few qualities I admire: compassion combined with unpredictability, high integrity mixed with an intense commitment to creativity, and self-discipline blended with playfulness. I like smart talkers who are also savvy listeners and people who have a balance of open-minded objectivity and emotional intelligence. By the way, what's true for me is true for many of you, my fellow Cancerians: You could use a new role model, too, and it's an excellent time to go in search of one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An American residing in Berlin had leukemia as well as AIDS. Doctors did a bone marrow transplant to cure the leukemia, obtaining stem cells from a healthy donor. The operation was a success – the leukemia disappeared. As an added and surprising bonus, the HIV also left the patient's body. He has been free of both diseases for two years. I predict a psychological version of this double cure for you in the coming weeks, Leo. The healing you receive for one type of suffering will unexpectedly heal another kind, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There's a rung missing on your ladder of success. I suppose you could see that as a problem. It means you won't be able to climb higher by taking two manageable steps but will be compelled to attempt a giant upward stride. I see this as potentially a good thing, though. The missing rung is exactly the kind of glitch that could activate your dormant reserves of ingenuity. It might even force you to become so smart and resourceful that you'll ultimately rise to a point you wouldn't have been able to if your ascent had come more easily.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle," said George Orwell. While that's true for many of us most of the time, I'm betting you'll be an exception to the rule in the coming week. You will find it easier than usual to escape from the trance of everyday life. As a result, perfectly obvious secrets that have been invisible to you will tap you gently on the forehead and say, "Look at me!" After the initial shock, there will be a release of tension you didn't even realize you were carrying around, followed by a warm, fuzzy explosion of raw hope.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The world is once again falling deeply in love with you. Let's hope that on this occasion (unlike what happened the last two times) you will accept its adoration in the spirit in which it's given. Let's hope that if the world offers you the moon, the dawn, and the breeze, you won't reject these gifts and say that what you really wanted was a comet, the sunset, and a pie in the sky. There would be nothing sadder than to see the world suffer yet another case of unrequited love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Everything is gestation and then bringing forth," wrote poet Rainer Maria Rilke. "To let each impression and each germ of feeling come to completion wholly in itself, in the dark, in the inexpressible, the unconscious, beyond the reach of one's own intelligence, and await with deep humility and patience the birth-hour of a new clarity: that alone is living the artist's life." I think it's also the approach you should take in the coming weeks, Sagittarius, even if you're not an artist. As smart as you are, there's an even greater intelligence working discreetly within you that is more slyly brilliant and lushly visionary than your conscious mind. You owe it to your future to let it do its work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In his book *The Invention of Air*, Steven Johnson says that as coffee drinking came into vogue in the 18th century, it became a driving force in the Age of Enlightenment. Prior to that time, alcohol had been the drink of choice – more so even than water. As the stimulant replaced the intoxicant, the level of discourse rose dramatically. Creative ideas flourished, and new discoveries and inventions proliferated. I bring this up, Capricorn, because I suspect that you're entering your own personal Age of Enlightenment. Imbibing caffeine may not be necessary to fuel it since cosmic energies will be conspiring to inspire your mental processes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you put a corn chip in guacamole, take a bite, then dunk the chip in the bowl again, you're doing what's known as double-dipping. Scientists say it transfers about 2,750 bacteria from your mouth to the guacamole. I advise against that kind of behavior in the coming week, and I suggest that you protect yourself against others who might engage in it. This is one time when you should be a purity freak. Meticulous attention to both physical and mental hygiene will be wise. Please protect yourself from germs of both the literal and psychic variety.

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