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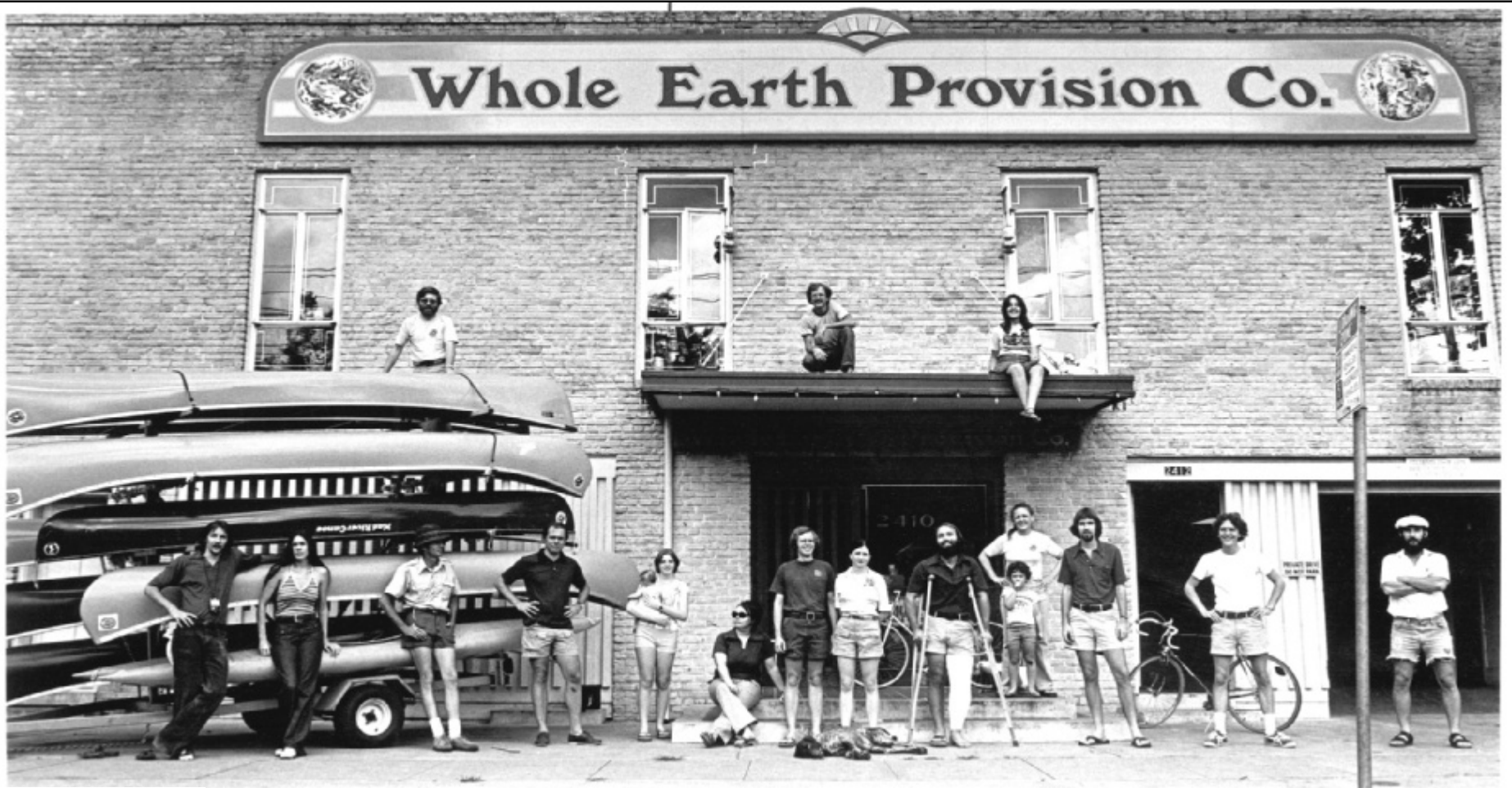


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Friday 12/17

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Cody Canada	8:00-11:00

Saturday 12/18

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Eliza Gilkyson	3:30-6:00
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Sunday 12/19

Ray Wylie Hubbard	12:00-2:30
The Derailers	3:30-6:00
The Band of Heathens	8:00-11:00

Monday 12/20

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Mary Hattersley's Blazing Bows	2:30-3:00
Sara Hickman's Family Time Rocks	3:30-6:00
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Tuesday 12/21

Patricia Vonne	12:00-2:30
Suzanna Ghoffel	3:30-6:00
Marcia Ball/Ruthie Foster	8:00-11:00

Wednesday 12/22

Deadman	12:00-2:30
Albert & Gage	3:30-6:00
Asleep At the Wheel Quartet	8:00-11:00

Thursday 12/23

Hot Club of Cowtown	12:00-2:30
The Trishas	3:30-6:00
Carolyn Wonderland/Shelley King	8:00-11:00

Friday 12/24

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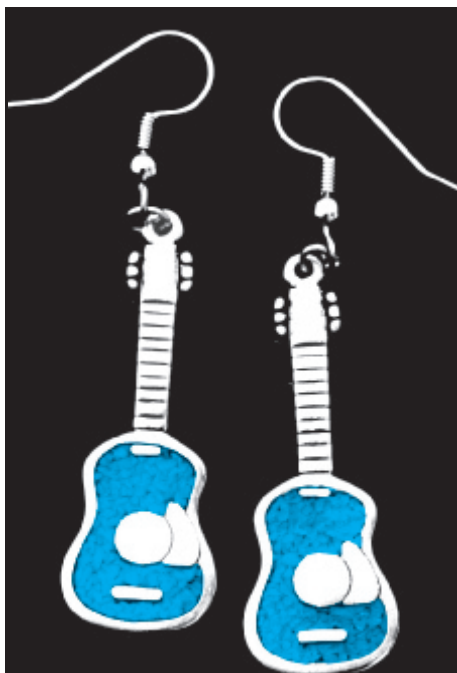
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The Sky Is Always Falling

The hyping of catastrophe, and a notable loss

BY LOUIS BLACK

In general, it is safe to say that this column is often repetitious, the same points made over and over again, sometimes in different words, sometimes not. This is especially true when it comes to politics, I think because of a certain frustration with the of ideological nonsense being bought and sold, from the far left to the far right and most stops in between.

This, according to many, is the worst of times. The current American hysteria is over our failed government, our doomed future, our lost freedoms, and the destruction wrought by the parasites destroying this country from within. The most destructive element of these parasites' political makeup is usually defined by the ideology of those who are sounding warnings about them.

Obviously, there are major problems facing this country, as well as issues on which the public is divided – sometimes so militantly divided that no reconciliation seems possible. Not to whitewash anything, but the only problem with the multiple “the sky is falling” crowds is that there is nothing new or unique about this situation. It may be more heightened than at other times, but that is not because the problems and issues are so much worse. It's that so many politicians and concerned citizens are indulging in rhetoric specifically designed to increase tensions.

The holier-than-thou crowds are especially troublesome, from those on the left who believe everything this country does is evil and corrupt to the most ardently self-declared patriots on the right. Unfortunately, the latter group is best defined by a lack of true patriotism as well as by politics that, despite lip service to the contrary, at their core repudiate the Constitution.

Let me bring home this column's self-indulgent leanings described in my opening paragraph by quoting from several previous columns.

From Nov. 12, 2010, “Page Two”:

“What is especially upsetting here is the absolute glee with which self-proclaimed, commonsense patriots describe and defame these un-American, anti-American Americans. It sounds as if they couldn't be any happier than they are when hating and denouncing other citizens.”

From Nov. 26, 2010, “Page Two”:

“In sum, overall discussion over taxation, the budget, and the deficit is a shadow-puppet play in which those complaining the loudest deny any culpability for the problem. The out-of-control spending by Republicans during the Bush administration, the still-costly involvement in two wars, the overly generous tax cuts, as well as strong pro-business policies, long crucial planks in the Republican platform – that left the economy devastated – are almost never brought up. Sorry, but the current horrendous deficit and accompanying tax burden is at least partially due to the way more-conservative, often Republican, citizens of the republic voted during the last decade.”

(The last sentence of that column, “Blaming it all on liberals and/or illegal aliens is really just fantasy,” is wrong. The whole premise of that sentiment is rotten. Any group not accepting its share of the blame in this country's current fiscal crises but instead assigning it all to some other group is a malevolent fiction used to attack other Americans.)

From Dec. 3, 2010, “Page Two”:

“We are living in a time when most don't accept the burdens of their own greater responsibilities but do actively lament and angrily denounce other citizens for not accepting their responsibilities. ... [W]hen the overall community is faced with significant problems, rather than coming together ... to solve them, it instead begins the search for what caused them. The idea is that laying blame is an act of mending, of repair.”

The current budgetary crises were not created by the bleeding-heart left. It is also not because the country is undergoing a daft redistribution of wealth at the insistence of a handful of atheist Marxists. It is because all are busy staking their claims to the sanctity of one part of the budget or another. “Cut elsewhere, but not here” is the cry.

Just watch what happens when the federal government tries to cut funding for a weapons program that the Pentagon has declared obsolete. Labor joins with management, the right with the left in the area that will be affected, in the communities that will lose jobs.

page
two

Early Closing

To celebrate the completion of another successful Chanukah and to mark the commencement of our search for perfect conifers to kill and drag into our homes, we will close at 3pm on Friday, Dec. 10. We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, Dec. 13.

From Dec. 3, 2010, “Page Two”:

“In the ... litany of the failures of the government, the most commonly accepted assertion is that these problems result ... from the fact that the politicians in power are deliberately doing harm to the country [I]t is a large congregation of evildoers – whether ideological puppets, servants of master overseers, or just thieves and criminals.

“The critics of this failed government ... make it clear that the issue is not a series of complex problems that are incredibly difficult to solve. It seems that most members of the anti-government community have no doubt that they themselves are good, moral, honest, genuine patriots operating from only the noblest ambitions. They know that what our government needs in order for it to work is for exactly such people as themselves to get elected.”

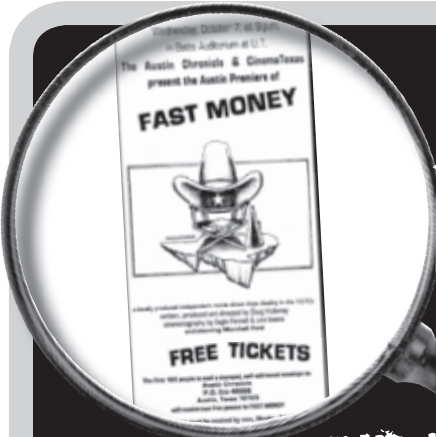
Given the incredible number of American citizens either elected to office, appointed, hired as civil servants, or hired in some other capacity, the notion that far too many of them are purposefully evil and corrupt seems beyond naive. Saying that it isn't all of them, but a goodly portion, doesn't make it sound more rational. Arguing that the solution for improving government is getting these people out of office and putting good people in seems genuinely lunatic.

If one does believe the federal government is so hopelessly broken, wouldn't some kind of advocacy for dramatically changing the system have to be part of a reform package?

I don't actually believe that most people involved in government, or even a significant number of them, are corrupt or evil. The problems seem to be those inherent in a democratic constitutional republic, where theoretically every citizen is fully enfranchised.

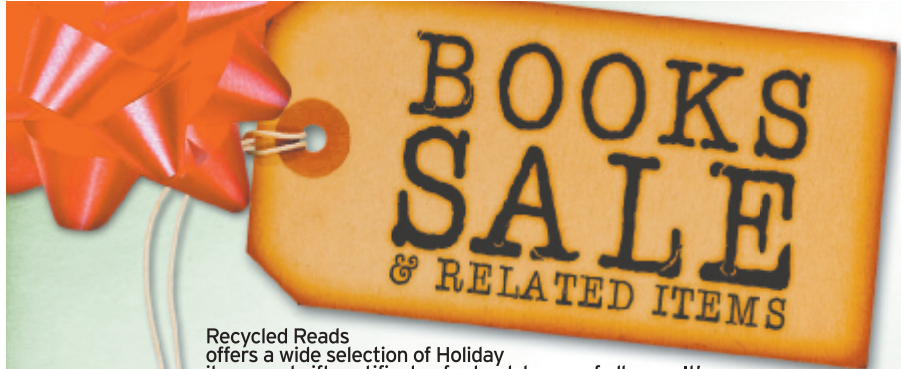
Over the years, tough-talking candidates, running on their loyalty to ideological extremes, have been elected. The best of them come to realize that they are elected to serve all their constituents and not just their core base of ideological fellow travelers. They are often denounced as traitors to the cause. The worst never come to this realization, resist compromise, and treat all political opponents as knowingly evil. These folks are often celebrated by true believers, but they are the most virulent cancers our body politic faces.

CONTINUED ON P.10



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Regardless, once elected, they all find out that what they can do is limited; solutions that to an armchair legislator seem obvious and easy (passing new laws, getting rid of old ones) almost never are. Most laws were not passed capriciously or to benefit aliens from another dimension. The reasons for the laws are almost never as simplistic as charged, and changing them is almost always of far greater consequence than assumed.

The reality is the critics' views of the problems are that most politicians are evil; there is too much compromise and not enough hardcore allegiance to the extreme views of the different "isms." If one buys into this point of view, then the first and most fundamental change this country needs is to get rid of the Constitution.

There are those who insist that not only is there one objective truth, but that they know it. Our favorite conspiracy-hobbyist cheerleader, Alex Jones, assures us that he speaks the "truth" rather than just offering an opinion. One of our regular forum posters has decided that his opinion is the "objective truth." These truth-owners are purer and better than the rest of us. Not following them makes us stupid, compliant, decadent, destructive, and scared.

If one wants to argue that there is one absolute, knowable truth that is abstract and not that easy to decipher, there are strong arguments to support that view.

Possessing truly provincial, parochial views, the "I-Speak-the-True-Truth" charmers are quick to condemn the thoughts and beliefs of others. This comes not from certainty but from fear, not from dispassionate analysis but from the refusal to think, not from patriotism but from narcissism. Arguing with them is like arguing with a narcissist or a stubborn, spoiled child.

Oddly, the Founding Fathers did not argue that their words were concrete truth, and most religious, scientific, social, and political leaders acknowledge not just the existence of ambiguity but the constant possibility of error.

(Insisting that their words and opinions are not just based in reasoning but are the absolute truth kicks them into the category of the deity, doesn't it?)

I say here the same thing I've been saying for years: It is not representative government that has failed; it's citizens who are not interested in their responsibilities but champion their rights while trying to deprive others of their rights.

Unless something unexpected happens, this will be the last "Page Two" on politics this year.

On a personal note: Tuesday afternoon, Abraham Black, my father, died quietly in his sleep. He was 90. There are not words.

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THE HIGHS, THE LOWS, THE LISTS

We're in our 30th year of publication (our 30th anniversary will be Sept. 4, 2011), and we've decided to celebrate all year long. Here's what we have going so far:

- We're republishing the first year's issues online every two weeks (that's how often we published for the first seven years).

- We're running vintage ads from some of our original advertisers in the paper and challenging readers to spot the old ad (weekly winners are entered in a drawing for a pile of prizes to be awarded at the publishing year's end).

And, in the spirit of the arbitrary passions and obsessions on which we've staked our reputation ...

- We're compiling lists of 30 notable (or laughable or lamentable) takes on the Chronicle's coverage, culture, and commentary for the past three decades and publishing them online.

This week, for instance, you might want to check out the most artful list yet, "30 Pages of Back Page Art" – really not a list at all, but a journey through the work of local artists that appeared at the top of our back page (above the ads) for many years. There's some great stuff from such mighty talents as Penny Van Horn, Michael Sieben, and Nathan Jensen, as well as contributions from our current art director and longtime local artist and designer Jason Stout and several other staff members past and present.

You can find it all on our website: austinchronicle.com/year30.

Postmarks

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

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PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765

AUSTIN: A COLLECTION OF SILOS

Dear Editor,

Re: "In-Comprehensible? ANC Balks at Comp Plan." [News, Dec. 3]: The next time you count the minutes, hours, and days of your life slipping away while sitting in your idling car, consider that it is the result of living in a community that is not so much a community as a collection of silos.

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Whether it is the Austin Neighborhoods Council or the unions representing various city services, it seems that many Austin residents are more interested in protecting their turf than in engaging in building a real community that will be sustainable over the long term.

It is absurd that one of the nation's fastest-growing cities, a city that claims to be "green" and progressive, operates under a comprehensive plan more than three decades old.

The failure to acknowledge our community and regional interdependencies will have consequences for every one of us, no matter how high we build our fences.

David Ochsner

REVIEW 'ACCURATE AND DELIGHTFUL'

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my appreciation for your excellent film reviews. I have been reading your film reviews from your very first issue to the present, rarely missing an issue. My greatest concern, as a person who loves movies, is that I might somehow miss a great movie. Your film reviews, of course, have helped me avoid that sort of tragedy. Beyond that primary mission,

however, I want to say thank you for reviews that frequently offer insights into the films that I keenly feel but could not express half as well. After watching a movie, it is helpful to go back to the *Chronicle* and read the review for that particular movie. A good example is Kimberley Jones' review of *Love & Other Drugs* in the Dec. 3 issue [Film Listings]. About all I could muster after watching the movie was, "What a mess." Ms. Jones' review is much more articulate. Yes, I agree that "Jake Gyllenhaal has always done better with edgy material ... that subverts his sunny, smiling look." And yes, "there are no hard angles to be found in this soft-hearted drama that straddles comedy, medical crisis, and the three-ring circus of Big Pharma in the Nineties." My favorite line in this review, however, is the description of Anne Hathaway's nude scenes as "beaming and Botticelli-curved." Your description is accurate and delightful. Thank you, Ms. Jones, for your well-written review.

Thomas J. Lowry

MJ CLARIFICATIONS

Dear Editor,

Four and 27.

Those are the two numbers Mr. Fawcett mistook in his review of Michael Jackson's *Vision* DVD ["DVDs," Music, Dec. 3].

Jackson's remarkable video history spans four decades, significantly more than the "two decades" that Fawcett writes in his review. Starting with "Blame It on the Boogie" (1978) and ending with "One More Chance" (2003). And

CONTINUED ON P.16

Oops!

In the Dec. 3 "Letters at 3AM" column, "Of Mayhem and Delight," Michael Ventura states that 37 Charles Chaplin films were made for Keystone Films in 1914 when, in fact, there were 36.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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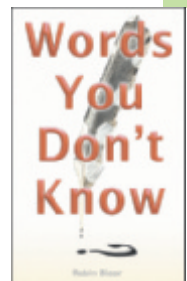
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the "Thriller" video debuted December 1983 – that is 27 years to the date – not the 17 years that he stated. Other than these typos, Fawcett had a pretty good review. One more thing: Here is that last half-star that was apparently misplaced.

Will Johnson

CAP METRO'S SPENDING PROBLEMS

Dear Editor,

The Gray Panther organization fully agrees with Louis Black's statement that, "In sum, overall discussion over taxation, the budget, and the deficit is a shadow-puppet play in which those complaining the loudest deny any culpability for the problem" ["Page Two," Nov. 26]. In fact, the same might be considered a brilliant insight and application with regard to the *Chronicle's* own incisive local reporting on the adverse impact of Capital Metro's service cuts while raising fares. A specific reference might be made, for example, to the *Chronicle* several months ago raising questions on a Cap Metro board decision to use federal stimulus funds to cover cost overruns on the "Leander trolley" fiasco instead of job-creation for which funds were intended. Now, despite no service improvement/job creation, we've got Cap Metro imposing fare increases and service cuts – with seniors/disabled, most needy hit hardest! Bottom line, public interest requires not a(nother) FBI/IRS investigation into the probable misuse of federal funds, but this perfectly underscores Gray Panthers' contention that "Elimination of corruption is key to 'deficit reduction,'" www.graypanthers.org. (Might also be spelled Tom DeLay!)

Best regards,
Clint Smith

National Gray Panthers executive board



IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED

Dear Editor,

The two letter-writers last week ["Postmarks," Dec. 3; "Postmarks" online, Dec. 1] make transit-oriented development ["Not So Hot TODs," News, Nov. 26] much more complicated than it needs to be.

The simple truth is that you don't get TOD around a bad transit line – and a transit line that requires potential riders to transfer to a shuttle bus (or even a stuck-in-traffic streetcar) on the work end of their trip is a transit line that will never, ever, ever be good.

South Florida has spent 20 years trying to gin up TOD on a line just like ours, except with all-day service. Guess how much they've got on the ground?

Regards,

Mike Dahmus

Urban Transportation Commission, 2000-2005

LOOK TO DALLAS FOR TOD SUCCESS

Dear Editor,

Austin's meager success with transit-oriented development can largely be explained by contrasting Austin with Dallas, where transit-oriented development has been successful ["Not So Hot TODs," News, Nov. 26]. The difference is that Dallas has invested heavily in a light rail system which crisscrosses the city and runs day and night. In contrast, Austin's one line has limited hours. In addition to reflecting how much has been invested in light rail, the different experiences with transit-oriented development reflects the Dallas system's having been in operation for decades.

The numerous residential high rises Downtown refute Randal O'Toole's contention that transition-oriented development is doomed due to its fail-

ure to offer "single-family homes with large yards." While many people enjoy lawns, there is obviously a market for attractive multifamily buildings.

Finally, transit-oriented development has to be considered in light of fuel prices and transport infrastructure. As long as fuel prices remain low and funding, including the recently passed Proposition 1, overwhelming favors cars, there is less incentive for transit-oriented development.

Philip Russell

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news

Headlines

- ▶ The city hosted two public forums Tuesday with the four finalists to be the next police monitor when **Cliff Brown** steps down at the end of the year to become a district judge. For a breakdown of the candidates, see "Point Austin," right, and Jordan Smith's "Choose Your Monitor: The Four Finalists," at the Newsdesk blog, austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.
- ▶ **City Council** meets Thursday, Dec. 9, for its second-to-last meeting of the year. Fireworks should flare during council's 3pm incarnation as the **Austin Housing Finance Corporation**, during which members will decide on some \$10 million in affordable housing proposals, including the controversial **Marshall Apartments** plan. See "City Hall Hustle," p.20.
- ▶ Time's up: Friday, Dec. 10, is the last day to fill out the **Austin Comprehensive Plan** public survey – available in English and Spanish at www.imagineaustin.net – concluding the third phase of public input. Never fear, though – after planners take a stab at a first draft of the plan, they'll be asking for opinions once again.
- ▶ The public can meet **Abigail Smith**, the last of five **animal services officer** candidates to be vetted, at a forum on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6-7pm, at the Palmer Events Center. Due to a death in her family, Smith – director of the Tompkins County SPCA in Ithaca, N.Y. – was unable to attend the November forum with the other four finalists.



JANA BIRCHUM

UT students staged a die-in in the West Mall on Friday, Dec. 3, to mark the 26th anniversary of the Union Carbide chemical leak in Bhopal, India, that killed thousands of people. Warren Anderson, then CEO of Union Carbide (now a Dow Chemical subsidiary), has been declared a fugitive from justice by Bhopal's chief judicial magistrate, but the U.S has resisted India's extradition efforts.

- ▶ Colorado County and Fayette County **pecan growers** say sulfur dioxide from the coal-powered **Fayette Power Project** is killing their pecan trees. They have enlisted the Sierra Club's help in entreatting both the **Lower Colorado River Authority** and **Austin Energy** – the plant's co-owners – to do something about it, but officials are denying culpability.
- ▶ Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and Speaker Joe Straus have sent a letter asking state agencies to cut an extra 2.5% from their **general revenue spending** in 2011. This comes on top of the 5% cut they demanded in January.
- ▶ With ranking Republican legislators discussing a wholesale overhaul of **school funding** in the upcoming session, Comptroller Susan Combs has released a report showing that per-student expenditure has risen by 63% over the last decade, nearly double the rate of inflation.
- ▶ **Elizabeth Edwards**, spouse of disgraced former presidential candidate **John Edwards**, died Tuesday. She retained her grace throughout her lengthy and public battle with cancer; as she said when she was diagnosed, "When bad things happen, you don't let them take you down."
- ▶ President **Barack Obama** announced a compromise with congressional Republicans on extended **tax cuts** – in exchange for an extension of unemployment benefits – and (like most such deals) it appears to have made nobody happy. The agreement will still have to work its way through a polarized Senate and House.



Watching the Watchers

City nears a crucial choice for the next police monitor

BY MICHAEL KING

Anybody want to monitor the police? You might think such a thankless task – no matter what you do, you'll be wrong – would go begging, but 66 hopefuls applied to replace current Police Monitor Cliff Brown, who is about to ascend to a district judgeship. The list has been winnowed to four, and their joint public unveiling was held in two sessions at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex Tuesday afternoon and evening. Jordan Smith examines the candidates' particular bona fides in more detail this week on the Newsdesk blog, allowing me to assume the view from 30,000 feet and discuss the issues that have traditionally dogged the Office of the Police Monitor, or that arose in Tuesday's discussions.

1) While the crowd wasn't enormous – perhaps 50 people attended the early afternoon session – it was an engaged group genuinely interested in the position and the office.

2) Questions generally encouraged the candidates to try to strengthen the OPM, perhaps in the direction of subpoena power – the ability to mandate officer testimony and Internal Affairs evidence. (Ann del Llano said she would push to get subpoena power;

current Assistant Monitor Renita Sanders said that thus far the relationship with the police department has been cooperative, and a push for subpoena power might well create a more adversarial situation.)

3) There was some public sentiment that the OPM has been little more than a "toothless tiger" or public relations office – mainly from people who believe that the city doesn't come down hard enough on misbehaving cops. (A different audience, or even a different venue, might well have produced quite the opposite sentiment. The public is audibly polarized on police issues.)

4) There was a curious thread in the discussion holding that previous law enforcement experience would somehow create the perception of a monitor unfairly biased toward police (candidates Margo Frasier and Cristina Beamud have spent some time as officers). If the candidates' experiences were limited solely to time spent on the force, I might agree, but as that's not the case, I didn't follow this objection. Any candidate might be biased, and it's arguable that a monitor with police experience might well do better at establishing public credibility as well as necessary

CONTINUED ON P.21

QUOTE of the WEEK



"Turn out the lights, the party's over."

– Willie Nelson lyric, often sung by former *Monday Night Football* announcer and Dallas Cowboys quarterback Don Meredith, who passed away Monday at age 72

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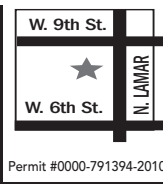
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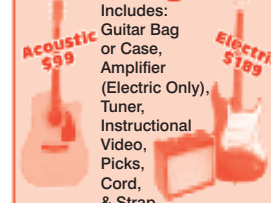
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► **ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SWAT OFFICER?** Austin Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the Dec. 3 traffic accident and subsequent drunken driving arrest of **Austin Police Department** SWAT team member Officer **Michael Hamilton**. Hamilton, who was on call, was driving a department-issued Crown Victoria at the time of the accident. He was found standing near the car, which had rolled over – presumably with his SWAT gear inside – on Convict Hill Road, south of William Cannon Drive. “The Department’s zero tolerance stance on DWI is well known throughout the APD and the community we serve,” Chief **Art Acevedo** said in a statement. “Consistent with our stance, we are investigating Officer Hamilton’s actions leading up to and following the crash.” Reportedly, Hamilton had been out drinking with a group of fellow officers; in part, the investigation would determine the circumstances of that celebration and whether anyone knew how much Hamilton had to drink or whether he was intoxicated. Former Officer **Leonardo Quintana**, who was responsible for the shooting death of Nathaniel Sanders II in May 2009, was fired by Acevedo this spring for a single-car DWI crash in January – but got his job back after an arbitrator ruled that his termination was out of line with DWI-related discipline Acevedo had previously meted out for other officers. (Quintana was subsequently terminated for an unrelated incident and is again seeking reinstatement.) At the conclusion of the Hamilton investigation, Acevedo said, the department will “take appropriate administrative and criminal action.” – *Jordan Smith*

► **WAS TODDLER’S DEATH AN ACCIDENT?** Travis County District Judge **Charlie Baird** will hear evidence Thursday, Dec. 9, from an expert witness who says the 2003 death of toddler **Bryan Gutierrez** was nothing more than a tragic accident. It will be the first testimony in a hearing on an appeal by **Rosa Estela Olvera Jimenez**, who was convicted and sentenced to 99 years for allegedly stuffing a wad of paper towels into Gutierrez’s throat, which the state says ultimately led to the toddler’s death. Jimenez argues that new evidence – the opinions of three leading pediatric specialists – now refutes the state’s theory of the crime. Instead, the experts have opined in affidavits filed with the court that Gutierrez’s injuries were most likely accidental, caused by the child placing towels in his own mouth. In response to Jimenez’s appeal, filed in October by her attorney, Bryce Benjet, Travis County prosecutor Elizabeth Phillips argues that the opinions of the retained defense experts do not constitute new evidence. Rather, she wrote, the experts offer only “alternative theories from those presented by the State at trial concerning whether the choking was accidental.” Even if the expert evidence were to be considered new, the state argues, it still wouldn’t be enough to “unquestionably establish” Jimenez’s innocence. After Thursday’s hearing, Baird will hear the remaining testimony later this month. – *J.S.*

► **YOGURT SHOP MURDERS NOT FORGOTTEN** Nineteen years after the grisly quadruple murder in a North Austin yogurt shop, prosecutors are still testing DNA evidence to try to link a suspect to the murders of **Eliza Thomas**, 17; sisters **Jennifer and Sarah Harbison**, 17 and 15; and **Amy Ayers**, 13. The four teens were found on Dec. 6, 1991, at the yogurt shop where the two older girls worked. They had been bound, gagged, shot, and burned in a fire that investigators said was set to cover the crime. It wasn’t until eight years later that investigators said they’d found those responsible: four men who were also teens at the time of the murders. **Robert Springsteen** and **Michael Scott** were tried and convicted of the crime, but their convictions were later tossed out by the courts. (For lack of evidence, prosecutors dropped the charges against a third suspect, **Maurice Pierce**, whom they had dubbed the crime’s “mastermind.” The case against the fourth, **Forrest Welborn**, was abandoned after two grand juries failed to indict him.) Last year, the charges against Springsteen and Scott were dismissed after previously undiscovered DNA found inside one of the victims came back with an unknown male profile. Investigators are still looking for the owner of that DNA, a District Attorney’s Office spokesman told the *Chronicle*, with DNA samples still being collected and tested. – *J.S.*

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

City politics and the people way over there

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Judging by the chatter on the **Austin Neighborhoods Council** listserv and an angry AustinPost blog from activist **Debbie Russell**, it seems the Hustle rattled a few cages last week in referencing our fair city’s “homeowner/neighborhood association-dominated body politic.” But one need only look at the City Council agenda for this Thursday, Dec. 9, to see the impact of neighborhood voices in determining what draws the most attention.

For once, the main event may not even arise on the actual agenda but during council’s 3pm break, when the members reconvene to give the Austin Housing Finance Corporation uncharacteristic scrutiny, as they’re set to approve \$2.5 million in funding for the **Marshall Apartments** permanent supportive housing proposal. As we’ve written previously, PSH is part of the city’s solution to homelessness and housing instability, offering not only housing but supportive services on-site (in the case of the Marshall proposal, not just to the 20 units currently slated for PSH inhabitants but to the entire 100-unit complex as a whole, located at 1401 E. 12th and 1157 Salina).

While the Kealing Neighborhood Association has lent its support, the Robertson Hill and Swede Hill neighborhood associations have come out against the proposal, citing their fears about introducing an undesirable use into the area. But the proposal has also ripped the scab off festering resentment at East 12th Street’s delayed development while its neighbor in the **urban renewal zone**, 11th Street, is a comparative flurry of revitalization. While the \$2.5 million allocation of 2006 bond dollars is a big step in the process, it’s not the last; the AHFC is also slated to submit a \$6 million private activity bond financing request to the Texas Bond Review Board to further pay for the project, undertaken by **Summit Housing Partners** and **Caritas**, setting a public hearing and final approval vote at council’s Jan. 13 meeting – although with opponents unable to find traction so far, it’s difficult to imagine these actions turning around midstream.

There’s more action on the zoning agenda, with the belated return of the **Park Planned Unit Development** anchoring the items. Originally floated a year or so back, the plot at 801 Barton Springs Rd. – the old Filling Station tract, sandwiched between the Austin Energy building and law offices, and currently home to a few food trailers – raised eyebrows when it was submitted for PUD zoning, which is usually applied to large, omnibus projects, the opposite of the 0.8-acre park parcel. Moreover, the applicants’ original 180-foot height request was laughably

out of scale with surrounding uses, although their current 96-foot request is still well above the 60-foot guideline in the Bouldin Creek neighborhood plan. Despite staff recommendation not to approve, the Bouldin homies are watching closely.

Having a “homeowner/neighborhood association-dominated body politic” doesn’t mean that Jeff Jack wins every argument, that council takes every Planning Commission recommendation as gospel, or that Richard Suttle is reduced to picking up shifts at LegalZoom. It means that issues affecting our landed gentry invariably dominate – even if that means what might be good policy for the whole city is sometimes trumped by the backlash. And looking back, the issues that dominated 2010 – tax breaks for historic homes, comprehensive planning, placement of supportive housing, the tap dance over urban rail, the mobility bonds, even the growth Rorschach test of Water Treatment Plant No. 4 – are all neighborhood ones.

BOOK ‘EM, DANO!

Elsewhere on the agenda: Pay off those library fines for overdue books, because we need the money. Item 30 approves the “Architectural Building Program” for the new **Central Library**, the document that will guide the building’s spaces and amenities. Moreover, it sets the funding amounts for the project, up to \$120 million, a bit more than the \$90 million approved by voters in the 2006 bond election. The overage is expected to be met by redirecting the city’s Block 21 sale proceeds, funds from tech and equipment contracts, and more. Still, construction isn’t set to start until January 2013, so you could just renew ‘em and pay the fine later

Also notable: Item 5, offering \$1.5 million in **Americans With Disabilities Act**-required sidewalk and ramp improvements, and Item 29, \$500,000 to build sidewalks near Metz and Blanton elementary schools – but neither paid for out of the just-approved transportation bond. Three presentations are listed for council’s 10:30am morning briefings: **Austin Energy’s** Resource Plan and Affordability Forecast, a presentation from the **African American Resource Commission**, and an update on the **Small Business Workforce Development** Pilot Program. And rounding out the evening agenda is public testimony and all but certain council action to approve an economic development incentive deal with solar energy firm **SunPower** – not that this meeting’s likely to see too many rays of sunshine. ■

For an expanded agenda rundown, see the Dec. 7 installment of “The Daily Hustle” at austinchronicle.com/hustle.



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

THURSDAY 09

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS Jesse Lasky of UT’s Integrative Biology Department discusses biodiversity and conservation of Southeast Asia’s tropical forests. 7:30pm. *Brackenridge Field Lab, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd.* Free.

SLOW MONEY SALON Learn how to slow down and save the planet. 7pm. *Whip In, 1950 S. I-35, 442-5337.* Free.

FRIDAY 10

9500 LIBERTY ACLU Austin hosts a screening of this documentary; find out what happens when a community takes immigration enforcement into its own hands. 7pm. *Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First.*

IMAGINE AUSTIN DEADLINE Friday is the last day to take the **Austin Comprehensive Plan** survey, available in English and Spanish at www.imagineaustin.net.

MICHAEL POLLAN talks about his *Food Rules: An Eater’s Manual* and discusses the latest in healthy living. 8pm. *Bass Concert Hall, UT campus, 471-1444.* \$26-\$42.



SAVE OUR SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARTY Show SOS some love at this seasonal shindig and silent auction. 6pm-12mid. *Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 477-2320.* \$10 suggested donation.

SATURDAY 11

AUSTIN DOG ALLIANCE OPEN HOUSE Have your presents wrapped in exchange for a donation supporting ADA’s classes and adoption program. 1-5pm (2pm, kids’ story time). *Austin Dog Alliance Training Center, 12129 RR 620 #401.* Free.

CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS Six luminaries discuss their experiences in the arts, media, public service, and more (in conjunction with the Mexican-American Firsts exhibit). 1pm. *Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7498.* Free.

PLANT RESTORATION AT WTP4 SITE Help return native plants to the **Water Treatment Plant No. 4** construction site. 9am-3pm. *RM 2222 & RM 620.*

’TIS THE SEASON LADY BIRD LAKE CLEANUP

Sign up at www.keepeaustinbeautiful.org to help ensure the health of one of Austin’s most beloved waterways. 9am. *Lady Bird Lake, 391-0622.*

TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY MEETING Discuss roadway expansions, bikeways, sidewalks, and other transit projects affected by proposed changes to various regional transportation plans. 5:30-7pm. *Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 974-9715.* (You can also submit comments online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/plantipoct2010.)

SUNDAY 12

GREEN PARTY MEET-UP A get-together to get a grip on the upcoming legislative session. 6pm. *Dominican Joe, 515 S. Congress.*

buy-in from officers. The wider the candidate's previous experience, the better.

5) A few people suggested that the OPM or the Citizen Review Panel might somehow be invested with direct disciplinary powers, presumably to remove the process from the APD itself, although the closest model anybody could think of was the Los Angeles Police Commission, a rather different beast that oversees the entire LAPD on policy matters (much like the Austin City Council's relation to the city manager). Whatever the advisability of a move in that direction, it would likely collide directly with Texas civil service law.

A Range of Experience

Those were some of the issues that came up repeatedly in the discussions, admittedly in fairly accelerated meet-and-greets that could then be supplemented by breakout discussions or mingling with the candidates. Some additional quick impressions:

1) All four candidates seem fully qualified and highly personable – a necessity in the job – and all have law degrees, although they bring very different strengths. Frasier and Sanders both have hands-on, related local experience, Frasier as Travis Co. sheriff, and Sanders as the current assistant monitor; del Llano has been working on police-related issues (city and state) from an activist perspective for many years; Beamud, the only out-of-towner, is currently the executive director of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board and previously established a police monitor's office in Eugene, Ore.

2) The list is unusual in that all four finalists are women – duly noted.

3) Unsurprisingly, Frasier and Beamud consider their previous police experience an advantage; del Llano said that while such experience shouldn't "disqualify" a candidate, she believes it creates a "conflict of interest" akin to a lawyer advocating for both sides in a legal dispute. That opinion, however, seems to presume that the monitor is representing the public against the police, which is not the job description.

4) Everybody agreed that "public outreach" is crucial to the effectiveness of the office, although there was disagreement over OPM's success at that task thus far. All four candidates say they are determined to expand the public presence of the OPM by whatever means possible.

What Next?

The perennially vexed question is how much power the monitor and the CRP should have – some police advocates still grumble that they exist at all, while others describe them as "toothless" and insist the process will work only if the OPM becomes an independent body with investigatory or even enforcement powers. Frankly, good cops welcome public oversight, not only because it's right, but because it invariably reinforces officers' community relationships. On the other hand, critics tend to overstate the weakness of the office, both in theory – it has definitely altered the dynamic of institutional police review – and in fact: If it did not exist, the independent, highly critical, and indispensable KeyPoint investigation of the Nathaniel Sanders shooting would never have happened at all.

Others blame the police union for blocking or overturning APD discipline (supposedly making the OPM irrelevant), but those instances have been as much a consequence of departmental bungling (e.g., in the Leonardo Quintana case) or eventual conflicts with state civil service law. Some people who otherwise bristle at "law and order" politics suddenly become hanging juries when it comes to police officers. Cops are workers and public employees with due process rights, too; undermining those rights on flashpoint cases hardly helps the rest of us in the long run.

I would hope that whichever of these four candidates wins the appointment, she will retain (as Cliff Brown did) sufficient local political stroke to be able to sustain the office's credibility as well as to face down attacks over controversial cases. On that standard, Frasier likely ranks first, followed by Beamud, Sanders, and then del Llano (a long shot politically in any case, although it's a credit to City Manager Marc Ott that he included her among the finalists). The OPM has grown up under Brown's tenure; his successor needs to maintain the momentum and build upon it so that a strong public role in police oversight becomes uncontroversial business as usual. ■

For more, see Jordan Smith's "Choose Your Monitor: The Four Finalists" at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.

MONDAY 13

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC HEARING (See Saturday.) 6pm. Joe C. Thompson Center, UT campus, Dean Keeton & Red River.

TUESDAY 14

BARTHOLOMEW DISTRICT PARK MEETING Discuss changes to the pool and grounds. 6pm. University Hills Branch Library, 4721 Loyola.

MEET & GREET: CHIEF ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICER Meet the last of five finalists. 6pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.

CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING on the Housing Authority's annual plan. 11am. HACA Central Office, 1124 S. I-35.

WEDNESDAY 15

21ST CENTURY FORUM The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Austin Energy host a discussion on sustainable business practices. 8-11am. Nuevo León, 1501 E. Sixth, 462-4318. \$5.

THURSDAY 16

GREEN HOLIDAY PARTY Hobnob with local enviro orgs. 5:30-9:30pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2100 Jesse E. Segovia, 480-8318. \$30 (\$20, members).

HEALTH CARE REFORM & YOU Local experts translate governmental jargon into answers pertaining to your coverage and the new law. 6:30-9pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000. Free.

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Medicaid and the Lege: Throw 'Em in the Street?

In the fires of the fall election campaign, no single topic blazed hotter than **health care**, as Republicans stoked voter fury with talk of “death panels” and “Obamacare.” Now, Texas Republicans are backing away from rhetoric about dumping **Medicaid** as a new state report finds that leaving it would cost the state far more to do far less.

In 2009, the Legislature requested that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Insurance issue a report on the benefits and perils of quitting Medicaid. That report, “Impact on Texas If Medicaid Is Eliminated,” was released on Dec. 3. If hardcore conservatives were hoping it would provide ammunition for their campaign against the **Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010** (aka federal health care reform), they quickly found it was shooting blanks. On average per month in 2009, 3.3 million Texans relied on Medicaid for health insurance or long-term care, while another 450,000 used the companion **Children's Health Insurance Program**. Texas already leads the nation in uninsured citizens; if it drops Medicaid, the authors warned, 2.6 million of those Medicaid and CHIP recipients could find themselves uninsured. That's another 2.6 million Texans faced with an impossible decision: go to the doctor and risk a crippling bill, or don't go and risk their health. The report also found that, contrary to some anti-immigrant rhetoric, Medicaid is not being swamped by undocumented foreigners. While immigrants are three times more likely than Texas citizens to be uninsured, they only accounted for less than 1% of 2009 Medicaid recipients.

The report further confirmed that while the state would gain more flexibility in how it spends its own cash, it would lose billions in federal reimbursements. In turn, patients no longer covered by Medicaid would turn to emergency rooms as their primary health care. Not only would Texas lose the additional \$2.3 billion it receives from the feds as Medicaid providers to cover that uncompensated health care, but the counties mandated to provide these services would bear another \$4 billion a year in costs.

Anne Dunkelberg, associate director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, said that if conservatives try to claim that ending Medicaid makes financial sense, “The math doesn't work at all.” Although the state Medicaid budget is expected to reach \$30 billion in 2011, 60% of those costs will be reimbursed by the federal government. If Texas instead goes its own way, it would still have to pay for residential care for the elderly and people with disabilities out of the overstretched general revenue budget. Dunkelberg described the anti-Medicaid offensive as just “a new wrinkle

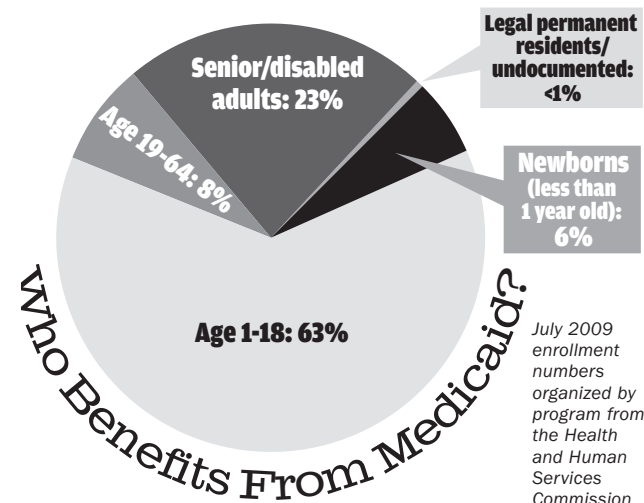
in resistance” to health care reform rather than a movement grounded in fiscal responsibility.

Much of that resistance has been based on a brief 2009 paper, “Medicaid Meltdown,” by conservative think tank the **Heritage Foundation**. Its authors claimed that killing Medicaid would save states a trillion dollars over the next decade. Against that background, regular Heritage Foundation speaker Gov. **Rick Perry** infamously called Medicaid a Ponzi scheme “that would make Mr. Ponzi feel bad.” However, shortly after the release of the Health and Human Services report, Perry issued a statement saying his interest was simply in “increasing flexibility and innovation in Medicaid.” Rep. **Garnet Coleman**, D-Houston, fired back that the report demonstrated that GOP schemes to cut Medicaid would be a “fool's errand [that would] hurt our elderly, disabled, and low-income children.”

However, the possibility remains that any upcoming clash on the legislative floor may not be between Democrats and Republicans, but between senior legislators and a freshman class of conservative ideologues. The first indication of this shift may have come at a Dec. 3 freshman orientation event, when a panel including House Public Health Committee Chair **Lois Kolkhorst**, R-Brenham, and Senate Higher Education Committee Chair **Judith Zaffirini**, D-Laredo, taught new lawmakers Medicaid 101. In this state, Medicaid only covers children, pregnant women, people 65 and older, people with disabilities, and low-income families with children. In 2007, 70% of Medicaid recipients were children. It also covers 48% of all nursing home care costs and pays for the majority of school nurses and graduate medical training positions.

With those facts on the table, Kolkhorst and Zaffirini hinted at common ground that could appeal to Democratic fears about Big Pharma's powerful role in health care spending while appeasing Republican demands for increased self-reliance. The most pressing health care issues, Zaffirini noted, are not how much money is being spent, but where. Tackling childhood obesity through nutritional education may cost more in the short term, but it's the same kind of trade-off as childhood inoculation; that is, it's better to spend the money on immunization now than face an epidemic later. However, as HHS Executive Commissioner **Thomas Suehs** told the freshmen, “The Legislature tends not to want to fund preventative programs.” Again, that's where political dogma may cripple common sense and consensus. “If we propose mandating the teaching of nutrition in medical school,” said Zaffirini, “people say we're micromanaging.”

Kolkhorst says the idea of dropping out of Medicaid is still not off the table. With a \$20 billion to \$28 billion projected deficit,



In 2009, Texas Medicaid and the companion Children's Health Insurance Program provided health insurance and long-term care for an average of 3.3 million Texas residents. The program only covers children, caregivers of eligible children, pregnant women, and people older than 65 or with disabilities. Enrollment eligibility for both programs is also tied to income.

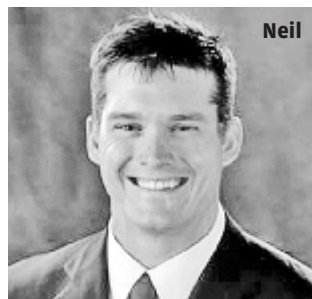
legislators will have to look at every state agency and program. Addressing the current political reality, Kolkhorst continued, “We have a very large freshmen class that won in a sweeping manner on mostly bashing the Obama administration and the health care bill.” Combine that with the deficit forecast, and it seems inevitable that some form of Medicaid legislation will reach the floor this session. There's a steep learning curve ahead for the dogmatists. “Much of our constituency is demanding, ‘Cut expenses, cut expenses, cut expenses,’” Kolkhorst said, “and then when we do it, they really meant, ‘Cut everything, but don't cut my program.’” She warned: “If we opt out of Medicaid, we opt out of all of those programs. We couldn't cherry-pick.”

Voter education on that point is already proceeding. On Nov. 20, House Appropriations Committee Chair **Jim Pitts**, R-Waxahachie, told an Ellis County tea party meeting that if Medicaid goes, “We will have to throw some people out in the street.” Rep. **Donna Howard**, D-Austin, called Pitts a “very honest broker” on the issue but feared how unreceptive health care reform opponents may be. A former critical care nurse, Howard said, “I'm still hearing from some people that everyone should be able to take care of themselves, and that if we didn't provide health care that they would be taken care of by the philanthropic and faith communities.”

— Richard Whittaker



Howard



Neil

Republicans Denied a Supermajority (Again)

Remember election night? Remember how the Republicans took the Texas House of Representatives 99-51? That math could still change with two Central Texas seats – including one in Travis County – still not fully resolved.

On Nov. 2, incumbent Rep. **Donna Howard**, D-Austin, held House District 48 in western Travis County by 16 votes over GOP challenger **Dan Neil**. Cue the inevitable recount, demanded by the Neil campaign. When the numbers came in on Dec. 2, Neil actually picked up one vote, bringing his total to 25,011, while Howard fell by three to 25,023. That's a narrower victory for Howard,

but still a victory – and a vital one for the Democrats. If the Republicans held 100 seats, that supermajority could make them unstoppable and render the Democrats effectively irrelevant in Texas politics. They couldn't even repeat the famous 2003 quorum-busting trip to Ardmore, Okla. (see “The House Adjourns to Oklahoma,” May 16, 2003). Howard's win means they retain that nuclear option, at least in theory.

However, Neil's campaign has yet to concede, instead raising questions about straight-ticket ballots cast by absentee voters living overseas indefinitely. Even though these nonresidents are allowed to vote only

in federal races, on recount night Neil's campaign suggested that their ballots should count in HD 48. The peril for Democrats is that if Neil does file a challenge, it would be heard by the Legislature. At first glance, that would appear to mean the Republican House Caucus could vote itself that supermajority, but Howard's attorney, **Buck Wood**, said, “The most they can do is to allow [Neil] a new election.” And, he added, if the Legislature were to count those nonresident ballots in HD 48, “Howard would win by 20.”

While Neil's campaign ponders strategy in Travis County, another House race is still being fought 50

miles south in Guadalupe County, where the Nov. 4 death of Rep. **Edmund Kuempel**, R-Seguin, triggered a special election to be held Dec. 14. The traditionally safe GOP seat is now embroiled in a 10-way race – with seven Republicans, two Democrats, and a Libertarian – that could throw the accepted math into total disarray, and there's already disunity in the GOP ranks. The Young Conservatives of Texas and fundamentalist revisionist historian David Barton are backing **Myrna McLeroy**. Edmund's son **John Kuempel** has picked up two big-name endorsements: Bennie Bock, who preceded Edmund in the seat, and Texas Rangers co-owner Nolan Ryan. Hopefully, this will all be settled before the House reconvenes at noon on Jan. 11.

— R.W.

REWARD
DETAILS PAGE 8

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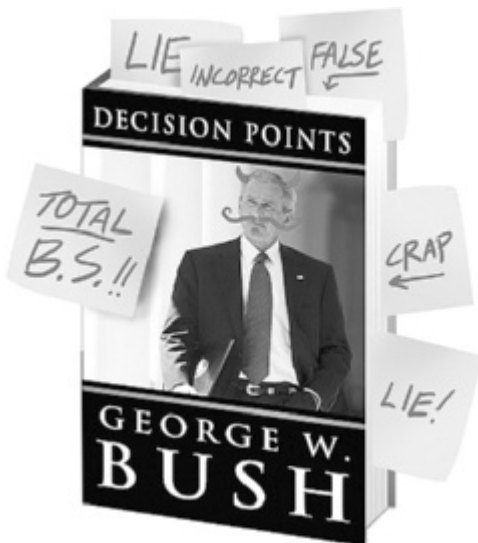


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Politics Gift Guide

Lest you thought you'd forget about the real world over the holidays



Undo-It-Yourself

THE ANNOTATED 'DECISION POINTS'

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Everyone expected Dubya's auto-(cough, cough)-biography to be utterly self-serving, but reality threw this book at the wall when the Decider started rambling about Kanye. So grab yourself a secondhand copy – it benefits the local economy without putting cash into the Bush coffers – and a stack of Post-its. Write your own corrections, and stick them in the margins next to every fib and falsehood. That's the version you should give to your Fox News-watching friends and relatives. (This also works with Gov. **Rick Perry's** *Fed Up!* and pretty much anything convicted felon **Tom DeLay** ever wrote, said, or did.) – Richard Whittaker

Morning Buzz Kill MUGS WITH A MESSAGE

Unemployed Philosophers Guild, \$12.95

Need a present for the politically engaged early-riser on your gift list? Look no further than the Unemployed Philosophers Guild, which boasts all kinds of fun gifts – including these mugs that don't mince words, perfect for caffeine junkies who take their coffee black with no sugar-coating (available at www.philosophersguild.com):

Disappearing Civil Liberties Mug: Pour hot beverage in, watch liberties disappear. Thanks, USA PATRIOT Act!

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Supreme Court Mug:

For the lawyer or courtophile on your list, this mug features the stylings of 30 famous cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Pour your hot beverage in, and the losers on each case fade away, leaving behind only the winning parties. Soon to be added: Citizens United and the fading Federal Election Commission. – Jordan Smith



gift guide 2010

Hurricane Icon 'PARADISE HAS RELOCATED'

by Sandy Carson
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Hurricane Ike and the destruction it wrought on Galveston has become the forgotten Gulf Coast disaster, seemingly overshadowed by the cataclysm of Katrina. Former Scotsman and current *Chronicle* photographer Sandy Carson headed into the heart of the third costliest hurricane in American history, and his new collection showing the debris and reconstruction may finally have given Ike its iconic images. A discarded vacuum cleaner in the middle of the beach, an upturned home flung along the sea front, a carousel of discarded photo slides – all show an island in the wake of carnage. – R.W.



Get a Lege Up TEXAS TRIBUNE MEMBERSHIP \$50 and up (\$10, students)

We've already recommended this gift once – last year, shortly after former *Texas Monthly* Editor-in-Chief/President **Evan Smith** launched his grand idea for a membership-supported, nonprofit website dedicated to state politics. But now the gift is even more timely, with the Tribune about to throw itself into the grinding flurry of its first Lege session. The Capitol junkies in your life will no doubt have the site bookmarked in their browsers. Financial support through membership will not only get them special perks (a special rate for Tribune events, among other things) but will also help ensure that the Trib continues to provide that fix. See www.texastribune.org. – Lee Nichols



Peace Unearthed LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S COFFIN Name your price

Need just the right thing for the conspiracy theorist in your life? How about Lee Harvey Oswald's coffin? The alleged JFK assassin was buried in 1963 but exhumed and reinterred in a fresh casket in 1981. Now Los Angeles auction house **Nate D. Sanders** has placed the original on the block. Bidding closes on Dec. 16, and the reserve price had not been met at press time. Huh. That's what "they" want you to believe. Visit www.natedsanders.com/ItemInfo.asp?ItemID=31872. – R.W.





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NEWS

Aponte Found, Money Gone

As reported in "Headlines" last week, **Louanne Aponte**, the former head of the **Family Connections** nonprofit who is accused of embezzling more than \$300,000 from that organization, turned herself in last week. As it turns out, the damage she allegedly wrought was even worse than originally thought. According to the indictment handed down against her, Aponte actually stole more than \$1 million, not only from Family Connections, but also from another nonprofit as well as from her church, **Hyde Park Christian Church**.

As suspected, Aponte had fled to Venezuela once improprieties in Family Connections' bookkeeping were discovered earlier this year. Her husband had relatives

in that country, and the *Statesman* reported that she went there with a mere \$3,500 in her pocket. According to Aponte's attorney, the rest of the money she took is gone – all spent. At this time, it's not clear why she voluntarily returned to the United States and surrendered.



Louanne Aponte

Holly VanScoy did contract work for Family Connections as an external evaluator of its federally funded Collaboration to Reduce Abandonment and Deliver Local Education and Support program, or CRADLES, for more than half a decade and saw the

inside of the organization as it imploded. "First there was a lot of disbelief, people wanting it to be something other than what it actually was," VanScoy told the *Chronicle*.

"It was staff members trying to think, 'What else could have happened?'" to explain it. And it was increasingly clear over a very short period that it was what it looked like. It was an embezzlement. The money was gone, and the agency was going to go down.

"I think the biggest lesson of the whole debacle is the inability of [Family Connections' board of directors], that the board itself was not in control of that agency. There's supposed to be a balance of power so that any one director cannot bring down an agency. ... When Louanne left, they appointed neither an interim director nor did they put anybody in charge of the finances for a full month.

"This is a woman who was an embezzler when she came," said VanScoy, referring to Aponte's previous criminal record, which escaped scrutiny when Family Connections first hired her in 1990; at the time, she was on parole for a theft conviction from 1987. "It's a great case study for anybody who's in the nonprofit field of how vulnerable you are when there's just one person with her hands in everything." — Lee Nichols

Stalled Hearing Put Death Penalty on Trial

Lawyers in Harris County District Judge **Kevin Fine's** courtroom were set to prove this week that Texas' imposition of the death penalty is capricious – so much so as to risk the execution of an innocent person. But on Dec. 7, the hearing was put on hold after the state **Court of Criminal Appeals** issued a stay in the proceedings. Early this year, Fine ruled Texas' use of the death penalty unconstitutional, but after Gov. **Rick Perry** and Attorney General **Greg Abbott** balked – and Abbott called Fine an "activist" judge – Fine rescinded the order and instead set this hearing, requested by lawyers of capital defendant **John Edward Green**. Green is charged with killing a woman during a 2008 robbery in Houston; his lawyers say he's innocent. The proceedings began Monday with testimony about the prevalence of wrongful convictions in Texas and about the risk factors that lead to them – including faulty eyewitness identification (implicated in more than 75% of Texas' wrongful convictions), which Green's lawyers say plays a part in their client's case. Prosecutors stood mute during the hearing, on orders from Harris County District Attorney **Pat Lykos**, reports the *Houston Chronicle*. Then they appealed to the CCA, which has now stepped in to halt the hearing until lawyers for both sides can file briefs on whether the proceeding should be allowed to continue at all. Green's lawyers said Tuesday they were disappointed that the CCA had stopped the hearing, which was set to last two weeks. "The claim by Mr. Green is based on a constitutional theory never before examined by the Texas courts and derives from the mounting evidence demonstrating that the kind of evidence against Mr. Green ... is often inaccurate and leads to conviction of the innocent," they said. "We have confidence that when the [CCA] fully appreciates the evidence and the constitutional claim, it will allow the hearing to resume." For more on this, see "Is Death Unconstitutional?" (Newsdesk, Dec. 3) at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk. — J.S.

Sex Abuse Appeal Goes to Texas Supremes

Lawyers for **Michael Arena**, who in 1999 was convicted of sexually abusing his then-7-year-old cousin – a crime that his cousin maintains never happened – are asking the **Texas Supreme Court** to review a lower court decision denying the now 27-year-old's appeal. At issue, in part, is whether the expert testimony of psychologist **Fred Willoughby** was improperly allowed as evidence at the teenager's sentencing hearing. Allowing that ruling to stand, they argue, would jeopardize countless future cases involving expert testimony.

Willoughby testified that a psychological examination called the "**Abel Assessment**" had been tested and was accurate to determine the sexual preferences of juveniles. According to Willoughby, the test was credible and, in Arena's case, demonstrated that the teen – 14 years old at the time of the alleged crime – had an attraction to young girls the age of his cousin, Stephanie. According to the assessment, said Willoughby, Arena was likely a "pedophile" and would probably reoffend if not sent to prison.

As it happened, however, the test had not been demonstrated to be effective for juveniles, and Willoughby was subsequently sanctioned in 2002 by the **Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists** in part for his "failure to substantiate forensic opinions" offered in the Arena case. That information was not available to Arena's jury, which handed the juvenile 20 years in prison.

The trial court denied Arena's direct appeal of the case, as did the state 3rd Court of Appeals. In its opinion this summer, the appeals court agreed with the trial court that even if Willoughby had testified falsely, it didn't impact the jury. Now, in an



John Arena displays a high school graduation portrait of his brother, Michael. In prison since age 16, Michael never actually got to graduate.

appeal filed Nov. 23, Arena's lawyer **Clinton Broden** of Dallas is asking the Supremes to reconsider the 3rd Court's position. The appeals court's "mishandling" of the standard for allowing expert testimony is so egregious, he argues, that to allow it to remain uncorrected would negatively impact hundreds of other cases to come. "To argue that Willoughby's testimony did not result in a longer sentence strains the limit of reason," Broden wrote.

The state has waived its right to respond to the latest appeal, Broden wrote in an e-mail to the *Chronicle*. Still, the court accepts very few such petitions for review, so there is no guarantee that they will even take the case, he said.

Meanwhile, Arena has been denied for parole each time he's come up as eligible, primarily because he refuses to admit guilt; unless he is granted relief by the courts, he is unlikely to be released until 2019. (For more on the story, see "Criminally Innocent," Nov. 5.) — Jordan Smith

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

HELLO, VIETNAM!

Several of America's top high tech giants are now breaking with conventional thinking on the offshoring of their factories and jobs, asking a heretofore unthinkable question: "Who needs China?"

"Let's invest in new, state-of-the-art factories," they declare excitedly. "We'll launch a bold new initiative to train tens of thousands of teachers who, in turn, will educate the high tech work force of the future, generating a wave of jobs and making our American corporations the most competitive in the world!"

Wow, what vision; what a boost to America's middle class possibilities!

Uh ... America? Who said anything about the USA? No, no, the high tech powerhouses are not decamping from China to reinvest in our country – instead, they are shifting their production to **Vietnam**. It seems that the millionaire chieftains of **Silicon Valley** now deem the price of China's low-wage workers to be too high, and their wandering eyes have settled on Vietnam, where the per capita income is less than half that of the Chinese people.

Thus, on Oct. 29, **Intel CEO Paul Otellini** stood in a packed auditorium in Ho Chi Minh City and hollered out, "Hello, Vietnam." He was there for the dedication of Intel's sparkling, billion-dollar chip factory, which has a clean room the size of five football fields and employs 4,000 workers. Also, Intel is trying to realign Vietnam's educational system to be more corporate-friendly, pouring money into the training of 87,000 teachers.

Hewlett-Packard is another world-wanderer moving to Vietnam, having built a facility there for outsourcing its software engineering work. Wouldn't it be nice, in these times of middle-class decline in America, if the high tech honchos who benefit so lavishly from our country were to move more of their investments and jobs here?

FEE-BRAINED AIRLINES

Why do **airline executives** hate their customers? Not so very long ago, airlines boasted about flying "the friendly skies." These days, a more apt rendition of that happy slogan would be flying "the abusive skies."

For example, what does a ticket cost? The airlines won't come clean on even this basic question. We do know that stated **ticket prices** have been steadily rising, with double-digit increases in the past year.

But that price is merely the starting point for today's airline hucksters. The real gouging is in the frenzy of fees that airlines have invented, many of which are not even disclosed to us and most of which are simply unwarranted. Last year, **airline fees** totaled nearly \$8 billion – a consumer subsidy siphoned right out of our pockets into the corporate coffers.

Take the "ticket change" fee. If something comes up, forcing you to change a flight from the one you've booked, you're hit with a service fee of \$150, plus you must pay the difference if your new flight is priced higher (which it will be). What a rip-off! This rebooking "service" is done by computer, costing the airline more like a buck-fifty, rather than a hundred and fifty. Also, notice that airlines themselves routinely cancel or delay our flights, forcing us into inconvenient and thoroughly unpleasant travel changes – yet they don't pay us \$150 for their changes.

American Airlines, however, has generously offered to cut its rebooking fee in half – if you pay a "flexibility" fee of \$19 when you book your flight. Then, any changes you need to make later will only cost you \$75. Yes, it's a fee to reduce your fee!

These nasty gouges are infuriating and unnecessary. **Southwest Airlines**, though, refuses to charge for any service that has historically been free to customers – and Southwest has consistently stayed profitable.

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

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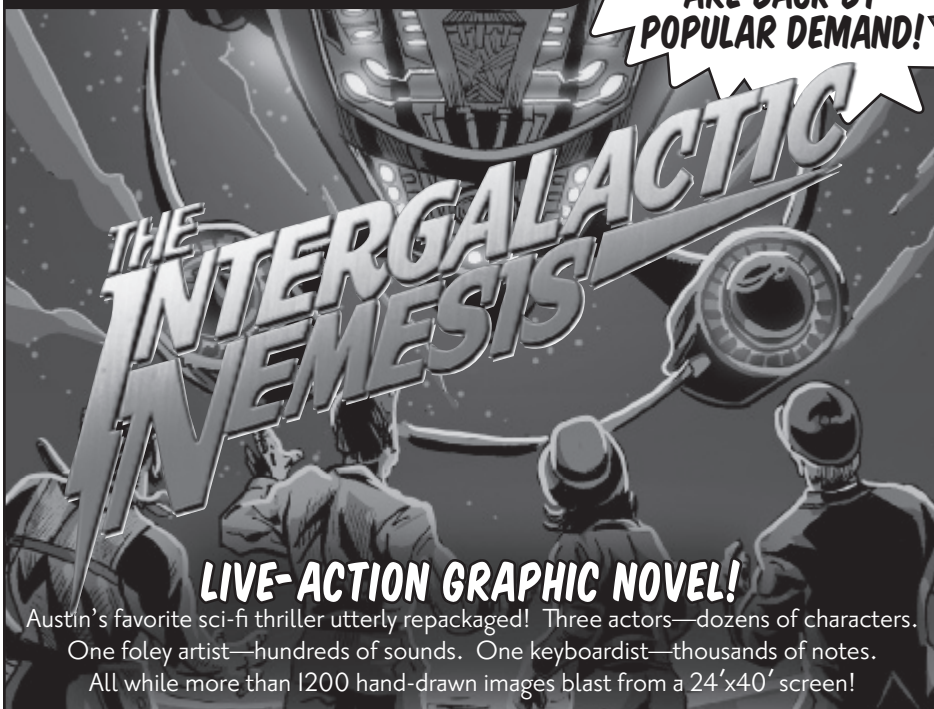
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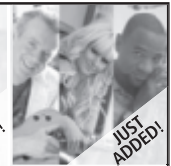
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RAMIN NAZER

Jokesmith in the on-deck circle

"Hi, I'm Ramin Nazer. Thank you for coming to my stand-up comedy" is how this local 26-year-old rising talent sometimes begins his set. In May, Ramin (pronounced "Rahmeen") placed second in the 25th annual Funniest Person in Austin contest, and he's as much a booster of the Austin comedy scene as an onstage fixture who has distinguished himself with inventive joke-writing chops and an absurdist non sequitur style. That style landed him an official South by Southwest showcase and an appearance on an Independent Film Channel comedy panel earlier this year, as well as a gig this past Thanksgiving weekend opening for white-hot comedian/writer Chelsea Peretti at the Addison Improv near Dallas. That's in addition to his occasional Velveeta Room one-off appearances and his ongoing stand-up showcase, Live at ColdTowne, Friday nights.

Nazer, who is secretly Canadian and retains dual American-Canadian citizenship, has been doing stand-up for just over three years. At the mic, he projects confidence without a braying cockiness and exudes playful enthusiasm. With a comedic sensibility akin to that of the late Mitch Hedberg – his most obvious influence – Nazer constructs his act on the foundations that brevity is the soul of wit and onstage segues are for the weak. He also likes toying with the fourth wall: "unexpected surrealism, radical shifts in tone," disrupting an established rhythm, and consciously using the same polite cadence when doing raunchier fare. Still, his act isn't a deliberate exercise in meta. Nazer admits that for him, the mother of invention is a bit of insecurity and the desire to preemptively step on potential audience side comments. He adds: "I've found when I'm on a show where a lot of people are just doing okay and they don't break the fourth wall at all, when I go up I

tend to do better in those type of scenarios – when it's like shaking things up. But if other people are doing well, then sometimes it's the opposite, and then I don't do well: 'We just want to watch the comedy; why does he have to break it apart for us?'"

But Nazer just has a proclivity for tinkering. Recently at a Live at ColdTowne show (a fantastic mix of train wreck newbies and seasoned pros), he extrapolated how often the average man thinks about zebra sex and about nerds' revenge: "I noticed high school- and college-age girls, they don't go after the nice guys. They go after the bad boys and the jocks. But then something changes after college, and they get a little older, and they start dating and marrying nerds. It's interesting how that shift happens. So in the end, nerds win! Sorry bad boys, the older, fatter versions of your girlfriends belong to us!"

Another of Nazer's ambitions is to "make jokes where the punch line comes before you think it would, and also it's not one you would think of in your first 10 guesses." This brings to mind his time-release gem: "Here's what the world would be like if there were no slogans: *Monday Night Football* on Fox is brought to you by McDonald's ... McDonald's."

Nazer's m.o. is to grow the community through his ColdTowne showcase and the (admittedly somewhat dormant) www.lastgascomedy.com website that he co-founded with comedian Albert Im. "I believe in making your own opportunities," he says. "I like doing stand-up, and I like organizing my own shows, and there's no reason to go to New York and start from the bottom."

– Steve Birmingham

Ramin Nazer hosts *Live at ColdTowne Fridays*, 10pm, at ColdTowne Theater, 4803-B Airport. For more information, call 814-8696 or visit www.liveatcoldtowne.com or www.raminnazer.com.

'COMPANY'

After a long wait, 'Phone rings, door chimes ...'

As the international celebrations surrounding his 80th birthday have made abundantly clear, Stephen Sondheim is nigh unto a god in the world of musicals. But universal adoration doesn't necessarily translate into frequent production, at least not locally. Of the dozen musicals for which Sondheim has written both music and lyrics, more than half have been produced in Austin just once or never, with the rest staged at most three or four times over a span of decades. Even among his signature works, it's not uncommon for 10 years or more to pass between revivals. Take *Company* – it's a breakthrough work for Sondheim and an immensely influential musical, but the last time it was mounted in town, Rick Perry was still the Democratic state representative from Haskell County.

That kind of lengthy gap leaves some of our finest musical-theatre talents champing at the bit where Sondheim's concerned. Laura Powell, the award-winning star of the Zilker summer musical productions of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Once Upon a Mattress*, remembers a conversation with actress Molly Wissinger on just that topic when they were performing *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* on the hillside, and at the mention of *Company*, Wissinger said, "That show needs to be done." Powell didn't require convincing. She'd been hooked on the show – in fact, on all of the composer's shows – since 1986, when she was in *Simply Sondheim: The Musical Story*, a revue created by a group of

her musical-theatre pals. (By her own admission, Powell was "raised on Rodgers and Hammerstein," and the night they said, "Hey, let's write a musical revue about Stephen Sondheim," she didn't know who he was.) The show earned seven B. Iden Payne Award nominations that year, took home the prize for outstanding musical production, and enjoyed four revivals, but the big takeaway for Powell was her connection to the music of Sondheim. "His soundtrack is the soundtrack of my life," she says. "It is my touchstone for past references both personal and professional." As she watched the recent PBS broadcast of *Sondheim: The Birthday Concert*, "Every song brought back a memory," she says. "I was sitting on my couch with a box of Kleenex completely reliving my 'salad days.' I think I cried through the entire performance."

So when Michael McKelvey invited Powell to join a revival of *Company* he was producing, she was in. Immediately. And she didn't hesitate when asked which role she'd like to play: Joanne, the cynic who casts a (vodka) gimlet eye on Manhattan society matrons in "The Ladies Who Lunch." "God, she's so inappropriate and awful, but you gotta love her!" Powell says. "She says whatever she wants to say and the hell with the consequences!"

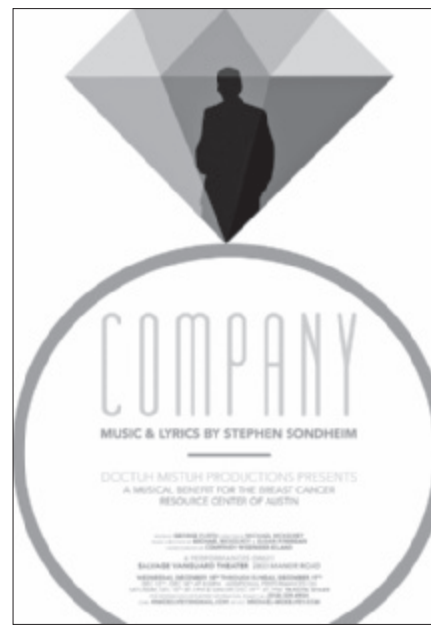
That was, pun intended, music to McKelvey's ears: "There were a number of very well-known Austin actresses I had in mind for the role, but Laura was definitely my first choice. I think of Joanne as a true 'broad,' strong in her convictions, truthful, and not afraid of the world because she has faced it on so many fronts and in so many ways. I wanted someone who would be honest on- and offstage, call me out if she disagreed with something, but be willing to try a different tack. In all my years of working with her, I found Laura to be warm, funny, pointed, creative, energetic, but above all honest ... in her opinion, conviction, and performance."

In addition to Powell, McKelvey has secured the talents of several gifted musical-theatre performers, including Andrew Cannata (*Rent*), Libby Dees (*Parade*), Amy Downing (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Kirk German (*Annie*), Joe Hartman (*MilkMilkLemonade*), Leslie Hollingsworth (*I'll Be Seeing You*),

David Ponton (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*) and, yes, Molly Wissinger. McKelvey's Doctuh Mistuh Productions, which last brought you *Evil Dead: The Musical*, will donate proceeds from the six-performance run to the Breast Cancer Resource Center of Austin.

So how is it for Powell slipping back into *Company* again after 24 years? "Working through Sondheim's insane and completely nonintuitive harmonies, which at times makes me say awful things about his mother and makes my brain want to explode, still gives me more joy than any other musical composer I have ever worked with," she says. "I count my blessings every time I get to sing Sondheim." – Robert Faires

Company runs Dec. 15-19, Wednesday-Sunday, 8pm, with an additional performance Saturday, Dec. 18, 2pm, at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. For more information, call 339-4934.



Moving Real Strange for Free

Butoh performances by Spank Dance Company



BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

On the third Thursday of each month, the lobby of the Salvage Vanguard Theater reveals a tableau of living art known as butoh. As different from the more familiar Western forms of modern dance as an arsenic-based life-form is from our own human biology, butoh's ancient Japanese paradigm of movement is re-engineered here by a shifting combination of dancers Ellen Bartel, Mari Akita, Caroline Sutton Clark, and musician Adam Sultan. This particular Spank Dance Company initiative has been unfolding its wonders for four years, for free, in various venues around town.

"It started when Mari and I did a modeling session at David Ohlerking's Austin Figurative Gallery," says Spank Dance Company's Ellen Bartel. "And instead of just nude figures, we decided to do butoh – with costumes and paint and everything. We didn't do still poses; we moved throughout the entire session. And when we got done, I told David that that was one of my favorite things in the world to do and I would do it every day if I could. And he said, 'Well, why don't you?' And I said, 'Well, maybe not every day,' and from that point on, we did it once a month with David. Mari and I did it briefly by ourselves, and then we invited Caroline, because she's performed butoh professionally."

Austin Chronicle: And, out of all the musicians in Austin to work with, why Adam Sultan?

Ellen Bartel: 'Cause he's my friend!

Adam Sultan: Nothing to do with my talent.

Bartel: Adam's really good at improvising in an organic way that's similar to how we perform. He's sensitive to movement in the space around him, as opposed to somebody who can improvise but stays mostly in their own head. Adam's capable of opening his field of vision.

Sultan: I took it as a challenge, something beyond my usual comfort zone. Butoh has a sense of trying to remove the conventions of modern dance and yet still trying to express something. It's the most satisfying improv music I've ever done, because it's so spacious and inviting.

AC: So you got Adam on board, and it was off to SVT for the four of you?

Caroline Sutton Clark: Before SVT, David lost his studio and there was a performance in a stable.

Bartel: We went from the Figurative Gallery to where David lived in the horse stable to when he was in the office space Downtown. We did, like, four or five performances there, which was weird, because it was an actual

office space – a long hallway and small reception area, with other businesses around us. And then we went to SVT in, I think, '08.

AC: And are these performances what people would recognize as traditional butoh?

Sutton Clark: It's the intersection of where we're all coming from, and I'd definitely put it under the butoh umbrella. Butoh has a vast array of styles; it's a rending-open of creative energy, so you can put a lot of different things under that banner. It's different from modern dance in its look, in the form it takes. Even improvisational modern dance has a real emphasis on form in terms of aesthetic structures; the use of space and time tends to be very Westernized. Butoh has a real different sense of time – in the sense of tempo but also in compositional structures of time and in the form that takes. Butoh is more organically motivated than architecturally motivated. There's a real connection to chaos theory and quantum mechanics that are more in the Eastern realm of thought. ■

The next butoh performance by Spank Dance Company will be Thursday, Dec. 16, 7-7:30pm, at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. For more information, call 474-7886 or visit www.spankdance.com.



"Butoh has a vast array of styles; it's a rending-open of creative energy, so you can put a lot of different things under that banner."

– Caroline Sutton Clark



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Sun	Dec. 19	11:00	2:00	5:00	8:00	Fri	Dec. 24	-	1:00	-	-
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**LONG, LAST, HAPPY:
NEW AND SELECTED STORIES**

by Barry Hannah

Grove Press, 464 pp., \$27.50

A Yarp is a terrifying, spindle-legged, people-eating monster that prowls the Ozarks in human disguise. Young Roonswent Dover, narrator of Barry Hannah's supremely creepy short story "Evening of the Yarp: A Report by Roonswent Dover," describes the creature thusly: "A Yarp's eyes of course is suppose to be hot yellow and his skin disappeared from his throat so you can see its tongue long in it and tonsils and open voice box." And if that sounds pretty unattractive, just wait till the Yarp opens his coat and reveals "all his digestion, everything he's eaten all chewed and gravyed-up in them tubes and holds and glands."

It makes you wonder: Why did Barry Hannah even bother writing about ordinary people when he wrote so well about imaginary monsters?

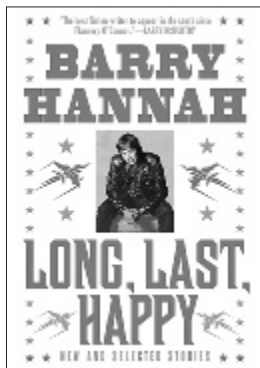
"Evening of the Yarp" is reason enough to read *Long, Last, Happy*, Hannah's post-humous volume of selected short stories, but there are plenty of others. The last four stories in the book, all new, tell an interconnected tale of Gulf War veterans and church-burning. Linked tales of pyromania in the South will always edge very quickly into

Faulkner territory (Snopes trilogy, anyone?), and Hannah makes the obligatory tip of the hat in the first story, "Fire Water": "both of them had worked in the shadow of this statue. Faulkner. Damn the organ tones, the way he wrote like an octopus with pencils." And as in Faulkner, this suite of stories doesn't end well.

Hannah himself pulled some octopus-with-pencils feats over the course of his distinguished career, and plenty of the stories in this collection showcase his wit, his humor, and an ear finely tuned to the myriad dialects of the South. This is not to say that every story is a rollicking romp through Dixie – there are quiet, sad moments, too, and tales of truly desperate and pathetic people.

If you're a person who enjoys language, sex, and guns, you will probably like this book. If you're a person who enjoys mythical Ozarkian monsters who flash their roiling guts and smell "of bull spunk and road kill," you will also probably like this book. Look elsewhere if you're in the mood for spare or subtle prose, but if you want to spend a few hours in the company of somebody who wrote like he enjoyed the hell out of life, this isn't a bad place to start.

– Katherine Smith

**GREAT HOUSE**

by Nicole Krauss

W.W. Norton,
289 pp., \$24.95

There's such poetry in Nicole Krauss' prose it's hard to resist underlining huge swaths of text; I still have scraps of paper tacked to my office wall from her 2006 novel, the magisterial *The History of Love*.

Great House, which was nominated for a National Book Award in October, is a more somber thing. It follows four narratives with one connective strand: a large, many-drawer writing desk that is passed between hands throughout the novel. In the first section, the desk takes on mystical qualities for a New York-based writer who inherited it from a Chilean poet named Daniel Varsky; when she returns the desk to a stranger claiming to be Varsky's daughter, its sudden absence stunts her ability to write. In the second section, a grieving widower in



Israel confronts his emotionally fragile son. In the third, another newly widowed man tries to make sense of the murky past of his dead wife, an experimental writer who fled Germany in a Kindertransport just before the war. And in the fourth storyline, set in London, an Oxford scholar falls in with a pair of dramatically isolated siblings (shades of *Les Enfants Terribles*) whose controlling father, an antiques dealer, has made finding the desk his life's work.

A book sunk in mystery, *Great House* is like a nesting egg that skips generations, with some riddles never to be solved, much as the narrators' efforts to crack the codes of their inscrutable loved ones almost always end in failure. Krauss charts the life cycle of love in alternating chapters – new love, lost love, and lovelessness. In the last, in which the long-single New York writer makes a pilgrimage to Israel to reclaim the desk, Krauss presents a brutalizing portrait of a middle-aged woman reawakening to desire to disastrous effect. It's the least pleasurable chapter but also the most potent in a book that is both challenging and – in its very best stretches – ravishing, too. – Kimberley Jones

in
print**REMINDER!**

The postmark deadline for *The Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest is Dec. 15. See austinchronicle.com/shortstory for details.

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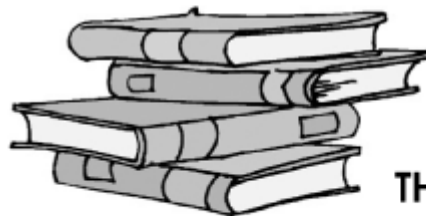


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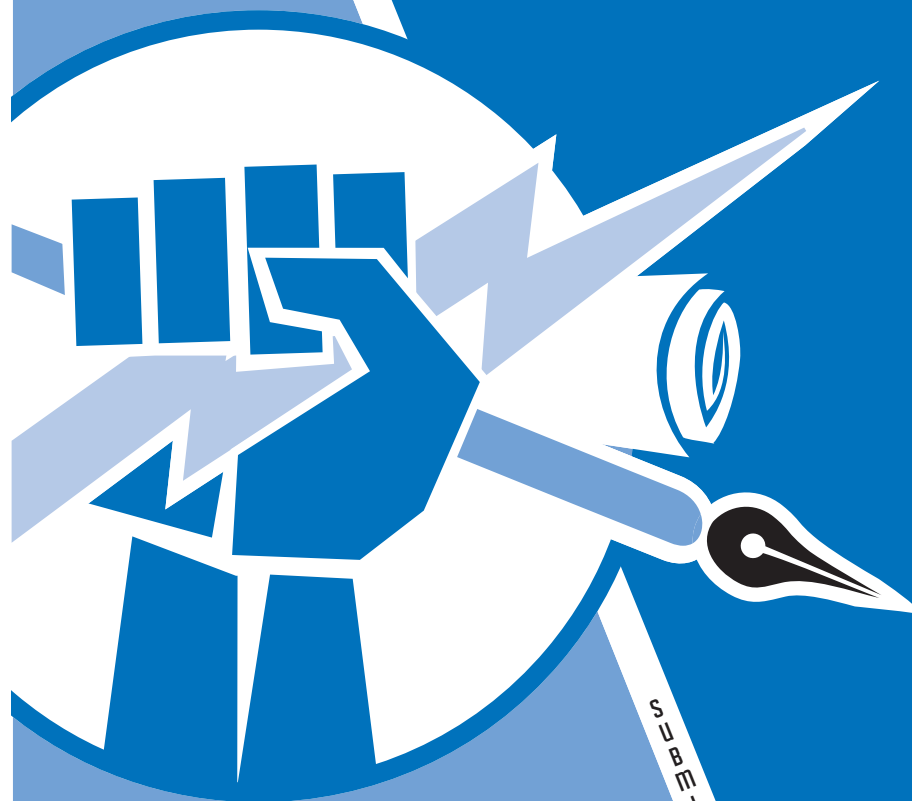
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IMAGE: James Surls, *Night Vision*, 1990, Woodcut, 24 1/2 x 71 inches, Private collection. © James Surls and Flatbed Press, Austin, TX.

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

DANCING IN HEAVEN How can you not give a “10” to every one of the participants in *Dancing With the Stars Austin*? This is the fourth year for the **Center for Child Protection** fundraiser – one of the Top 3 most glam events in Austin (it raised more than \$900,000 for the center). My favorite part is the clothing (wait, I’m supposed to say my favorite part is helping children). All the guests know how to dress: gowns to die for and jewels that would make you consider a career as a cat burglar. Fortunately, it was cold enough to wear fur. There was a jovial fierceness among the competitors, but all of them took it very seriously, including **Charmaine McGill**, who broke her leg last year during rehearsals but returned *this* year to win the big trophy. **Amy Rudy, David Garrido,** and **John Hogg** danced their hearts out alongside **Mickey Klein, Stacey Hammer, Joe Ross, Wendy Topfer, Kristie Dennis,** and our next mayor, **Mike Martinez**, whom we witnessed performing CPR on a gentleman who collapsed in the VIP lounge. Next mayor *and* superhero.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “If I am occasionally a little overdressed, I make up for it by always being immensely overeducated.”
– **Algernon Moncrieff** in *The Importance of Being Earnest*

TCM’ING I’ve spent seemingly endless hours watching **TCM** – a treasure trove of Hollywood fashion. I’ve been especially focused on designer **Edith Head**. She won eight **Academy Awards** – more than any other woman has – and was nominated every year from 1948 through 1966. She reflected the eras she worked in from 1924 to her death in 1981. Her clothes weren’t always the most incredibly original designs, but she approached design much more analytically than emotionally. Incredibly, she knew just how to calculate and manipulate emotion through her work. Exhibiting little skill and no experience, she used “borrowed” sketches to land a job as an artist at Paramount where she worked for the next 44 years. She created glorious ensembles for **Mae West, Barbara Stanwyck, Rita Hayworth, Marlene Dietrich,** and **Elizabeth Taylor**. Her costumes were dazzlingly iconic: **Gloria Swanson** in *Sunset Boulevard*, melding both the fashions of the Twenties and the Fifties; **Grace Kelly** in *To Catch a Thief*; and **Bette Davis** in *All About Eve* to name a few. **Lucy Gallant** features brilliant actress **Jane Wyman** founding a Texas department store suspiciously akin to **Neiman Marcus**. The highlight of the movie is Edith Head appearing as herself in a lavish Neiman’s-worthy fashion show. The black dress that **Audrey Hepburn** wore in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* is legendary, but it is not Edith’s work. She was not above



SEA BROOK JONES/WWW.JUICYTHIS.COM

Co-Chair Maria Groten (l); our next mayor, Mike Martinez (center); and Estilo’s Stephanie Coultriss were among those who made *Dancing With the Stars Austin* truly fabulous.

copying someone else’s work (in this case, the work of **Givenchy**). But at least she copied the best. *What an incredible legacy she’s left us.*

POST-HOLIDAY A member of my research team tried out a new product called the **Mother Tucker** – a horrible name for a very good product. It is compression shape-wear particularly designed to help new mothers firm up after childbirth (though it certainly has appeal for anyone who wants to look firmer and slimmer). A tank designed with bands of extra compression in strategic areas, the MT certainly does what it promises ... though it also flattens the bust, which may or may not be a plus. Our research assistant suggested that the company, **Belly Bandit (www.bellybandit.com)** – another unappetizing name – develop a variation cut out under the bust. Though the bands-of-compression technique isn’t new, the Mother Tucker is among the very best of it’s kind.

WTF? It’s called **Vajazzling**. Don’t make me talk about it. Okay, I will. It’s the process of having your fuzzi-free ladyparts paved with **Swarovski crystals**. I know, the visuals are disturbing. But if you refuse to imagine what that looks like, can you imagine what it looks like with panties on? All those little bumps? Please. I can’t imagine who might want to explore any further than that – talk about hidden details. The whole thing raises more questions than it answers. Who, besides a stripper, would require such elaborate ornamentation? And *what* circumstances would warrant this treatment? Your wedding? Your coming-out party? Your first sex tape? And what does it *feel* like for you and your partner? And does the partner have to wear sunglasses to perform oral sex on you? The answers to these questions lie with the owner of depilatory salons in New York and Palm Beach, someone named **Cindy Barshop**, who appears to be vetted for **Real Housewives of New York**. Need we say more?

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

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Holiday Wines: Bubbles Without Breaking the Bank

Although a few Italians and Burgundians might disagree, most everyone agrees that the French from the tiny appellation of Champagne make the best sparkling wines in the world. Unfortunately, they also make the most expensive. To get better value, the best bargains in bubbly are from Spain.

There, the wines made in the same method as the Champenoise are called **Cava**. The **Ferrers**, one of the great families of Spanish wine, are responsible for many of the countries' finest sparkling wines, including Freixenet and Segura Viudas.

Freixenet Cordon Negro (\$11, but often less than \$10 during the holidays) is made for the casual drinker, one looking for a good wine at a rock-bottom price. The balance of acidity and sweetness is always right and works equally well for standing around chatting or having with a rich meal. Freixenet also offers their **Cordon Rosado** (also \$11, but often less than \$10 during the holidays), a version that's a bit fruitier and has a mere kiss of sugar, just enough for the folks who find sparkling wines too austere.

The Ferrers' other principal sparkling winery is Segura Viudas. Their **Brut Reserva** (\$10, but again, often less) is an amazing bargain for cost counters, with beautiful apple-and-toast aromas and a delicious taste. The top of the line for the Ferrer family's Cavas is **Segura Viuda Reserva Heredad** (\$27, occasionally less during holidays). This wine is fully competitive with Champagne, and given its five years of bottle-aging, the ruthless paring of grapes they consider less than perfect, and its heavy and distinctive bottle, it must be a miracle for the Ferrers to make any money from it at all!

All these wines are available in better wine shops and grocers throughout the city. — Wes Marshall



wine
OF THE
week



JOHN ANDERSON

Noble Pig Sandwiches

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On a blustery Saturday in November, I packed my family into the car and headed north in search of a recently opened sandwich shop called Noble Pig. By the time we emerged from a frustratingly sticky traffic snarl emanating from Lakeline Mall and made several U-turns in search of the tiny cafe, we pulled up to the storefront feeling annoyed and famished. Central Austinites beware: Noble Pig is a fair jaunt from home. But for residents of Cedar Park and North Austin, I have these words to say: lucky you.

Noble Pig is one of those rare eateries with complete integrity. Everything here is not only made from scratch but made with love. Owners **John Bates** (formerly of **Wink** and **Asti**) and **Brandon Martinez** (formerly of Whole Foods) fled the fine-dining scene to start their own venture selling artisanal sandwiches and charcuterie. "We wanted to take a tired concept, the deli, and

breathe new life into it," says Bates. Toward that end, Bates and Martinez bake their own bread, cure their own meats, and make all their own condiments, slaws, and sides.

As the name suggests, the menu is centered on all things swiney — pork belly, pork sausage, bacon, and pulled pork. These are the cornerstones of Noble Pig's repertoire. The Noble Pig sandwich (\$8), crafted with house-made ham, bacon, pulled pork, and melted provolone on toasted bread, is not to miss. I devoured my Sando (\$7), a daily special sandwich made of crisp, salty pork belly, chipotle aioli, fried egg, and tomatoes. But don't shy away from pigless outliers such as the house-cured duck pastrami (\$8) or the Cajun-spiced catfish with tomato tartar sauce (\$8) because these too are exceptionally tasty.

This quaint blue-and-white-checked cafe is open for breakfast and lunch only. The menu is manageable and doesn't overreach. As business owners, Bates and Martinez are taking baby steps for now, but it's clear their footing is solid. — Rachel Feit

Event Menu Dec. 9-15

- **House + Earth** (1214 W. Sixth #120) hosts a party for **Toys for Tots**. Food from Manuel's, drinks by Thirsty Planet Brewing Company and Grey Goose Vodka. Thursday, Dec. 9, 6-9pm.
- **Black Star Co-op** (7020 Easy Wind #100, 452-BEER, www.blackstar.coop) celebrates its grand opening with activities including a family-friendly **beer social** (Friday, 6-9pm), a **Texas Craft Brewers Mini-Festival** (Saturday, 2-5pm), and a traditional Sunday roast (Sunday, noon-4pm) with a members-only photo opportunity (begins at 4pm). Friday-Sunday, Dec. 10-12.
- **Le Cordon Bleu** (3110 Esperanza Crossing #100, 837-2665) holds its 10th annual **Holiday Open House & Gingerbread Competition** with cooking demos, cookie-decorating seminars, photos with Chef Santa, and refreshments. Call the school office for contest rules and details. Saturday, Dec. 11, 10am-3pm.

- SPAMARAMA fans will want to attend a reunion with a live set by the Secedars and a screening of clips from **SPAMARAMA: The Movie** at the Alamo Ritz (320 E. Sixth). Saturday, Dec. 11, 1pm.

- **Petite Pêche & Co.** owner Danika Boyle continues her salon-style dinner series inspired by the French Romantic era at Church House Studios (1161 Nickols). Make necessary reservations at www.petitepecheandco.com. \$70 per person, BYOB. Saturday, Dec. 11, 7-10pm.

- **Hosteria Verde Supper Club** invites folks 21 and older to participate in **Lunch Break** at Aviary Lounge (2110 S. Lamar): juice-box cocktails and a cafeteria line of old-school

favorites. \$55-75; make reservations at www.hosteriaverde.com. Sunday, Dec. 12, 5pm.

- As part of the Folk and Fork History of Texas Foods series, Slow Food Austin hosts *Chronicle* contributor **Claudia Alarcón's** presentation of **A Brief History of Tamales** followed by a sampling of local tamales at the Habitat Suites (500 E. Highland Mall Blvd.). RSVP to anneh@slowfoodaustin.org. Monday, Dec. 13, 7-9pm.
- Locavores **Elizabeth Winslow** and **James Holmes** invite you to a happy hour featuring local foods from **Farmhouse Delivery** (www.farmhousedelivery.com) on the patio at Olivia (2043 S. Lamar, 804-2700). Wednesday, Dec. 15, 5-7pm. — V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

I'd be hard-pressed to recall an Austin November/December with more new restaurant activity. Out **near the lake**, a second outlet of **Uncle Billy's Brew & Que** (6550 Comanche Trail Ste. B-201, 266-0111) is serving hand-crafted brews and barbecue, next to Houston chef Robert Del Grande's new **Soleil** (6550 Comanche Trail Ste. B-101, 266-0600), which takes its inspiration from Italy and the Mediterranean. Both eateries share the same dramatic Lake Travis sunset views as the **Oasis**. Also look for **Sobani** (1700 RR 620 N., 266-3900), a midpriced bistro from chef Jon Gaboric that serves dinner daily and lunch every day but Saturday. Farther up the road, check out the custom wedding cakes and fine pastries at **Michelle's Patisserie** (12233 RR 620 N., 433-6860, www.michellespatisserie.com).

Meanwhile, **South Austin** is buzzing about the new dining opportunities in the **Austinville 78704** development, where you can get great tacos at **Papalote Taco House** (2803 S. Lamar, 804-2472) and enjoy the very healthy combination of fresh juice drinks paired with piping hot servings of distinctive soups at the **Juicebox & Soup Peddler** (2801 S. Lamar, 444-SOUP). Next door is a new **Phil's Icehouse/Amy's Ice Creams** tandem: burgers and those Austintatious frozen treats (2901 S. Lamar). In the Bouldin Creek area, be sure to try the French-inspired pastries at **La Pâtisserie by Luxe Sweets** (602 W. Annie, 912-0033) created by Kitchen Space owner Soraiya Nagree. Also check out **New India Cuisine** (2304 S. Congress, 445-9727), which has taken up residence in the old Richard Jones barbecue location.

There are several eagerly awaited restaurant openings scheduled to take place **Downtown** this month, all dependent on final permitting and inspections. The new **W Hotel** (200 Lavaca) is scheduled to open this week, including the restaurant **Trace**. Around the corner at the **Austonian** (200 Congress), Executive Chef David Bull is optimistic that both his eateries, the upscale **Congress** and more casual **Second**, will be open before the end of the year. The eagerly anticipated **Haddingtons** (601 W. Sixth) from restaurateur Michael Polombo, chef Zack Northcutt, and bar master Bill Norris is also shooting for a pre-Christmas opening.

Foodways Texas (www.foodwaystexas.com) is a new cultural organization founded to study, document, and honor the culinary history and food traditions of the Lone Star State. Founding members include food writers, chefs, restaurateurs, farmers, ranchers, food artisans, brewers, and scholars. The organization, under the direction of Executive Director **Marvin Bendele**, will make its home at the **University of Texas** through an affiliation with the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Foodways Texas is slated to hold an annual educational symposium, create an independent film series focusing on Texas food traditions, and coordinate an oral history program documenting Texas foods. A **local launch party** for Foodways Texas will be held at **Momo's** (618 W. Sixth), noon-5pm this Saturday, Dec. 11, with food and music. Check out the invitation at www.facebook.com/foodwaystexas and stop by to consider becoming a member.

Urban at the Westin

11301 Domain Dr., 490-1511

Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11:30am-3pm; dinner: Sunday-Thursday, 5-10pm, and Friday-Saturday, 5-11pm; Sunday brunch: 11am-3pm; happy hour: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm
www.urbanatthedomain.com

As someone who missed chef Mizael Saucedo's cuisine when he left Bess Bistro, I was thrilled to hear of his appointment as general manager and executive chef at Urban at the Westin. The new eatery opened in March, offering upscale comfort American classics. The menu made an effort to include as many local ingredients as possible, which originally attracted me to the idea of dining at a hotel restaurant in the Domain. Saucedo's arrival sealed the deal. I'm happy to report that the chef has not skipped a beat, bringing his eco-friendly style and ethics with him. Despite a few kinks left to iron out, Urban is a worthwhile dining destination.

Shortly after Saucedo's arrival, we visited for dinner as he was rolling out a new menu, developed in concert with original Urban chef Bryce Murphree. In fact, the voluptuous sweet corn bisque (\$7) is his recipe, a rich and velvety puree of fresh corn garnished with roasted-corn pico de gallo, with a pervasive brown-butter flavor. We followed with two starters with local accents: a grilled Lockhart quail with green tomato chowchow, creamy grits, and *guajillo* honey glaze (\$11), and a Texas spinach salad with warm bacon vinaigrette, crisp lardons, fresh Parmesan cheese, and a sunny-side-up egg (\$10). We were wowed by the prime rib of Berkshire pork (\$23) glazed in caramelized soy sauce with sautéed apples, pearl onions, and wilted spinach. The salty-sweet-fatty combination was just dynamite, the meat cooked perfectly to medium on the rare side. The seared tuna (\$24) served with fingerling potatoes, asparagus, tomatoes, olives, and truffle vinaigrette was a bit of a letdown, however. In essence a Niçoise salad, it was dominated by truffle flavor and lacked balanced acidity. I would have preferred a simple citrus vinaigrette, perhaps with a hint of chile (which Saucedo uses masterfully). The extensive wine list is a bit California-centric, but changes are on the way, since Saucedo's goal is to offer better pairings for the food. For dessert we had an avocado tres leches cake so incredibly delicious that I asked for seconds – and I usually skip dessert.

RESTAURANT
reviews

Urban's lunch menu offers light fare: pizza, salads, sandwiches, and small entrées. The cornmeal-crusted fried green tomatoes filled with warm Gouda and *piquillo* peppers (\$8) could make a light meal paired with a cup of soup. I was thankfully swayed by the sweet, oceanic jumbo scallops (\$14) sautéed in sage brown butter, served with a petit salad of hearts of palm, arugula, and white grapefruit segments. A glass of Hook and Ladder Gewürztraminer was the perfect accompaniment with its citrusy, mineral palate. The weekday-afternoon "My 512" happy hour offers a great deal with appetizers, signature cocktails, and local beers at special prices. From the cocktail menu – in which each bartender is credited for their creations – I absolutely loved the Pear Prosecco, made with fresh pear and brown sugar house-made syrup topped with amaretto and Prosecco, garnished with a thin slice of pear spread with mascarpone cheese and roasted nuts. Bar nibbles include a beautifully presented tuna tartare (\$5), minced and tossed with a sesame-Sriracha aioli, layered with finely diced yellow tomato and avocado; tailgate chicken tenders (\$5), beer-battered and served with hot-sauce-laced ranch dressing; and a pure-meat-no-filling lump crab cake (\$12) with avocado, micro-cilantro, and Dynamite sauce (another spicy mayo). The bar itself is elegant, ample, comfortable, and expertly tended.

Our visit for Sunday brunch didn't disappoint, either. The cute lox sliders (\$3 each), honey-wheat minimuffins topped with smoked salmon, fried quail eggs, spinach, and citrus hollandaise, are like miniature eggs Benedict. The humongous Urbanburger (\$12) is cooked to specified temperature and topped with barbecue sauce, onions, poblano peppers, and crimini mushrooms, served with salt-and-pepper fries. It left me in a meat coma, while my husband swore that the Big Biscuit (\$12), topped with creamy scrambled eggs, duck confit, chorizo, and bacon gravy, could probably cure even the worst hangover. Add a bloody beer made with homemade mix, and you're good to go for an afternoon of football on the couch.

My only complaint about Urban is that service is not quite there yet. Though the young staff is polite and eager, they obviously need more training, especially when it comes to wine sales. For example, when a diner asks, "Is the Gewürztraminer



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

dry or sweet?" the correct answer is, "Let me bring you a taste," instead of "I'm not a wine drinker." But given the recent changes, we can let that go for now, especially since we liked the food and ambience, and chef Saucedo is sure to guide the ship in the right direction.

– Claudia Alarcón



Southern Hospitality Catering & Dining

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www.sohosfoods.us

For a restaurant reviewer, the possibility of turning the public on to an undiscovered gem is just too irresistible to pass up. So when a reader e-mailed me raving about the fried catfish he'd enjoyed at a well-hidden little breakfast and lunch spot

near Mitchie's Gallery, I was intrigued. Finding the Southern Hospitality cafe tucked into a big North Austin business park required some hunting, but I soon discovered that the cozy eatery is aptly named. Proprietors Gail and Fred Warren are a friendly and hardworking young couple who know how to make their customers feel right at home. After his military career, Fred Warren spent many years working in institutional food service, most recently on the Huston-Tillotson campus. Now he's parlayed those years of experience into his own operation. Currently, Southern Hospitality serves breakfast and lunch weekdays, and the Warrens are available for on- and off-site catering on nights and weekends.

The affordable breakfast menu, available from 7 to 10am, includes breakfast tacos (\$1.59), sandwiches (\$1.79-2.59), French toast (\$2.79), and a big breakfast plate with eggs, potatoes, sausage, and a biscuit (\$3.99). At lunch, the regular menu features entrées, sandwiches, and a burger, as well as a fully-stocked, economical all-you-can-eat buffet (\$7.99) with two meat options that change daily, plus fresh salads, many (vegetarian) vegetable side dishes, pasta, and rice. Tuesday's buffet offers fried chicken and meat loaf, both worthy choices. Fred Warren's fried chicken is the real deal – bone-in breasts, thighs, wings, and drumsticks in a crackling golden-brown crust. The lean and hearty meat loaf has plenty of beefy flavor

but could benefit from the enhancement of a tomato sauce or mushroom gravy, in my opinion. We paired these meats with creamy mac and cheese, toothsome sautéed carrots, crunchy green beans, and white rice. We finished off the meal with moist slices of lemon-coconut and chocolate Bundt cake (\$1.79) – sweet and homey, perfect in keeping with the overall comfort food theme.

We returned for the catfish buffet on another visit and ate a pile of thin, crisp fillets with house-made tartar sauce, corn, buttery stewed cabbage, sautéed mushrooms, and spinach. The vegetables here are seasoned simply, each dish maintaining its texture and integrity. As much as we enjoyed the catfish, the highlight of that meal turned out to be the chicken and dumplings my guest ordered from the regular lunch menu. It's a soul-satisfying bowl of tender poached chunks of white meat bathed in a rich, creamy chicken broth with soft, flat dumpling pillows. At a mere \$3.99, this 10-ounce bowl of down-home goodness served with a buttery dinner roll is a sure contender for the best under-\$5 lunch in town.

The food at Southern Hospitality is simple and straightforward, satisfying and reasonably priced. The Warrens will treat you like a member of the family and send you back to work with a full stomach and money left in your wallet. Seek them out.

– Virginia B. Wood

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DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: BIKINIS SPORTS BAR & GRILL Some say the mini hamburgers here are the best in town. Happy hour draws a crowd, and so do the 31 TVs for the sports set. 214 E. Sixth, 469-0001. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: LEAF Get your healthy, fresh, gourmet entrée salads in a fast, casual environment. They're made with a commitment to local farmers, vendors, and the environment. Lunchtime delivery is available. 419 W. Second, 474-LEAF. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: LITTLE CITY This popular Downtown coffee shop, informally known as Itty Bitty City, has a vast drink selection and happy hour specials, plus a top-notch bakery. 916 Congress, 476-CITY. \$

BARBECUE: LAMBERTS Offering steaks, chops, seafood, and barbecue, this 2nd Street District spot caught on fast, which may have something to do with the live music upstairs almost every night. 401 W. Second, 494-1500. \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: THE BOILING POT Sample fresh, boiled seafood of every variety: shrimp, blue crabs, and crawfish (in season), as well as boudin, gumbo, oysters on the half shell, and red beans and rice. 700 E. Sixth, 472-0985. \$\$

FINE DINING, FRENCH: AQUARELLE RESTAURANT FRANÇAIS With its quietly understated atmosphere, traditional French service, and preparations using fresh, local ingredients, this is a special-occasion place with china, crystal, and romantically dim lighting. 606 Rio Grande, 479-8117. \$\$\$\$

FINE DINING, SOUTHWESTERN: ROARING FORK The rustic decor - stone, metal, leather, and antlers - and hearty Western entrées with robust side dishes welcome carnivores. 701 Congress, 583-0000. \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: CANTINA LAREDO Here you'll find daily fish specials, enchiladas of every sort, and steaks complemented by signature sauces. Sunday brunch includes migas and chilaquiles. 201 W. Third, 542-9670. \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: MARIA MARIA Carlos Santana's Mexican eatery draws a crowd. The multiregional cuisines of Mexico shine here. 415 Colorado, 687-6800. \$\$

EAST

BARBECUE: FRANKLIN BARBECUE This cute trailer tucked behind Owl Tree Roasting vendors slow-flamed pulled pork and brisket, and the espresso barbecue sauce is a tasty nod to its neighbor. Try the home-made banana pudding. A "meltingly porky" lunch, indeed. 3421 N. I-35, 653-1187. \$

AFRICAN: KARIBU ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT & BAR Go ahead and get the beef tartare or the cubed lamb; you'll still end up eating more than your fair share of the gomen prepared with collard greens and cabbage. 1209 E. Seventh, 320-5454. \$\$

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

AMERICAN CAFE: THE GOOD KNIGHT The mixology here is right-on and so is the menu. Its 14 items, including meat loaf and fried tomatoes, transcend typical bar fare. 1300 E. Sixth, 628-1250. \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: NUBIAN QUEEN LOLA'S CAJUN SOUL FOOD KITCHEN A proprietress as friendly as her food is good serves up huge portions of burgers and Cajun chow from a succinct menu. The dining room is communal and friendly, and Lola is a blessing. 1815 Rosewood, 474-5652. \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: ZANDUNGA MEXICAN BISTRO Mi Madre's sister restaurant is a more adventurous eatery with an ambitious menu full of intriguing takes on modern Interior Mexican cuisine, and a small but well-designed wine and beer list. 1000 E. 11th, 473-4199. \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: CAFE 290 This Manor stalwart has taken traditional road-house food to a delicious new level. Try the green eggs and ham, but don't miss the comfort food for lunch and dinner. 11011 Hwy. 290 E., Manor, 512/278-8780. \$\$

TEX-MEX: PACO'S TACOS Mueller denizens can make it a dog-walk to this new purveyor of breakfast tacos. 1304 E. 51st, 323-6206. \$

TEX-MEX: PORFIRIO'S TACOS is a taco shop serving breakfast and lunch. Carne guisada is the specialty. The green salsa might take some getting used to. 1512 Holly, 476-5030. \$

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE, BREW AND FOOD: NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Start with a beer-tasting tray, and then move on to roasted garlic bulbs with goat cheese and bacon-wrapped scallops before the salmon, duck, or tenderloin entrée. If you've missed Cask Night, you can still get beer to go. 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE STEEPING ROOM Tearooms are making a comeback, just in time for moist cupcakes and delicate tea sandwiches. You'll find a selection of small plates, salads, and daily soups here as well. The Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace #112, 97-STEEP. \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: MAMA ROUX The decor evokes casual Crescent City eateries, and the food doesn't disappoint. You'll find an affordable menu and generous portions of New Orleans favorites. 13000 N. I-35 #600, 490-1304. \$\$

CHINESE: DIN HO CHINESE BBQ has a menu long on fresh seafood and meat, all authentically prepared and priced right. Try roast or Beijing duck, Chinese barbecue pork, whole roast pigs, hot pots, and more. Get it to go, or eat there. 8557 Research #116, 832-8788. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, PIZZA: RUDINO'S PIZZA & GRINDERS People rave about the grinders: New England-style toasted sandwiches with bread baked on site. This place uses only fresh ingredients. 11521 FM 620, 258-4900. \$

FINE DINING: MAIN STREET GRILL The warm wood and interior columns refer to its former life as a small-town bank of this elegant oasis. It's complete with a wine cellar in the intact vault. 118 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/244-7525. \$\$\$\$

INDIAN: SHALIMAR RESTAURANT offers Pakistani food that's second to none and a *karahi gosht* that'll really get your goat. You can try the buffet, but it's even better to take a chance on the menu items. 9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700. \$\$

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

SEAFOOD: OPAL DIVINE'S MARINA This menu features some seasonal seafood items in addition to your favorite divine staples. 12709 MoPac N., 733-5353. \$\$

VIETNAMESE: TÂM DELI & CAFE serves authentic and exquisitely crafted Viet noodle-house fare. Don't skip the shrimp-and-yam cakes or the cream puffs. The *bánh mì* is okay. Nice portions, good service, and low prices. 8222 N. Lamar Ste. D-33, 834-6458. \$

NORTH CENTRAL

BURGER JOINT: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this longtime no-frills restaurant. Try the chicken-fried steak. 5420 Airport, 453-8772. \$

FINE DINING: VINO VINO Comfy decor, great wines, surprisingly good food, and reasonable prices keep everybody coming back. 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282. \$\$

JAPANESE, KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN The sushi and Korean dishes are as good as ever. Try the *banchan* tidbits, noodle dishes, or grill Korean barbecue at your table. 6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149. \$\$

KOREAN: CHOSUN GALBI Located near Highland Mall, this neighborhood favorite serves up Korean barbecue as well as noodles, soups, and a good selection of vegetarian options. Try the Gal Bi Jjim. 713 E. Huntland, 419-1400. \$\$

PAN-ASIAN: MAMA FU'S ASIAN HOUSE AT THE TRIANGLE Drop by this chain to eat in or take out; the ingredients are fresh, and the service is great. *The Triangle*, 46th & Guadalupe, 637-6773. \$\$

PIZZA: THE PARLOR HYDE PARK The jukebox may be different, but expect the same fresh, innovative pizzas at this outpost of the popular spot on North Loop. 4301-B Guadalupe, 323-0440. \$

RAW, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: DAILY JUICE CAFE Looking for a healthy brunch? Everything on the menu here is composed of raw vegetable matter of one kind or another. 4500 Duval St., 380-9046. \$

TEX-MEX: FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO Fresh ingredients, the patented Bad Ass BBQ Sauce, and a fun, casual atmosphere make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when the line is out the door. 1000 E. 41st #260, 451-5514. \$

SOUTH

CHINESE: CHINA EMPEROR Definitely try the General Tso's chicken, a standout with a sinus-clearing spice rating. The hot-and-sour soup also leaves a pleasant, peppery afterburn. 111 W. William Cannon #312, 443-2922. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JO'S This is the best people-watching spot in the 78704. The usual coffees and lattes, as well as a selection of baked goods, provide context for the best fried pies in town. 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800. \$

INDIAN: INDIA KITCHEN Keep going back for the buffet, but try some things off the menu, where you'll find Indian food for the aficionado. The tandoor-baked breads may be the best in town. 2410 E. Riverside Ste. D-4, 448-7773. \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: CILANTRO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT This tiny restaurant serves tasty Mexican home cooking in a cozy, no-frills atmosphere. Not to be missed are the *tacos doblados* and the fabulous home-made flan. No liquor, but you can BYOB. 1025 W. Stassney #103, 707-1207. \$\$

ITALIAN, TAKEOUT: ENOTECA VESPAIO Customers have come away raving about the delicious house-cured meats, the imported cheeses, and the marvelous pastries: handmade artisan food at its finest. 1610 S. Congress, 441-7672. \$\$

PUB GRUB: 1ST DOWN AND STASSNEY SPORTS BAR & GRILL You can be assured this spot's got the game on and serves a huge menu. Try a Training Camp salad. 730 W. Stassney #120, 215-0600. \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HILL'S CAFE has been around (off and on) since 1947 and is well-known not just for its chicken-fried steak and barbecue but for some big music in a small space. 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300. \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL MERCADO A very happy hour and 99-cent appetizers are nestled in this neon rain forest. 1302 S. First, 447-7445. \$\$

TEX-MEX: TORCHY'S TACOS The crowds gathering at all hours attest to the loyal following Torchy's has developed. Try the Little Nookies: deep-fried chocolate-chip cookies. 1311 S. First, 366-0537. \$

LAKE

BARBECUE: OPIE'S BARBECUE Get there in a hurry, because the pork chops go fast. The usual sides of coleslaw, beans, and potato salad keep them company. 125-A Spur 191, Spicewood, 830/693-8660. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: THE MARKET AT STEINER RANCH may look like a neighborhood convenience grocery, but inside, there's a chef-run delicatessen specializing in premium quality hot and cold deli sandwiches, soups, deli salads, catering, and gourmet meals-to-go. 4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd. #120, 266-8808. \$

ITALIAN: RUSSO'S RESTAURANT The brainchild of a New Jersey native desperate for good Italian food, this spot features the freshest Texas ingredients prepared Italian-style. Also, it's home to the most romantic view in town. 602 Steve Hawkins Pkwy., Marble Falls, 830/693-7091. \$\$

UT

AMERICAN CAFE, BREW AND FOOD: HOLE IN THE WALL Music: It's not just for breakfast anymore. Beer is, though, with the selection you'll find here. Have a burger or Frito pie at one of the picnic tables in back. 2538 Guadalupe. \$

BREW AND FOOD: CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Enjoy the reliably delicious meat and veggie burgers and great seasoned fries with any of the reasonably priced beers on tap. 2911 San Jacinto, 322-9168. \$

BURGER JOINT: FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES Fresh ground beef is the base for big and little burgers, cheeseburgers, and bacon cheeseburgers, available with a wide variety of free toppings. 3208-B Guadalupe, 452-4300. \$

CHINESE: SUN HING Kung Pao, General Tso's, and other American-Chinese standbys are served up inexpensively. 2801 Guadalupe #4, 478-6504. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, MEDITERRANEAN: FLYING FALAFEL & PO-BOYS The Haddad family serves up some Mediterranean/Cajun fusion that will make a regular out of you. Try the Chicken Mensef. 2001 Guadalupe Ste. A-1, 494-1400. \$

ITALIAN, PIZZA: MILTO'S This longtime UT-area institution serves both Italian and Greek specialties. The weekday lunch specials are both filling and cheap. 2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021. \$\$

JAPANESE: SUSHI NIICHI EXPRESS This no-frills sushi spot will satisfy your wasabi cravings. Be sure to stop next door for bubble tea at Momoko. 705-B W. 24th, 469-0499. \$\$

MIDDLE EASTERN: KISMET CAFE serves Mediterranean-American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads, making it a quick campus-area halal option. 411 W. 24th, 236-1811. \$\$

PIZZA: CONANS PIZZA Try thick, cheesy Chicago deep-dish by the slice or pie at the original location. The lunch buffet will fill your stomach without emptying your wallet. 603 W. 29th, 478-5712. \$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, BREW AND FOOD, PUB GRUB: COVER 3 takes the sports bar menu to a new level with offerings such as green chile and beef nachos, jumbo North American scallops, and chicken-fried beef tips. The beer selection is terrific. 2700 W. Anderson #202, 374-1121. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: RONNIE'S REAL FOOD BISTRO You have to get a move on to make the 7 o'clock seating, but the unique and reasonably priced menu is worth the rush. Reservations are required, so call ahead. 205 S. Commons Ford #2, 402-9900. \$\$\$

BARBECUE: THE PIT BARBEQUE serves up barbecue plates and sandwiches at the counter, plus changing daily specials. 4707 Burnet Rd., 453-6464. \$

CHINESE: SUZI'S CHINA GRILL & SUSHI BAR offers normally priced Chinese food that manages to surpass the mundane, sometimes by a good bit. Vegetarians, try the eggplant in garlic sauce, but make sure you specify "without pork." 7858 Shoal Creek Blvd., 302-4600. \$\$\$

FINE DINING, SOUTH AMERICAN: EL ARBOL Try the icy, sweet *caipirinha*, the house specialty made from *cachaça*, lime, and sugar, then delve into steaks, grilled meats, and empanadas, as well as lesser-known Argentine favorites such as *matambre*, a flank steak pinwheelled with spinach, carrots, and egg. 3411 Glenview, 323-5177. \$\$

INDIAN: SAROVAR INDIAN CUISINE This North Austin restaurant offers the most extensive Indian menu in the city with pages of North and South Indian specialties. 8440 Burnet Rd. #100, 454-8636. \$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: TINOS GREEK CAFE is Northwest Austin's gift to the Greek culinary gods. Great prices and portions are served from a cafeteria line, with oodles of choices for carnivores and vegetarians alike. 13450 Research, 336-5999. \$\$

PIZZA: REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE The drive up Research may be tedious, but Reale's is much closer than the East Coast pizzerias that it accurately approximates. 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115. \$\$

See full listings for these restaurants and thousands of others - reviews, awards, current listings, links to coupons, and more - at austinchronicle.com/restaurant.

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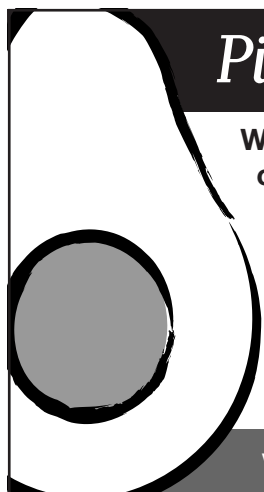
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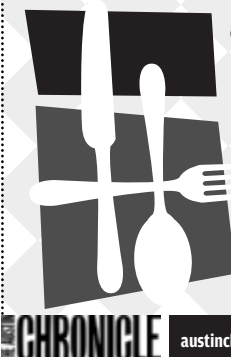
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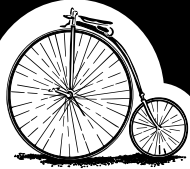
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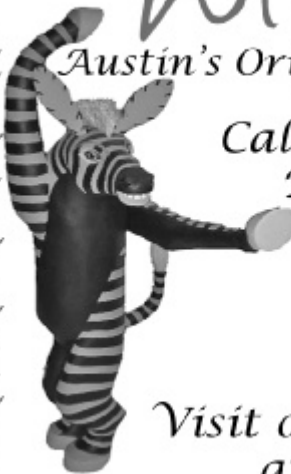
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screens

BUMPY RIDE

Is 'Carnival Magic' the weirdest movie ever made for kids?

BY MARC SAVLOV

In the beginning, circa 1981, *Carnival Magic* was supposed to be a "kids' film:" whimsical, entertaining, semiprofitable. In the end, *Carnival Magic* screened barely at all; those who saw it were, shall we say, permanently nervous in the company of chimpanzees; and the film's director, Al Adamson, went missing, along with the film. Adamson wasn't known for his facility with children's films. He was a gutter auteur prone to cranking out drive-in and grindhouse fodder with rock 'em, shock 'em titles like *Psycho a Go-Go*, *Satan's Sadists*, and *The Naughty Stewardesses* (not to mention its follow-up, *Blazing Stewardesses*).

After trading his cinemania for a more prosaic life in real estate following the lukewarm-to-non-existent reception of this, his one and only kids' film, Adamson was later found murdered by a building contractor, his corpse entombed in cement beneath a new Jacuzzi. It was an ignoble end to an already spectacularly weird career, and the only existing print of *Carnival Magic* was presumed lost as well.

But strange things happen.

"I didn't know about the movie until I already owned it," explains Alamo Drafthouse programmer Zack Carlson, who, as he says, stole a print of the film from his then-workplace, a fourth-run, dollar theatre in Olympia, Wash., that

was closing. "Actually, my friend Jarod Warren, the projectionist, took it. It was an entire movie on one giant reel, and written on the side of it, in Sharpie, it said 'Carnival fucking Magic.'"

Cut to a month or so later: Carlson and friends screen the one-reel wonder for a handful of friends. "It completely decimated everyone. We couldn't understand what the movie was, because although it's made under the guise of a children's film, it features domestic abuse, vivisection, and, even more uncomfortably, it just has this pervasive air of stale, alcoholic uncles. It's the most quietly inappropriate kids' movie ever made. You can tell it was made by people who have never spent

any time around children."

Yes, but people who knew that if there's anything kids love more than borderline salacious dialogue, it's border-

line salacious dialogue delivered by a magical talking chimpanzee with a brassiere fetish.

Elvin Feltner, the film's producer and the man who penned its inscrutable five-page story treatment, is one of those people. Feltner, then as now the Florida-based owner of the largest independent film copyright library in the world – including such non-42nd Street fare as Frank Capra's *Meet John Doe* and Merchant Ivory's *The Bostonians* – considers himself a force for family entertainment in

Carnival Magic screens Wednesday, Dec. 15, 11:55pm at the Alamo at the Ritz (320 E. Sixth). Producer Elvin Feltner will be in attendance.



A trainer gets mauled in *Carnival Magic*.

a world where G- and PG-rated films are no longer the norm – hence his involvement with the innocuously titled *Carnival Magic*. (As it turns out, Feltner has nine other prints of Adamson's film, a fact which has done nothing to diminish Carlson's enthusiasm.)

"Some magazines in the Eighties called me the 'best new force for family entertainment,'" Feltner says, adding that he has "tried to do that all along. I think there's enough garbage in the media. It's kind of nice to have a film that's kind of uplifting and fun to enjoy."

Carnival Magic, like counting carnies' teeth and riding Tilt-a-Whirls on Robitussin, is nothing if not fun. (Film Chest/Vigil Films & Entertainment will release *Carnival Magic* on

DVD and Blu-ray on Jan. 25.) Populated by a ramshackle cast (including *Maniac Cop 2*'s Joe Cirillo and *Guiding Light* stalwart Don Stewart) and possessed of a scuzzy, desperate undertone that's at once awful and awe-inspiring, this just might be the strangest film Adamson ever made.

"I had planned on making a sequel," Feltner explains. "I was going to use the same cast and make something along the lines of *Babe: Pig in the City*, but with a chimp. It didn't happen."

"It's really a special movie," Carlson adds. "It's stunted and outrageously limited in many ways, but all the better for it. It's a beautiful example of somebody doing the wrong thing." ■



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by David Thomson
Knopf, 1,088 pp., \$40

There's a certain unbendingness to film criticism, at least the kind of criticism that codas in a star rating or letter grade. But Roger Ebert – co-originator of that most famous of movie reviewer shorthands, the thumbs-up and -down – isn't embarrassed to admit when he got it wrong. In this third collection of his "Great Movies" essays (previously published on the *Chicago Sun-Times* website), Ebert reassesses classic films, which sometimes means redressing wrongheaded early reads (*Killer of Sheep* and *Last Tango in Paris*' Maria Schneider, for instance, are both rehabilitated here). That's a rare quality in a film critic, but that term – its exclusivity

– doesn't begin to contain the kind of writer Ebert has blossomed into since post-surgery complications in 2006 rendered him unable to speak. Since then, he's become an indefatigable blogger, producing sprawling think pieces – intimate without the ickiness of the confessional – on everything from Darwinism and the defense of elitism to alcoholism and, somewhat famously, the questionable quality of video games. Film scholar David Bordwell, who writes the foreword to *Great Movies III*, gets the closest to articulating Ebert's evolution into a cultural commentator: He calls him a "man of letters." Besides having the pleasing ring of the Algonquin Round Table about it (and one suspects Ebert could easily hold his bon-mot own with that crowd), "man of letters" also gets at the expansiveness of Ebert's interests and the nuts-and-bolts precision of his craft. His retelling of Meryl Streep's comic high point in *Adaptation*, in which she "ingests an obscure Indian

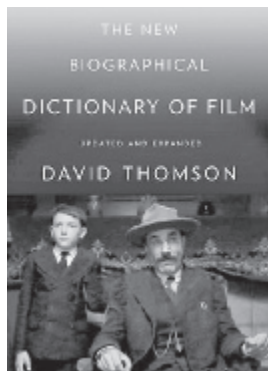
drug, wriggles her toes, and does a phone tone duet," is as delightfully spry as the scene it describes, and he shows Wildean wit with his estimation of Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*: "That Hepburn did not do her own singing obscures her triumph, which is that she did her own acting." His has a deceptively conversational style – the

kind you might call readable if that word didn't now whiff of dismissiveness. Scrap readable, then; substitute vibrant and vital.

David Thomson is another titan in the field, albeit a far more curmudgeonly one. Indeed, one of the great pleasures of *The New Biographical Dictionary of*

Film is its author's prickliness. (He ruthlessly dispatched Wes Anderson in the 2002 edition thusly: "Watch this space. What does that mean? That he might be something one day.") For this fifth edition (the first one came out in 1975), Thomson has updated the 1,000-plus pre-existing entries and added 130 more. Yes, Anderson

warrants more than 14 cutting words this time around. But the omission of key women in film, especially contemporary artists, continues to rankle. Notably absent: Lisa Cholodenko, Nicole Holofcener, Catherine Breillat, Tamara Jenkins, Barbara Kopple, Deepa Mehta, and Julie Taymor. And though the rightfully lauded editor Walter Murch gets an entry, his contemporaries Dede Allen (*Bonnie and Clyde*) and Thelma Schoonmaker (Scorcese's longtime collaborator) don't make the cut. Gripes aside – and, truly, Thomson himself is a griper par excellence – *The New Biographical Dictionary of Film* is indispensable, not to mention legitimately fun for any cineaste. It's a rabbit hole kind of read, wherein a quick skim of, say, Frederic March's filmography will send the reader capering over to check out his *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* director Rouben Mamoulian, who's two entries away from Joseph Mankiewicz, who wrote *A Letter to Three Wives*, and that might get a person thinking about Max Ophüls' *Letter From an Unknown Woman* ... until two hours later you find yourself glassy-eyed on Peter Ustinov's page, gorged on film. But what a feast. – Kimberley Jones



Thinking App

Locally developed brain game 'Qrank' gets competitive

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

Sports and games might push the human animal to its greatest physical and mental feats, but they also tend to bring out the worst interpersonal tendencies of players. Head-butting, board-upending, tantrum-throwing, and vitriolic Twittering are all part and parcel of real, American competition of varying modes. When it comes to quiz games, it's arguably most important to make sure that the person next to you knows who is mentally superior.

What's stopped many electronic quiz games from capitalizing on the *Trivial Pursuit* crowd is the inability to let others understand just how completely familiar you are with the works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, baseball pitchers of the Seventies, or obscure Academy Award winners. These days, thanks to the fine folks at Austin-based Ricochet Labs and their Facebook/iPhone app *Qrank* (pronounced like the slang word for illegal amphetamines), you can post your score on Facebook for all your friends to see or, for the classier ilk, let the leaderboards speak for themselves.

To understand *Qrank* and why it's rocketed from an Austinite to an American obsession in mere months, first you'll need to download the free app to your Facebook page or iPhone (other smart phones will receive *Qrank* support in the coming months). Choose 15 of the 20 questions separated into such categories as entertainment, sports, literature, and politics, with material often ripped from the previous day's headlines. Harder questions are worth more points, so, for truly impressive scores, stay away from the easy ones. They're beneath you anyway. Each question has four options, and the sooner you choose the right answer, the more points you get. Finger warm-ups are recommended. Use the *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire*-inspired power-ups to help

you along the way. Now, the score is tallied up and placed in the hierarchy of intelligentsia, wherein a sense of self-worth will be either bolstered or dashed. Taking the top spot on the leaderboard is no mean feat, considering there are 200,000 users clawing their way up the ranks. After that there's waiting until the next daily game, where you can defend your crown, redeem yourself, or solidify your residence in Idiotopolis.

"There's something about going head-to-head with someone you admire or respect or hate," says Rodney Gibbs, CEO of Ricochet Labs. "I've had five dozen people say, 'I play every day because I want to beat [Texas Tribune CEO and Editor] Evan Smith.'" The desire to outsmart local notables and national personalities is something that struck Gibbs at the game's release during South by Southwest 2010. The release party was called "The Astronaut vs. the Monkey" and pitted local gaming legend and rocketman Richard Garriott against Mike Nesmith of the Monkees. Gibbs also called in a favor to old college pal and Alamo Drafthouse founder Tim League to participate.

Qrank's creation owes an even greater debt to the Drafthouse in that the movie-house's short-lived trivia game Mondo Trivia – complete with buttons between seats to input answers – was instructive in terms of what works and what doesn't work. In: Event- and location-specific trivia works. Hard-wiring individual seats and trying to get questions from a third party not accustomed to such high demand does *not* work. Other lessons Gibbs learned: Trivia heads are hardcore. They will attend every night if the questions are fresh. This led directly to the daily updates that set *Qrank* apart from most other quiz apps, which come preloaded with questions. That means when they run out of

QCRANK



Max's Tips for Better Qranking

Daily Content Editor Max Pozderac shares a portion of his seemingly endless tricks of the quizzing trade.

It's Better To Be Right Than Quick: "Read the question and read the answer choices instead of just picking the one that feels right."

"Read a Fucking Paper": "It's the easiest thing to be moderately informed."

Check the Hints: "You don't have to friend us. You don't have to follow us. You don't even have to be on Twitter. Just Google *Qrank* and Twitter, and we give away two hints."



JOHN ANDERSON

questions, you're out of luck. With *Qrank*, you just cool your heels for 24 hours.

Believe it or not, there are those who don't want to use quiz games solely to humiliate the people they love. Various organizations have contacted Ricochet Labs hoping to use *Qrank* for their own unique purposes. Test prep companies want it to engage their clients, universities are looking to take rivalries to the next level by pitting whole schools against one another, and even researchers working for the U.S. Department of Education want Ricochet Labs to help make an anti-drug quiz. (The irony of a game called *Qrank* being used to deter drug use is not lost on Gibbs.)

But what if the person next to you is waxing intelligent and you want to put them in their place right then and there? *Qrank* is the app for that, too. Sync with nearby folks and challenge them to one of the quizzes that start every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day. Find a *Qrank* spot around town, or just create your own wherever you are and start insulting the brain capacities of strangers to encourage other players to join. And just like that, you've made your very own quiz contest in the break room at work or in line at the DMV.

If strangers and co-workers aren't giving you a challenge, the real trivia-minded come out to places and businesses that host quiz nights using *Qrank*. Home Slice Pizza has weekly games, and the Texas Tribune hosts a monthly event that draws 80 to 100 people (likely all looking to put the mental smackdown on Evan Smith).

The overlord of *Qrank* questions is Daily Content Editor Max Pozderac. The brain-burners come from three places: a trivia warehouse for the general questions; Pozderac, who writes the current-event questions; and the suggestions of players. Questions can be submitted online, but please remember, as Pozderac puts it so eloquently, "There's a difference between a trivia question and a trivial question." In other words, keep the *Harry Potter* minutiae to yourself. Gibbs recalls how Pozderac worked his way from star *Qrank* player to king of questions: "He was just a player and a trivia nut. He plays trivia all over town. He started submitting questions unsolicited. He said he was looking for an internship, so we said come on in." After a few months on the job, Pozderac got a feel for what players don't like. For one, theme games. People like their trivia general and not all about sharks (as Ricochet Labs did for Shark Week). Turns out that sports earns the title of most contentious category, with people either complaining about its inclusion or bemoaning the absence of a category that gives enthusiasts an edge.

Gibbs is looking into adding channels to the game through partnerships with the media. A sports quiz brought to you by *Sports Illustrated*? *Entertainment Weekly* presents an all-movie quiz? Nothing is certain, but the possibilities are there, and Gibbs is exploring them all.

Unlike so many apps that ingratiate themselves onto your phone or Facebook page with the goal of doing nothing more than trying to keep you playing for as long as possible, *Qrank* requires just a few minutes a day and players (hopefully) finish feeling smarter than when they started. If you don't, prepare to hear the heckling tomorrow. ■



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Zeroing in on a ZIP Code

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

This is the time of year when thoughts of family, friends, and faith come to the forefront. Pop culture teaches us that this season is either full of idyllic wonder or something to morosely trudge through. The truth, I suspect, is somewhere in the middle. Which is why I'd like to nominate **45365** as another of the must-watch films during this holiday season: It hits all the notes about home and family and place just right. The independent film – by first-time directors and brothers **Bill Ross IV** and **Turner Ross** – screens as the next *Independent Lens* feature on PBS.

No, there aren't any sleigh bells ringing or angels visiting the small town of Sidney, Ohio, the Ross brothers' hometown and the centerpiece of their film (the title of which is Sidney's ZIP code). Most of all, there is no droll voiceover or pushy score to remind us how we're supposed to feel. All we receive are images and ambient sound. People do speak – with amazing candor, it seems – which is a testament to the insider access the filmmakers had with the people and places of their hometown. But it's what's said in the silences that makes the film so incredibly fascinating, funny, magical, and ultimately moving.

Filmed over nine months, the Ross brothers take their camera all over Sidney, capturing

what some might call the unseemly (there's a straight-out-of-Cops moment in which a bare-chested man is arrested), alongside the congenial (as when a gathering of elderly women at a nursing home discusses their needs and likes in men – and I don't think they're talking about having someone around to open a stubborn jar or kill a spider). All the subjects are treated with evenhanded respect and dignity.

There are many familiar and endearing images for anyone who grew up in the Midwest; the film takes flight when the camera settles its gaze on the otherwise ordinary and reveals another layer, and then another. I suspect these moments occur for viewers at various places, but I know that my first moment came when watching children flying through the air on a carnival ride at night. Magical! Another moment was listening to the bare-chested man in the back of the squad car, speaking to the cop who'd just arrested him. I can't even tell you why it's touching – it's something like when a distant relative or stranger is able to reveal his truths to you but is unable to articulate the same to his intimates. That the Ross brothers captured these moments is nothing short of remarkable.

45365 won the 2009 Documentary Feature Grand Jury Award at the South by Southwest Film Festival as well as the Chaz and Roger Ebert Truer Than Fiction Award at the 2010 Independent Spirit Awards. "[T]his achingly beautiful film ... evokes what *Winesburg, Ohio* might have looked like as a documentary," Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* wrote. I couldn't have said it better myself.

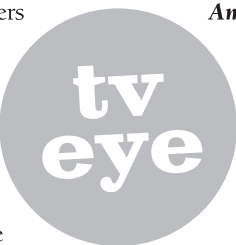
45365 airs Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 9pm on PBS. Later this month, PBS broadcasts *The Calling*. I've only seen the first part of this two-part event, and I can't wait for more.

Unlike the well-meaning but turgid *God in America* (which you can watch online at www.pbs.org), *The Calling* follows seven contemporary Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Muslim Americans who have heard the call of their faith and are determining the best way to follow their individual paths.

"The United States is one of the most religiously observant and spiritually diverse countries in the world," the film's press materials point out, "yet mainstream media has surprisingly underrepresented the significance of faith in the U.S. Pluralism has been explored almost exclusively in terms of race and culture, while explorations of faith



45365 presents slices of life in Sidney, Ohio.



often focus on scandals or extremism." Very true, which is why this nuanced, intimate, and sincere film is so enormously engaging.

More on this two-part, four-hour screening in next week's "TV Eye."

As always, stay tuned.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

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

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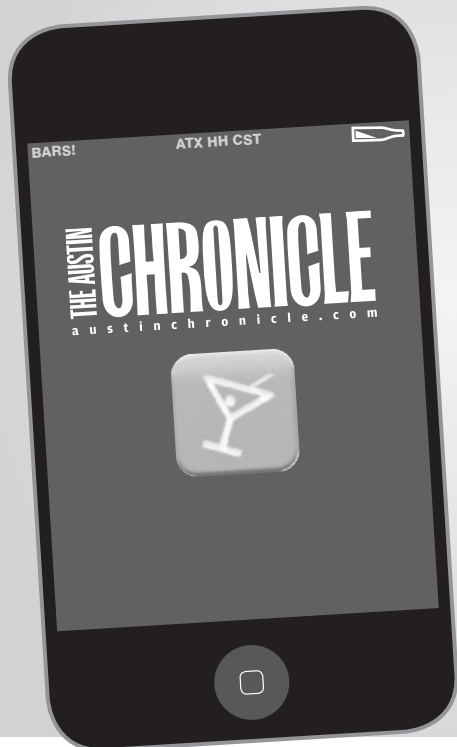
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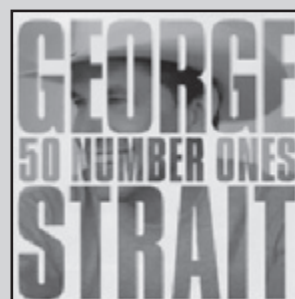
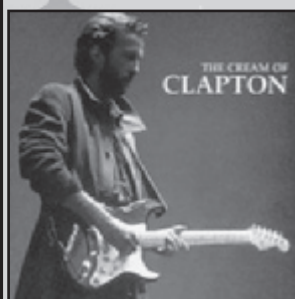
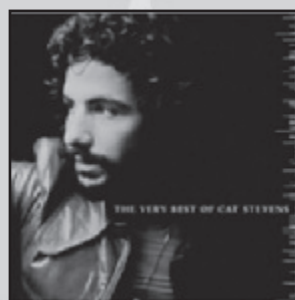
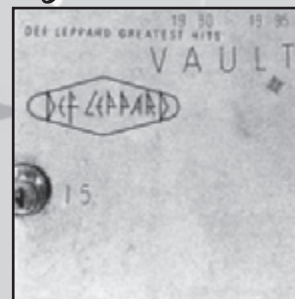
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OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

Not Fade Away

"As much as it's really, truly an honor to be considered for a **Grammy**," says **Will Sheff**, the day after being nominated for Best Album Notes for **Roky Erickson** with **Okkervil River's True Love Cast Out All Evil**, "it feels misplaced. The record is a tribute to Roky, his incredible songs, and his incredible performances. It should be all about him." Even so, it was Sheff's scholarly apprenticeship and patient, respectful guidance that made the **Rokkervil** collaboration such a rousing success (see "Please Judge," April 16). All told, 43 Texas-born or -based acts received a total of 54 Grammy nominations, a generous sum that includes nods to **Miranda Lambert** (five), the **Arcade Fire** (three), and **Beyoncé** (two). The usual suspects will also be accounted for at the 53rd annual award ceremony in February: **Willie Nelson** (Best Americana Album, *Country Music*), **Jimmie Vaughan** (Best Traditional Blues Album, *Plays Blues, Ballads & Favorites*), former Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Pinetop Perkins** (Best Traditional Blues Album, the **Willie "Big Eyes" Smith**-assisted *Joined at the Hip*), and **Patty Griffin**, who has two chances to win – Best Traditional Gospel Album for *Downtown Church* and Best Americana Album, as a part of **Robert Plant's Band of Joy**. On a more DIY front, local studio wizard **Erik Wofford** bolsters his résumé as mastering engi-



Wolfgang Gartner

neer for **Grupo Fantasma's El Existential**, which is up for Best Latin Rock, Alternative or Urban Album, while **Sara Hickman** contributed two selections to *Healthy Food for Thought: Good Enough To Eat* (Best Spoken Word Album for Children), and the **Black Angels** were featured on *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*, nominated for Best Compilation Soundtrack. Aside from cross-cultural Tejano act **Tortilla Factory**, perhaps the most surprising nod went to **Wolfgang Gartner**, a local DJ who's worked with the **Black Eyed Peas**, **Britney Spears**, and **Deadmau5**. He's up for Best Remixed Recording, Non-Classical, via his treatment of **Andy Caldwell's** "Funk Nasty," a house single from a few years back that was edited and re-released for Grammy eligibility. "That's a really good example of my old electro-style," says Gartner, born **Joey Youngman**, "but I've moved on from that sound." www.grammy.com.

Electric Ladyland

Double Trouble bruiser **Chris Layton** joined **Jonny Lang** and **Band of Gypsies' Billy Cox** on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* on Monday for an all-star version of **Jimi Hendrix's** "Fire." The event served as a capstone to the recent **Experience Hendrix** tour, for which Austin's **Eric Johnson** had the rare honor of playing the white Stratocaster the iconic guitarist used for his decade-defining **Woodstock** set. "It was a really nice guitar, but it was more about the mystique of playing it," relays Johnson, whose nightly five-

song set included a duet with **Susan Tedeschi** on *Axis: Bold as Love's* "One Rainy Wish." "You could see and feel all of the pick scratches on the underside because Jimi played left-handed." The local guitar hero just released his first new studio album in five years, *Up Close*, a more personal collection of space-age Texas blues and progressive clairvoyance, a small step removed from his infamous studio perfectionism. "I'm trying to strike a new balance, to use the part of the music that serves me and let go of the rest," he

says. "There's a bit more spontaneity to the recording. Tracks are being performed rather than pieced together." Just in time for the holidays, Johnson also recently released *Live From Austin TX '84*, his first **Austin City Limits** appearance, recorded shortly before the sessions for his 1986 breakthrough, *Tones*. He's already started working on an acoustic album in preparation for a solo tour next year. "It's just a different side of me that's really started to emerge more from me in recent years."



Octopus Project's Yvonne Lambert

PHOTOS BY SHELLEY HIAM

At the Drive-In

The **East Side Drive-In** resembled a private planetarium Friday for the **Octopus Project's Hexadecagon**, a big-tent visual spectacle and pan-stereo experience. The local visionaries performed in the round, surrounded by an eight-channel speaker system, with **Yvonne Lambert's** theremin serving as the calming eye of the electronic whirlpool. Though the quartet never lost its gleeful, we-can-pull-this-off charm, the event yielded more icing than cake, with the long, minimalist pieces never quite reaching their full potential, especially in contrast to the urgency displayed in the encore of *Hello, Avalanche's* "Truck" and "I Saw the Bright Shiniest." The following, unseasonably warm night, **DJ Cutmaster Swiff** pinpointed the Achilles' heel of the new fenced-in, bilevel venue. "We on some curfew shit," he noted around 9:30pm, a half-hour into **Big Boi's** set. "We only got 12 minutes." Thankfully, the **OutKast** originator had already proven just how many greatest hits he could walk through in that time frame, opening with a ghetto blaster medley of "ATLiens," "Skew It on the Bar-B," and "Rosa Parks." From the up-in-smoke chimney sweep of "Fo Yo Sorrows" to the militant charge of "B.O.B." and artillery-clip a cappella on "Daddy Fat Sax," "General Patton" proved he's still one of the coolest motherfunkers on the planet.



Big Boi

On the Road Again

Inspired by **John Steinbeck's** 1960 book, *Travels With Charley: In Search of America*, **Charlie Faye** trekked across the Great Divide and back again to make her third album. Beginning last New Year's Eve, the Austin songstress spent one month in 10 different cities, working with local musicians and recording a new song in each location. "There were definitely setbacks and some hard times, but somehow it pulled itself up and out of it every time," says Faye, a **Wilson Street** resident and community activist (see "Suspended in Time," News, Aug. 13). "A lot of this stuff wasn't organized beforehand, but when you go somewhere



Charlie Faye

and actually meet people and let things be, a lot can happen in a month." In creating the soundtrack to her road trip, Faye ended up collaborating with **Ian Moore** (Portland, Ore.), members of **Calexico** (Tucson, Ariz.), the **Eagles** (Los Angeles), and **Violent Femmes** (Milwaukee). She finally returns home to **Momo's** on Wednesday, Dec. 15, and has started a **Kickstarter** campaign (www.kck.st/cB5EH2) to help complete the album, offering incentives that range from digital downloads and tour consulting to house concerts. "I don't think there's any place better to live than Austin," Faye observes, "unless you have really bad allergies or a tendency towards alcoholism."

Random Play

Local punk progenitor **Tim Kerr** has re-pressed *Your Name Here*, his collection of tempura portraits and social commentary, with local multimedia experts **Monofonus Press**. The new edition boasts a cassette mixtape of Kerr's greatest hits, including cuts from the **Big Boys**, **Poison 13**, **Lord High Fixers**, and the **Monkeywrench**. Browse it at the **Indie Lit Roadshow at ND at 501 Studios** on Sunday, Dec. 12, noon-9pm.

Nick Curran & the Lowlifes, **Alejandro Escovedo**, and the **Mother Truckers** have tunes under consideration for **Little Steven's** Underground Garage competition to champion the Coolest Song in the World 2010. Vote at www.littlestevenundergroundgarage.com/csw.

Friday, Dec. 10, at **Yard Dog Gallery**, **Ian McLagan** opens his first exhibit, "Paint From Pain," a collection of paintings that attempts to capture the numb frustration of migraines. "I find it quite challenging," offers McLagan, who appears next at the **SIMS Benefit Bash** at the **Austin Music Hall** on Saturday. He hasn't given up on his quest to bring the **Faces** to Austin. "As long as we have **Ronnie [Wood]** we're all right. **Keith [Richards]** should write another book, keep them off the road."

Once dubbed "The Pied Piper of the Keys," **Ernie Mae Crafton Miller** passed away in local hospice care Wednesday morning. She was 83. A pianist who got her start in the 1940s with the **Prairie View Co-eds**, Miller was a fixture of East Austin's Chitlin Circuit and held a 16-year residency at Red River's infamous **New Orleans Club** (see "The Miller's Tale," July 6, 2007). Services are pending.

Alphabet City

A 'Chronicle of Philanthropy'

BY MARGARET MOSER

If you're a musician playing on Sixth Street and are stopped on MLK by APD for a DWI on your way home, you may seek help from AA. But if you're a musician with hep C, MS, or even TMJ, do you go to HAAM? What if you're U-18 and a best friend who just out of rehab is hanging with her old dealer – can you call SIMS or PDAP? And why is the late Clifford Antone's name associated with AYW?

It's not just music-centric health and social services that are known by acronyms and initials. If you aspire to play SXSW, ACL, or FFF, maybe a seminar from AMF or a course at ACC will help. Even then, the letter game in Austin's community conscience is unique even among other rare, self-sustaining music scenes. And don't worry if it feels like we live in Alphabet City; navigating ATX can be easy as one-two-three.

Safety Nets and Peace of Mind

Few nonindustry organizations are more synonymous with Austin music than the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians and the Services Invested in Musician Support Foundation; they're the conjoined twins of Austin music outreach. They tackle the double whammy of keeping the local community in shape physically and mentally.

HAAM, founded in 2005, offers low-cost primary health care services, basic dental coverage, and mental health counseling to eligible uninsured musicians in the area. The SIMS Foundation, established a decade earlier, provides access to and financial support for mental health care and addiction recovery services for musicians and their families in and around Austin. Neither organization provides direct assistance, but both work with such service providers as the Seton Family of Hospitals and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Austin boasts a particularly large demographic of musicians – around 8,000 working, according to HAAM figures. Those numbers span many generations, each with health issues specific to its age group. SIMS serves more than 600 clients annually, while HAAM has already aided more than 25% of Austin's musician population.

SIMS Foundation Executive Director Tricia Forbes believes the presence of both organizations makes a difference. "Financial insecurity, proximity to drugs and alcohol, hectic travel schedules" and other well-known dynamics contribute to the chaotic demands

of a musician's lifestyle and unintentionally create clients.

"There's a national trend toward holistic, integrated health care services, and HAAM and SIMS are working together in that vein," explains Forbes. "We know that our clients' mental health outcomes are going to be better if they also have primary health care, as well as the other important health services they can receive through HAAM. Having these safety nets seems to give musicians some peace of mind."

HAAM Executive Director Carolyn Schwarz would be happier if SIMS had been inspired by any other reason than the suicide of Sims Ellison (see "Swaggering, Strutting Texas Hunks," p.53) but is grateful it was already in place when the alliance started up.

"The mental health and addiction-recovery services offered through the SIMS Foundation are vital to the continuum," she stresses. "Healthy musicians mean a healthier Austin economy and culture. Since the inception of Health Alliance for Austin Musicians five years ago, musicians have access to a full range of healthcare services."

Not only are both organizations successful, Austin remains a health care model for other cities to emulate, much as HAAM's guiding light, late philanthropist Robin Shivers (see "Steel Bluebonnet Determination," Nov. 27, 2009), used New Orleans' musicians' medical program as one of her inspirations.

The downside is that demand is high and need grows, and both require filthy lucre.

Fund Fund Fund Fest

Before his death in May 2006, Clifford Antone chose American YouthWorks as his cause. American YouthWorks is a public charter school with a GED program and on-the-job training, particularly encouraging its at-risk students – some of whom are teen parents – toward green jobs. That's a lot of fancy talk for a hardscrabble program Susan Antone calls "the last house on the last street for some of these kids."

On paper, AYW boasts an impressive roll call of partners, including the U.S. Department of Education, Whole Foods, and PepsiCo, and yet its East Ben White Boulevard headquarters is in need of basics such as copier paper and hand sanitizer. To assist them, Clifford Antone created Austin's annual big-dollar music fundraiser, Help Clifford Help Kids, a Champagne



and dinner-with-auction affair of the type more often associated with the Austin Film Society's Texas Film Hall of Fame or AIDS Services of Austin's OctoTea Dance. Since her brother's death, Susan Antone has continued the Help Clifford fundraisers, upping the ante by bringing in prestigious acts such as Booker T. & the MGs.

Help Clifford Help Kids held its 2010 AYW fundraiser last month to the beat of Los Lonely Boys at the AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center. The fifth annual HAAM Benefit Day exploded in September with 120 acts performing at dozens of sites around town. SIMS rolls out its red carpet of all-stars Saturday, Dec. 11 (see "Swaggering, Strutting Texas Hunks," p.53) at the Austin Music Hall. All of them need your generosity, especially since charity functions have felt the bite in these tough economic times. Fund Fund Fund Fest begins at home.

And make no mistake, the collection of funds to support charitable organizations is big business in itself, big enough to warrant the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, a national publication that tracks the nonprofit world. A recent CP survey indicated that in 2009, contributions were down by 11%, the worst drop in two decades. That figure was culled from organizations that raise the most from private sources, meaning that local and regional groups such as SIMS and HAAM will have to reach even further.

The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear HAAM Prescription Shades

"This year's HAAM Benefit Day was record-breaking in the number of businesses participating, the number of music performances, and the funds raised (\$195,000). This has allowed HAAM to expand the number of affiliate service providers to five."

Carolyn Schwarz's assessment of HAAM's current good health is a reminder that the organization doesn't operate health care services; rather, it conducts eligibility, enrollment, and care management at its office and then contracts for services.

"For example, in 2011, HAAM is contracting with SIMS and will provide funding specifically for addiction recovery services," continues Schwarz. "HAAM also has contracts with Seton Family of Hospitals for primary medical care, Estes Audiology for hearing, and Prevent Blindness Texas for vision care. In addition, HAAM has an agreement with St. David's Foundation Dental Program to provide basic dental care to musicians enrolled in HAAM."

The SIMS Foundation's glowing numbers translate just as dramatically, and not just in the much-needed areas of funding and staffing. Tricia Forbes points out that every step forward opens more doors to more clients. "We know there are still underserved commu-

Few nonindustry organizations are more synonymous with Austin music than the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians and the Services Invested in Musician Support Foundation; they're the conjoined twins of Austin music outreach.

Swaggering, Strutting Texas Hunks

“Five young swaggering, strutting Texas hunks playing the shit out of rock & roll.”

That’s how David Garza remembers the band Pariah, a pungent description echoed by those who remember their glory days as Austin’s premier hard rock band. The SIMS Benefit Bash this Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Austin Music Hall will pay tribute to the late-1980s/early-1990s quintet. E-mailing from a truckstop while on the road in Louisiana, Garza, who is the benefit’s musical director, reveled in his own memories.

“Pariah laid down the framework for post hair-band metal in Austin. There would be no the Sword or Red River gutter punk without Pariah. They had it all: native son/golden god screecher frontman, two-headed dog/Siamese twin evil guitars, thunder heart drum and bass.

“Dave Derrick had no cheeky wink-wink smugness. He was soul on the sleeve and balls to the wall. Jared [Tuten] and Kyle [Ellison] were cosmic metal weavers with the charisma and ease of a mid-1970s Keith and Ronnie. Shandon [Sahm] was pure power: unshakable and funky before the mechanization of rock in the mid-1990s, a human amphetamine.

“And Sims was that sweetheart and dharma energy, like Montgomery Cliff crossed with Ronnie Lane. Pariah could have only happened once.”

Sims, of course, is Sims Ellison, namesake of the SIMS Foundation, a beloved guitarist who lost his lifelong battle with depression and committed suicide in 1995. After writer Michael Corcoran suggested that Ellison’s memory could be honored by helping others, the organization took shape and shifted many times over the years before settling. Thanks to



Pariah

Jody Denberg, KGSR began donating the proceeds from its annual Broadcasts CD series to the SIMS Foundation. By paying tribute to Pariah, the lineup for this weekend’s SIMS Benefit Bash is as much about the foundation’s namesake as it is about supporting the organization.

Garza joked that between Brownout and Eliza Gilkyson, “the lineup needs therapy – it has a split personality!” He’s not kidding. Performers also include maestro Peter Bay, Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Brannen Temple, Amy Cook, Graham Reynolds, Will Sexton, Don Harvey, George Reiff, Kat Edmondson, Ruby Jane, Lauren Larson, and the SIMS Septet with David Garza, in addition to a Pariah tribute.

For more than a dozen years, the KGSR check presentation to the SIMS Foundation has been an integral part of the Austin Music Awards. More personally, Sims Ellison was a friend of mine and even wrote for the *Chronicle*, so when SIMS approached me about sharing emcee duties with Denberg for this show, I couldn’t refuse.

– M.M.

Demand is high and need grows, and both require filthy lucre.

nities, particularly African-American, Latino, and women musicians. We started an intensive outreach effort this year, but we hope to have more resources to build on it and really see some results next year.

“Instead of just counting the 600-plus people we serve each year, we are now tracking our clients’ outcomes and we know that their lives and mental health are improved significantly because of our services,” Forbes enthuses. “A stronger partnership with HAAM, the contract with Central Health, increased funding from St. David’s, and an expanding circle of individuals and corporations have made it all possible.”

While SIMS has long operated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, HAAM was a special project fund of the Austin Community Foundation. Until recently, that is, notes Schwarz.

“We are now our own 501(c)(3) and as of January 1, 2011, we will roll out from under ACF and will be doing all our own book-keeping. HAAM is growing up!”

On behalf of the musicians of ATX, that’s A-OK. ■

The ABCs of ATX Musical Health

AA Alcoholics Anonymous
www.alcoholicsanonymous.com
(unofficial site)

ACF Austin Community Foundation
www.austincommunityfoundation.org

AMF Austin Music Foundation
www.austinmusicfoundation.org

AYW American YouthWorks
www.americanyouthworks.org

HAAM Health Alliance for Austin Musicians
www.austinmusicianshealth.org

PDAP Palmer Drug Abuse Program
www.pdapaustin.org

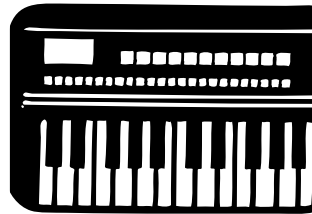
SIMS Services Invested in Musician Support Foundation
www.simsfoundation.org

SOURCE FOR CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY:
www.usatoday.com/yourlife/mind-soul/doing-good/2010-11-29-sharing-holiday-giving_N.htm?csp=DailyBriefing

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LIFE

by Keith Richards, with James Fox
Little, Brown and Company, 564 pp., \$29.99

Born Dec. 18, 1943, Keith Richards remains your classic high-end Sagittarius. Over the course of 13 chapters that time will ultimately prove the Dead Sea Scrolls of rock & roll, astrology may be the only germane topic the Rolling Stones' heart and soul fails to address. That and all of 1974 – birth year of *It's Only Rock 'n' Roll*. Bob Dylan's *Chronicles* achieved literature; never forget whose name young Robert Zimmerman copped. Keith Richards' *Life* pulls off a feat equal to his song "Gimme Shelter" ("It was just a terrible fucking day and it was storming out there"). The guitarist is quite exacting about the group's material through *Goats Head Soup*: "I would say on a general scale, I would come up with the song and the basic idea, and Mick would do all the hard work of filling it in and making it interesting. I would come up with, 'I can't get no satisfaction I can't get no satisfaction I tried and I tried and I tried.'" That Mick Jagger at his very finest has never been recognized as a lyricist on par with Dylan is something the singer can take up in his own memoirs. This *Life* comes by an only child who survived the World War II blitz and early runthood with an attitude ("Get Off of My Cloud"), romanticism ("Ruby Tuesday"), and snarling self-preservation ("Street Fighting Man," "Midnight Rambler," "Rip This Joint"), though always imbued with genuine vulnerability ("Angie"). Richards wrote and sang "Happy" for God's sake. That voice herein parallels the life force punch-lined in an episode about discovering a dead tramp in a machine gun post "pillbox" as a boy: "We ran like the fucking Nile." The Fender bender tosses off lines like that as easy as open-E-tuned throttlers ("We never forget a good hook"), but the true grit lies in defining moments such as his mother Doris literally bringing him to his knees by telling him "the Man" was coming to take him away for throwing rotten tomatoes ("No, Mum, please ..."). Insert lump in throat. Richards' innate truth-saying hammers out all the myths and barbarism, from deals with the devil (naturally) to Swiss blood transfusions (sorry), but this *Life* beats a uniquely epic, one-of-a-kind, whale of a tale, not some music history corrective. Yin and yang rule the Glimmer Twins' house of love and warfare ("Surprise, Surprise" to quote one of Richards' early song gems), but the principle of "give the drummer some" begins at Charlie Watts. The author's bond with John Lennon and brotherhood in Bobby Keys (born within hours of his boss) runs deeper than drug buddies, but then as he concedes, it ain't called "heroin(e)" for kicks. The sordid arc of Richards' decadelong enslavement to the embalming opiate ranges from James Bond-like escapes in the south of France to his lawyer using White House connections to spring Richards from his infamous '77 heroin bust in Toronto. Moroccan abduction/abandonment, Russian roulette fatality, Jamaican angels and thieves, Fiji brain hemorrhaging – no musician of this global stature has ever penned such a *Life*. Sagittarians can't be governed, but Richards is their sovereign, his bohemian, nonconformism bent with a brilliant, almost engineer-type mind, steel jacked in a shy, sensitive personality nevertheless inclined to lead from behind the sign's metaphoric quiver of arrows. Milton, Beethoven, William Blake, Mark Twain, Gen. George Custer, Joseph Conrad, Toulouse-Lautrec, Winston Churchill, Boris Karloff, Franco, Harpo Marx, Ira Gershwin, Lucky Luciano, Walt Disney, Maria Callas, Bruce Lee, Jimi Hendrix, Pablo Escobar, Nick Barbaro (also born Dec. 18) – know the type, understand *Life*. If it were an album you'd play it ad infinitum.

– Raoul Hernandez



a killer"), but also the stories of countless behind-the-scenes shakers (Wendy Day, Chris Lighty) who are anything but household names. Charnas explores Ice-T's "Cop Killer" controversy in astonishing depth and levies a stinging indictment against the record labels, radio stations, and magazines that profited from fueling a trumped-up East-West rivalry in the mid-1990s, but *Payback* is ultimately a classic American success story: "This isn't crossover anymore. It is takeover. America has officially been remixed."

– Thomas Fawcett

AFRICAN RHYTHMS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF RANDY WESTON

by Randy Weston,
arranged by
Willard Jenkins
Duke University
Press, 352 pp., \$32.95

No one has done more to explore and celebrate the African roots of jazz than pianist/composer Randy Weston. Considering himself "an African born and living in America," Weston demonstrates a pride in his ancestry and culture that is both the primary source of his artistic inspiration and the central theme that suffuses this fascinating autobiography. Now 84 and riding the success of a new live album, *The Storyteller* (Motéma Music), Weston's career has been both typical and extraordinary. Raised on the streets of Brooklyn's renowned Bed-Stuy neighborhood by a father of Jamaican descent, his music first blossomed while working resorts in the Berkshire Mountains. He parlayed an early interest in African culture into touring the continent under the aegis of the U.S. State Department. While many of his peers expatriated to Europe in the 1960s, Weston moved to Morocco, opening a popular jazz club and developing deep musical, cultural, and emotional ties, especially to the people of Gnawa. For decades his recording projects, many examined here, have exuded an unabashedly Afrocentric sensibility. Weston refers to himself as "a storyteller through music" rather than a jazz musician. He's unsurpassed as a goodwill ambassador.

– Jay Trachtenberg



speaker for South by Southwest 2003, and the book is essentially an extended exposition of his talk. Less a personal biography than a memoir of work, Lanois' reflections on helping create some of the past quarter-century's most enduring albums (U2 to Dylan, Willie to Emmylou) is hardly anecdotal; it's behind the scenes only in the sense of the tireless hours dedicated to the pursuit of an intangible sound that the producer is nonetheless driven to make real. Lanois writes with a calm, contemplative passion that jumps with energy at the spark of insight, and to read his meandering recollections is to join Lanois in his state of "sick, up all night, fighting for a track" dedication and persistence. *Soul Mining* is inspirational in tone, aspirational in philosophy, and a gearhead's gospel – a must-read for any producer or studio aficionado. The book's ultimate achievement is sending readers back to classic albums spun a thousand times before to hear them anew, now wrought through the ears and vision of the musical and technical genius of Lanois.

– Doug Freeman

A VERY IRREGULAR HEAD: THE LIFE OF SYD BARRETT

by Rob Chapman
Da Capo Press,
480 pp., \$28

Not long after unveiling the template for British psychedelia with 1967's *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn*, Pink Floyd co-founder Syd Barrett began a steady descent into madness and reclusion, leaving

behind a sea of rumors and speculation that continued until his 2006 death from pancreatic cancer.

London-based journalist Rob Chapman's family-authorized biography sets the record as straight as it's likely to get. In distilling the essence of what Barrett brought to Pink Floyd prior to his 1968 ouster, Chapman zeroes in on the influence of author Kenneth Grahame, whose surreal tales and whimsical wordplay were key to songs like "Arnold Layne" and "Bike." The primacy of visual art in Barrett's life – both before and after his reluctant bout with pop stardom – is another theme. He held particular fascination for Port Arthur, Texas-born artist Robert Rauschenberg's assemblage techniques. As a backdrop to Floyd's ascendancy, Chapman provides a vivid description of the multimodal cultural explosion that grew out of the London Free School during the mid-1960s. He also details the day-to-day drop-off in Barrett's mental state that led to a complete abandonment of music by 1972. At times, Chapman's prose gets mired in exhaustive overcontextualization, but maybe that's the trade-off when you're dealing with fleeting and/or chemically impaired recollections.

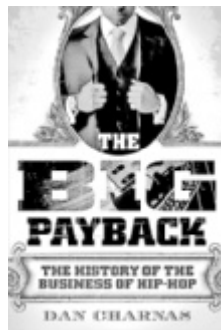
– Greg Beets

CONTINUED ON P.56

THE BIG PAYBACK: THE HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS OF HIP-HOP

by Dan Charnas
New American Library,
660 pp., \$24.95

For most hip-hop books, a discussion of the founding fathers would address the contributions of Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa, and Grandmaster Flash. *The Big Payback: The History of the Business of Hip-Hop* is not most hip-hop books. The opening pages begin with Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington, while connecting the origins of American currency to the Sugarhill



Gang. It's all about the Benjamins, baby. In his exhaustive study of how hip-hop went from Bronx block party to global phenomenon, former *Source* magazine writer Dan Charnas takes the long view of history, but it's the details and insider anecdotes that give the more than 600 pages the intrigue of a Slick Rick tale. The riveting dialogue culled from more than 300 interviews makes it seem as if Charnas was in the room for every deal that ever went down in hip-hop, and sometimes he was. *The Big Payback* naturally chronicles the stories of self-made moguls like Russell Simmons, Master P, and Jay-Z ("the soul of a poet and instincts of



SOUL MINING: A MUSICAL LIFE

by Daniel Lanois
Faber and Faber Inc.,
217 pp., \$26 (paper)

Soul Mining closes with a transcript from the poetic allegory of dedication and discovery Daniel Lanois first presented as the keynote



TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN

by Rob Sheffield
Dutton, 274 pp., \$25.95

As a follow-up to his heartbreaking memoir *Love Is a Mix Tape*, pop culture sponge and *Rolling Stone* critic Rob Sheffield's latest speaks to a generational love rather than personal. There's a nostalgic whiplash in his introduction, where he posits that he learned about girls listening to us talk about Duran Duran. He doesn't talk to the girl for long before reverting back to music, making the band a placeholder rather than bearers of ancient female truths. He puts on his headphones, attaching 1980s hits ("Purple Rain") and misses (A Flock of Seagulls) to his awkward, sweet stories. Sometimes he hits, like when comparing the ritual of religious upbringing and music obsession: "It's no coincidence so many record geeks grow up Catholic – it really prepares you for that path. Praying the rosary was 20 minutes just like an album side." Elsewhere, the obscure bands he chooses to dote on (Haysi Fantayzee?) reminds readers that this is one man's very specific experience, born of a generation's broader alienated "me"-ness. As a female who prepubescently fantasized about Simon Le Bon in the "Hungry Like a Wolf" video, I wasn't expecting shared experience, but definitely some juicier gossip.

– Audra Schroeder



Brown dazzles in its many facets. Contrast the many voices with Robert Hilburn's alone. The venerable *Los Angeles Times* music critic is old-school in every sense of the words. His words in *Corn Flakes With John Lennon* are velvet strokes to the velour nap of *Best Music Writing's* youth. It's not just that Hilburn has been there and gotten the tour T-shirt for any band he wanted. Hilburn is the real thing writing about the real thing. His chapter on Ice Cube, N.W.A, and growing up in the South beats all the essays in *Best Music Writing*, eloquent and curious and evenhanded. *Corn Flakes* is written memoir-style with sidebar chapters featuring bulleted highlights of favorite concerts, quotes, and opinions he doesn't flinch from stating. Hilburn's a pro, and they don't make 'em like that much any more.

– Margaret Moser



TOUCHABLE SOUND: A COLLECTION OF 7-INCH RECORDS FROM THE USA

edited by Brian Roettinger, Mike Treff, Diego Hadis
Soundscreen Design, 412 pp., \$40 (paper)

This tactile, reverent collection is a Bible of punk rock's oft-forgotten layer. Part graphic design boner, part historic punk trail of tears, the 400-page map is divided by region, starting in Southern California and ending in the Northeast. Label origin stories and first-person testimonials are interspersed throughout well-designed pages of 7-inch covers from the last two decades. The way the various components are put together is piecemeal, but that's no doubt supposed to fuel its zine feel, which has never fallen out of vogue. Ultimately, the focus is on the visual appeal of the 7-inch, from known quantities like Melvins to obscurities like Marshmallow Coast, which proves the ritual of the music obsessive is alive and well and makes this collection a top-shelf find. That's essentially what this is – a hagiography with the Xeroxed and stapled feel of scenes these vinyl slabs emerged from.

– Audra Schroeder

BEST MUSIC WRITING 2010

edited by Ann Powers
Da Capo Press, 352 pp., \$16.95 (paper)

CORN FLAKES WITH JOHN LENNON AND OTHER TALES FROM A ROCK 'N' ROLL LIFE

by Robert Hilburn
Rodale, 296 pp., \$24.99

Most people discussing the death of rock criticism are the writers themselves, often logrolling as one another's biggest fans. Editor Ann Powers' thoughtful eye on contemporary rock writers avoids that fancy stepping, and many of the chapters are notably good. Sean Nelson's rambling treatise on sex and 1990s rock & roll "Let's (Not) Get It On" is quite layered with interesting tangents and his still-youthful remembrances. *Best Music Writing* is clearly not about critique – interviews often escape the ability of a writer to dissect the conversation; Eugene Holley Jr.'s otherwise informative Q&A with Maria Schneider comes off dry and all quote, whereas Raquel Cepeda's visit to a classroom to discuss *Rihanna v. Chris*



TATTOOS & TEQUILA: TO HELL AND BACK WITH ONE OF ROCK'S MOST NOTORIOUS FRONTMEN

by Vince Neil, with Mike Sager
Grand Central Publishing, 290 pp., \$27.99

MY APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION: SEX & DRUGS & GUNS N' ROSES

by Steven Adler, with Lawrence J. Spagnola
It Books, 286 pp., \$25.99



Vince Neil's already dished *The Dirt*. That gloriously filthy and often contradictory account of Mötley Crüe's seedy reign on Sunset Strip remains one of rock history's definitive memoirs. On the occasion of his new solo album of the same name, Dr. Feelgood drags a few more skeletons from the closet, most notably an in-depth account of his 1984 vehicular manslaughter of Hanoi Rocks drummer Razzle. Compiled from a series of interviews by noted beat-journalist Mike Sager, *Tattoos & Tequila* presents a near 300-page-long one-way conversation, broken up with occasional asides from outside commentators, such as Neil's four wives. While more entertaining than his C-list celebrity appearance on ABC's *Skating With the Stars*, this biography offers mere sloppy seconds, especially in comparison to Nikki Sixx's riveting *Heroin Diaries*. Likewise, Steven Adler's a reality wash-up (*Celebrity Rehab*) from the same scene and with a new project to peddle, Adler's *Appetite*. His *Appetite for Destruction*, however, plays out as a tragic-comedy. After all, it takes a serious fuckup to botch a suicide attempt, and the onetime Guns N' Roses drummer failed three times. If his perpetual fall from grace comes across like a high school dropout lighting up and bragging about getting laid, you've gotten the gist of the story. There are some funny moments (his orgy with Sixx for starters), and it's a quick, light read, made even faster by the self-explanatory section headers. My favorite six-page run: "Getting My Drums," "New Drums," "The Biggest Practice Facility on Earth," "Oh Well," "The Birth of 'Slash,'" and "Working on the Drums."

– Austin Powell

BUCK OWENS: THE BIOGRAPHY

by Eileen Sisk
Chicago Review Press, 385 pp., \$24.95

Anyone familiar with Buck Owens solely as the king of Bakersfield's brand of country music and/or the goofball co-host of TV's long-running *Hee Haw* will be shocked by Eileen Sisk's story of his life. The author speaks to those that knew him – family, friends, associates, members of his band, the Buckaroos – and initially had even the cooperation of Owens, who died in 2006 at the age of 76. Unfortunately, the unrelenting tawdriness of the narrative, combined with a less than colorful writing style, makes the endeavor come across as a hatchet job, whether intended or not. Instead of concentrating on Owens' music, bringing out the reasons for his success and, ultimately, his influence on the Beatles, Gram Parsons, and Dwight Yoakam, Sisk makes sure the reader's aware of how proud he was of the size of his penis, his never-ending illicit affairs, several marriages and illegitimate children, and a scurrilous way of doing business that made him wealthy beyond his dreams. The retelling only comes alive with the unexpected death of Don Rich, Owens' close friend and guitarist of the Buckaroos, and even that's given an air of conspiracy. Sisk quotes *Hee Haw* co-star Roy Clark saying, "Buck is just a strange guy." While probably true, there's surely a more entertaining way to tell the tale.

– Jim Caligiuri



FAB: AN INTIMATE LIFE OF PAUL MCCARTNEY

by Howard Sounes
Da Capo Press, 640 pp., \$29.95

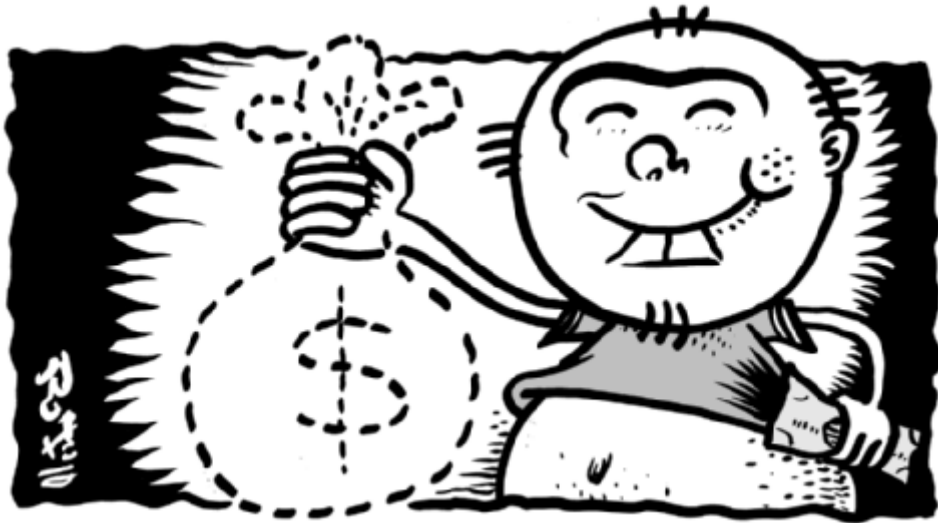
In a strictly biographical sense, Paul McCartney's good fortune of living beyond "When I'm Sixty-Four" can't compete with a narrative that ends as tragically as John Lennon's. Even so, British journalist Howard Sounes' epic McCartney biography is essential. Beginning with the future Sir Paul's "common-sense" working-class Liverpool upbringing, Sounes charts McCartney's rise to fame through relationships with Dot Rhone – whose miscarriage preempted marriage – and actress/fiancée Jane Asher. Sounes credits Asher and her upper-middle-class London family for providing McCartney with "the education he might have had at college, if he had turned his back on pop music." Likewise, McCartney's decision to follow the counsel of wife Linda's attorney father Lee Eastman proved financially prescient. Musically speaking, Sounes makes a compelling argument that competition from Lennon was a prerequisite for the full flowering of McCartney's songwriting genius. Forensic evidence includes some of the laziest toss-offs from Macca's solo catalog, including 2001's post-9/11 atrocity, "Freedom." McCartney isn't immune to male-pattern boorishness, yet even the ugliest revelations from his ill-advised second marriage to Heather Mills seem positively quaint by tabloid standards. Sounes is no hagiographer, but in the end, his vivid rendering of McCartney reveals a fundamentally decent chap on balance.

– Greg Beets



NEWS OF THE WEEK

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



The collapse of the economy in 2008 might have reached the far corners of Earth, but evidently not to Planet Calypso, the make-believe asteroid containing make-believe real estate in the multiplayer online game *Entropia Universe*, where resort entrepreneur Jon Jacobs recently cashed out his properties for \$635,000 - in real (not make-believe) U.S. dollars. Since Jacobs' original 2005 investment was \$100,000 (a record at that time), he thus has earned an average 35% annual return. As players landed on Jacobs' properties, to hunt or to mine precious substances, they paid fees, and Jacobs' buyers are obviously optimistic they can maintain that income stream. A recent study by marketing firm In-Stat estimated that online players will spend \$7 billion in 2010 on make-believe property and goods.

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

In September, the UK's coalition government announced the imminent consolidation of anti-discrimination laws known as the Equality Act - despite critics' warnings that it could stunt economic growth by tying up the workplace in a morass of lawsuits in which workers could sue for almost any perceived offense. Under the new concept of "third-party harassment," for example, an employee who merely overhears another person - even a customer of his employer - say something he finds offensive could sue the employer. Critics also complained that the law adds to the traditional group of specially protected, oppressed people the minorities of vegans, teetotalers, Gypsies, and "travelers" (grifters).

In October, Freddie Mac (the government-sponsored but privately owned home mortgage financier - whose massive debts have been assumed in a federal "bailout" administered by the Treasury Department) filed a claim in Tax Court against the Internal Revenue Service, denying IRS' claim that it owes \$3 billion in back taxes from 1998 to 2005. Should taxpayers care? If Freddie Mac wins, the IRS (which is also housed in the Treasury Department) loses out on the \$3 billion in alleged back taxes. If the IRS wins, it gets its \$3 billion, which will undoubtedly be paid with taxpayer bailout money. Lawyers for both sides seem to think that pursuing the lawsuit is important.

In November, patrons using restrooms at City Hall in Chandler, Ariz., were stunned to see wall signs warning users not to drink out of the urinals and toilets. (Actually, as officials explained, the environmentally friendly facilities flush with "reused" water - from the building's cooling system - which must normally be colorized to discourage inadvertent drinking, and if it is not so harshly colored, must, by regulation, be accompanied by warning signs.)

After Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005, Congress underwrote \$7.9 billion in tax-free bonds that Louisiana could sell in

order to rehabilitate the area. According to an August status report in *Newsweek*, \$5.9 billion in bonds have been sold by the state, but only \$55 million of that (1%) is for projects inside New Orleans (and none in the devastated Lower Ninth Ward). By contrast, \$1.7 billion (about 29%) is going to projects that benefit the state's oil industry.

GREAT ART!

One of midtown Manhattan's favorite meet-up spots, according to an October report in *The New York Times*, is Colombian artist Fernando Botero's 12-foot-tall Adam statue at Time Warner Center. However, since Adam is nude and the statue is so pedestrian-friendly, maintaining it has become a problem, according to the center's general manager. As the *Times* described it, "Most of Adam is a deep dark brown," but the easily-accessible penis "is worn golden from extensive handling." (The *Times* also noted that "at the Botero" is a less-popular meet-up suggestion than underneath the penis.)

Artist Noam Braslavsky's life-size sculpture honoring the great Israeli army general and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon went on display in Tel Aviv in October. However, Braslavsky chose to depict Sharon (who he said is "kind of an open nerve in Israeli society") not in battle nor as an international statesman - but in his hospital bed, where he has been confined in a medically induced coma since suffering a massive stroke in January 2006.

POLICE REPORT

Sheriff's deputies in Manatee County, Fla., arrested two men in October after a traffic stop when, following a thorough search of the car's trunk, they found marijuana. In fact, the search of the messy trunk was so thorough that they also turned up a bong, which driver Mark Fiasco said he had lost seven years before and has been looking for since.

7th Annual BROWN SANTA



Sunday, Dec. 12, 2009
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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and Wellness Fair at the
Travis County Expo Center

<http://www.tcsheff.org/brownsanta5k.html>

For additional information, contact
brownsanta5K@co.travis.tx.us

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Responding to a domestic-dispute call at the I-77 Motor Inn in Fairplain, W.Va., in October, sheriff's deputies encountered Melissa Williams naked from the waist down and holding a knife. Two men in the room (one, her estranged husband) said Williams had threatened them. "[S]omebody," she reportedly said, "is going to eat my [vulgar anatomical reference], or I'm going to cut your [expletive] throat." The sheriff's report also noted that one of the men approached Williams to comply but was repelled by Williams' "horrible vaginal odor." In November, Williams was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

Irresistible: In September, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing appointed Ralph Godbee police chief – a job he had held on an interim basis for several months. Godbee had ascended to the job when Warren Evans was fired for, among other things, having an affair with a subordinate, Lt. Monique Patterson. Before turning to Evans, Patterson had had an affair with Godbee, also.

RECURRING THEMES

1) "Service" Animals: In July, Wayne Short's iguana was certified by the National Service Animal Registry and thus allowed to attend to him on the Boardwalk in Ocean City, Md., where she had previously been barred. Mayor Rick Meehan, eyeing the NSAR card, asked Short what sort of "service" Hillary provided, but Short declined to answer. 2) Wandering Kids: In October, firefighters were once again called to a claw-toy vending machine to extract a boy who had crawled up the toy-release chute – this time at a Walmart in Sun Prairie, Wis. As is often the case, the boy appeared to be joyously in his element among the toys and not immediately receptive to coaxing from firefighters or his parents.

GUILT-RIDDEN NEW JERSEY

When law enforcement officials staged a "Safe Surrender" program in Franklin,

N.J., in November (inviting fugitives to give up in exchange for lighter punishment), 3,900 came in over four days, but it turned out that 550 of them were not wanted on any warrant. Said a parole officer, "For some people, this seemed to be a way to check." A few days later, in Wayne, N.J., hospital pharmacy manager Leonardo Zoppa, 34, was summoned to a meeting with the hospital's security director but arrived noticeably nervous, inquired about the agenda, and eventually volunteered that it was he who had set up that secret surveillance camera in a men's restroom – and that he has "a problem." The security director said he was taken aback because the only purpose of the meeting was to advise Zoppa of routine security code changes.

A 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' CLASSIC (FEBRUARY 2006)

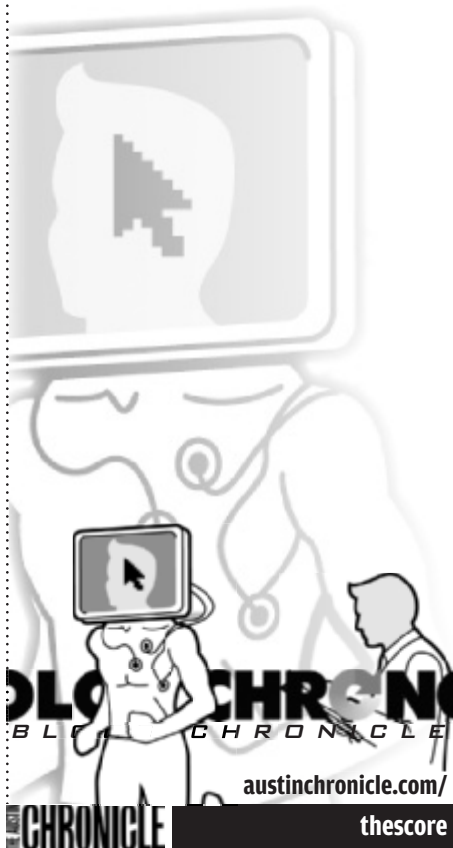
Dave "The Dragon" Lockwood and his tournament-tested sons Max, 16; Jon, 13; and Ben, 10, of Silver Spring, Md., might become to competitive tiddlywinks what the Manning family of quarterbacks is to football, according to a January 2006 *Washington Post* story. Dave was previously ranked No. 1 in the English Tiddlywinks Association (and is currently No. 8, with Max No. 52). "Tiddlywinks doesn't sound very serious," said Max, but "[t]here's so much strategy." (For the uninformed: You mash a "squidger" down on a "wink" to propel it either into the "pot" or to "squop" it onto an opponent's wink to temporarily disable it.) Dave said he plans to get Britain's Prince Philip, a winker, to suggest tiddlywinks as a demonstration "sport" at London's 2012 Summer Olympics.

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

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2010 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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*** FINE ART AND FOOD NIGHT** This tripartite party starts at the Wally Workman Gallery, 6-8pm, 1202 W. Sixth, with appetizers and cocktails. Next, walk to AMOA, 7-9pm, 823 Congress, for dessert and wine. If you're not too inebriated or drunk on fabulous art, continue to Arthouse, 8-11pm, 700 Congress, for snacks, hot chocolate, and popcorn to accompany a screening of the food-inspired documentary, *Grown in Detroit*. Go online for tickets. 6-11pm. \$20. www.edibleaustin.com.

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS Jesse Lasky of UT's Integrative Biology Department discusses biodiversity and conservation of southeast Asia's tropical forests. 7:30pm. *Brackenridge Field Lab, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd.* Free. sites.google.com/site/scienceunderthestarsaustin.

LARISSA NESS TEASES Live preview of Mz. Ness' new album, with special guests Young Mischiff from NYC and V.J. Koma. They will be shooting for a video, so dress to impress. Tacos & Tequila and Deep Eddy Vodka provide the nourishment. 8pm. *Phoenix Nightclub, 409-B Colorado.* www.purevolume.com/LarissaNess.

MERRY FAIRY CUSTOMER APPRECIATION! OCH throws some gratitude our way with drink specials and buffet. No... thank you! 8pm. *Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

NAKIA & THE BLUES GRIFTERS How can you beat a pizza night out with Austin's favorite singing bear? How about coming early for Buddy Guy's keyboard player, Marty Sammon? 10pm. *Jax Neighborhood Cafe, 2828 Rio Grande, 382-1570.* www.nakia.net, www.jaxjoint.com.

STRANGE POWERS IN AUSTIN Here it is! The Stephin Merritt/Magnetic Fields magna cum opus epic is in AusTex for its actual theatrical run. If you missed the recent premiere teaser or its SXSW showing, do not do that again. Come see from whence perfect pop pops. *Fri.-Thu., Dec. 3-9. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

It's a Wonderful Life @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:15pm

Waiting for 'Superman' @ Millennium, 11am, 1:30, 4, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Batusis Lovejoys Taproom & Brewery

Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison Holiday Show Paramount Theatre

NECTAR BIRTHDAY BAZAAR & SALE

Take a gander at the fairly traded or uniquely thrifty goods while enjoying the celebratory atmosphere. *noon-8pm. Nectar Thrift Boutique, 1006 S. Eighth, 415-2028. www.nectaraustin.com.*

GIRLS INCORPORATED WELLNESS SERIES

What kids know about health, nutrition, and physical activity probably couldn't fill a plate these days. Help them catch up with this series that teaches simple, healthy meal preparation and fun activities. *First and second Fridays of the month, 4-5:30pm. Windsor Park Branch Library, 5833 Westminster, 974-9840. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

THURSDAY, DEC. 9 TO THURSDAY, DEC. 16

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS STUDENT ART SHOW

Peruse the art of students and professionals alike, and buy some raffle tickets to help American YouthWorks educate at risk high schoolers and undereducated youth. 6-9pm. *American YouthWorks Downtown Campus, 216 E. Fourth, 236-6155. Free. www.americanyouthworks.org.*

AN EVENING WITH THE AUSTIN URBAN FARMERS MARKET

All of the local produce, edibles, and artistic items you expect from a farmers' market will be on hand, but the party vibe will be stepped up with live music on the solar stage, crafts for the kids, poetry, and more. 6-10pm. 5109 Manchaca, 786-8882.

CHRISTMAS TIDINGS The sounds of local youth and community choirs fill the air while you take a candlelit tour of the historic house and your kids stay busy at the activity table. 6-8pm. *French Legation Museum, 802 San Marcos St., 472-8180. Free. www.frenchlegationmuseum.org.*

*** SAVE OUR SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARTY** Ain't no party like an enviro party. Right? Hundreds of silent auction items will likely look increasingly appealing as the evening of eating, dancing, and drinking grows late. 6pm-12mid. *Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 477-2320. \$10 suggested donation. www.sosalliance.org.*

*** EBENEZER'S JOURNEY** Take a trip through the world of *A Christmas Carol* by traveling from one scene to the next on the historic grounds of Pioneer Farms. If that's too much Scrooge for you, take a gander at the lights, activities, and other family friendly fun. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11 & 17-18, 7-10pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$12. www.pioneerfarms.org.*

WINTERLAND: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAHANUKWANZAAKKAH Bring the kids to this interactive theatrical romp through the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa courtesy of A Chick & A Dude Productions. *Dec. 3-19, Fridays, 7pm; Saturdays, 2 & 5pm; Sundays, 5pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 921-4264. \$12 (\$10, children). www.nowplayingaustin.com.*

CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER The Austin City Ballet presents the 10th annual *Nutcracker* for the kids. It's a holiday tradition for all age groups, as long as leaping in tights is your thing. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11 & 17-18. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 496-5937. \$22 (\$17, children). www.austin-conservatory-arts.com.*

*** CHURCH!** This is the first church we know of where you need confession right after the mass. This altar is where the Glitoris spins sinfully. *Fridays. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. www.theglitoris.com.*

HONK! WINTER FUNDRAISER Help raise money for the mayhem that is the Festival of Community Street Bands coming in March of next year. It's easy; just enjoy the music of the Minor Mishap Marching Band and others on two stages. 9pm-2am. *The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. Fourth, 210/687-5986. \$10 suggested donation. www.honktx.org.*

*** KINGS N THINGS (ALL)IDAY DRAG SHOW** Stanley Roy and Avery Austin host this all-holiday hullabaloo, all fuzzy-faced and gender-fukt for you. 9pm. *Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$10. www.kingsnthings.org.*

LITERA (See Arts Listings.)

Michael Pollan Bass Concert Hall

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Yard Dog

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

White Christmas @ Paramount, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

KVRX Holiday Show United States Art Authority

Misprint Company Holiday Party Club 1808

Psych Night Cheer Up Charlie's

Paul Green School of Rock Ruta Maya

DJ Spooky Aces Lounge

Anders Osborne The Parish

Doyle Bramhall, Patricia Vonne Continental Club

BY KATE X MESSER

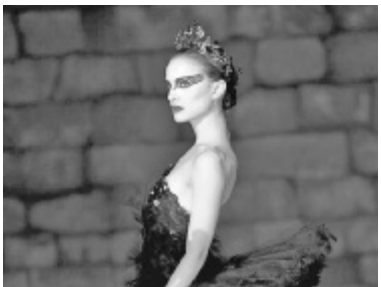
gayplace

A CONFESSION Last month was our first **Bedpost Confessions**. It threw us for a loop. The monthly night is a celebration of erotica where writers and readers of all stripes, polka dots, and zigzags (OK, we'll spell it out: women, men, etc., gay, straight, etc.) get up and get down with the verbiage, get tactical with the titillatory, and get in your pants, basically, without stepping off the stage. It's that good, that juicy, that naughty, that public, and that not-to-be-missed. Atop the array of scheduled spoken-nasties, the hosts also read anonymous missives from the audience. The effect is very much heat-rising-from-collars, as when Sister Mary Margaret would intercept passed notes in class and read them aloud. We have a confession: Our confessions did not stop at the event's end. The randomness continued into the evening, with dark admissions streaking the night like so many racy neon street lights – lasers of disclosure, an owning of secrets deep – and it was mutual. As many were heard as were told, and they shall be held close, never to be let out, save for personal pleasure, in private, or in the sole company of the confessor.

Revelations are powerful; that's why they are the last and darkest book. Professions are empowering; that's why they are important to air out and give a shake on occasion – an occasion such as **Bedpost Confessions**. And this month's features a dance afterward! Wear your most comfortable, slutty best. (See Wednesday.)

INQUEERMUNICADO Finally, someone has put together a local online resource that does more than just pimp product, shill shit, and futz around on the same old self-aggrandizing feedback loop. **Communicate Queerly** (www.communicatequeerly.com) aims to allow Austin eventgoers and coordinators the opportunity to plan in advance and in concert at a glance. No stupid social network interface or counterintuitive bad design, no lame-ass mutually flaccid masturbation, just a simple way to tell the community: Here are my events! Oh, and there are yours! Why don't we work around each other, thereby working with each other, as opposed to working against each other and in a vacuum? What a great idea! In fact, it's brilliant. Use it. (See Now... listings.)

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L - R: EBENEZER'S JOURNEY (SEE FRIDAY) | TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS REFEREE RECRUITMENT (SPORTS, P.65) | KODACHROME CHRISTMAS (ARTS, P.66) | BLACK SWAN (FILM, P.72) | MISTER HEAVENLY (MUSIC, P.82)

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

Hawkins Furniture Co. in Rosenberg builds furniture that your loved ones will be fighting over after you've passed on to a better place. Each table, chair, fireplace mantel, or cabinet is handcrafted for strength, beauty, and functionality.

"Everything we build is built to last at least 100 years," the company's owner says. His name is William Hawkins, but even his wife calls him Hawkins. He's a good-sized man with arms like logs, hands the size of tree stumps, and an easy smile on his face. Only his thinning hair and graying beard hint that he's 62 years old.

Hawkins Furniture has solidified a reputation for well-built furniture in a combination of rustic and modern styles. A Hawkins-built piece is a work of art as much as a piece of furniture. Some pieces, like benches or mantels, often follow the curvature of the original log, while other pieces are symmetrical. All of the home furnishings take advantage of the natural grain and color of the wood.

"I started using just-reclaimed wood," Hawkins says. "But then I discovered Texas Kiln Products." The Smithville lumberyard supplies him with sustainable harvested Texas woods. Besides mesquite and pecan, one of Hawkins' favorite woods is Texas black walnut.

A relatively rare wood, black walnut was brought to Texas from the eastern United States as a shade tree. In the Texas climate, the trees developed unique properties that produce a dark, hard finish. "Unfortunately, we often only get it when the tree is taken out because it is in the way of progress or has died," Hawkins says.

An auto mechanic for 20 years, Hawkins began his woodworking career more than 20 years ago when his brother asked him to paint some chairs at his furniture store in Houston. Being one of those guys who can do almost anything with his hands, Hawkins decided he liked working with wood more than fixing cars. His first project was a dining room table that he still uses. After several years of selling his creations wholesale, he opened his shop in a former tractor shop in downtown Rosenberg.

The showroom is full of his natural-wood furniture situated next to colorful chairs and cabinets by David Marsh, another Houston-area furniture-maker. A large picture window separates the sales room from the wood shop. "The original intent of the window was so customers could watch us work," Hawkins says. "But I usually take them into the shop to see and feel the wood up close." After all, it is all about the wood.

Hawkins Furniture Co. is at 1811 Avenue G, a block north of U.S. 90, in downtown Rosenberg. The showroom is open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 3pm. For more information, call 281/341-0479. To see photographs of some of the unusual custom-ordered projects Hawkins has done, go to www.hawkinsfurniture.com.

1,013th in a series. Collect them all. 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

THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY Drive through or take a hayride past nine holiday scenes with music, live characters, animals, and special lighting and effects. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11, 6:30-8:30pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, 110 W. Austin St., Fredericksburg, 830/997-2069. Free. www.bethanyfredericksburg.org.*

COMMUNITY FREE DAY As a holiday present to the community, the Corpus Christi Science and History Museum and the Art Museum of South Texas waive the admission fees and sweeten the deal with holiday music, hands-on activities, and photos with Santa. *Sat., Dec. 11, 10am-1pm. Corpus Christi, 361/825-3504. Free. www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org.*

BAZAR SÁBADO One of the most unique shopping opportunities in Central Texas, the bazaar features ethnic jewelry, furniture, nativities, clothing, decorative pieces, and folk art. Admission includes entry to the exhibits. *Sat., Dec. 11, 10am-4pm. San Antonio Museum of Art, 210/978-8100. \$3. www.samuseum.org.*

CHRISTMAS MARKET & WINE WALK Sample local wines as you shop for gifts by local artisans and purchase cookies and candies by the pound. *Sat., Dec. 11, 9am-8pm. Civic Center, Flatonina, 361/865-3920. Free. www.flatoniacamber.com.*

RENAISSANCE FAIRE Join the lords and ladies as they enjoy the music, medieval jousting, food, and drink. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 11-12, 10am-5pm. Live Oak Park, Ingleside, 888/899-2906. \$3. www.inglesidetxchamber.org.*

CHRISTMAS AT WINEDALE Visit an 1800s holiday village with period decorations, stagecoach rides, folk life demonstrations, music, craft projects for the kids, food, drinks, and a visit with the Weihnachtsmann (German Santa Claus). *Sat, Dec. 11, noon-4pm. Winedale Historical Complex, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top, 979/278-3530. Free. www.cah.utexas.edu.*

SATURDAY 11

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.*

BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET Expect local farm-fresh produce that belies its placement in a parking lot. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 280-1976. Free. www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org.*

SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER FARMERS' MARKET Organic and local meats, cheeses, and produce await you. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones, 414-2096. Free. www.sfcfarmersmarketsunsetvalley.org.*

'TIS THE SEASON HOLIDAY CLEANUP Get your outdoor-volunteer gear on, sign up online, and help ensure the health of one of Austin's most beloved waterways. *9am. Lady Bird Lake, 391-0622. Free. www.keepaustinbeautiful.org.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL The Charles Dickens Christmas tale is brightened up a bit for the kids, but the message is the same: If you're poor, wait for ghosts to haunt a wealthy man, and he will buy you presents. Suitable for kids between the ages of 3 and 7. *Through Dec. 12. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2pm. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$10 (\$8, children). www.srct.org.*

CELEBRITY COOK-OFF Eat Local Week winds down by amping up the competition. The Culinary Academy of Austin hosts this battle of local food writers who must prepare a meal using items bought from the farmers' market. *10am. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.edibleaustin.com.*

FAMILY GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP Nothing gets kids in the holiday spirit like decorating edible architecture or people-shaped cookies. *10am-noon. South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland, 444-6601. \$25 per house, \$5 per dozen gingerbread men. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/southaustin.htm.*

HEALTH FAIR Seven doctors will be offering physicals for adults and children alike. Flu vaccines, blood sugar tests, eye exams, and other services will be offered. After the tests enjoy food, beverages, and a bouncy castle. *10am-4pm. Windsor Duval Nursing and Rehab Facility 5301 W. Duval Rd. Free.*

HUMANITIES TEXAS HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR H.W. Brands, Naomi Shihab Nye, Diana Welch, and Bill Wittliff are just a few of the 27 authors who will be autographing books for purchase at 20% below the cover price. Coffee and treats will be available if your blood sugar gets low from all the literary star power. Proceeds go to small-town libraries in Texas. *10am-1pm. Humanities Texas, corner of 15th & Rio Grande. www.humanitiestexas.org.*

TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB Come watch the choo-choos and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. You might even be allowed to sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the tip jar. *Saturdays through Jan. 15, 10am-5pm. 201 W. Second. Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.*

BOBBY COOK'S BIG GAY HOLIDAY BRUNCH Full brunch and mimosas? What? One dollar glasses? Five dollar carafes? What the ...? DJ Benson Wilder and Rebecca Havemeyer? What the deuce!? *11am. The Belmont, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300.*

CANNED FOOD DONATION DRIVE Bring last-minute monetary or canned good donations for the Capital Area Food Bank and Foundation Communities to ensure that your conscience is at ease this holiday season. *11am-1pm. Greater Texas Federal Credit Union, 6411 N. Lamar, 458-2558. www.gtfcu.org/index.php/austin/288-give-hope.*

STACI GRAY HOLIDAY CONCERT Tickets are required for this sing-along. *11am. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.*

BARBARA BEERY dishes up her very popular children's cookbooks, including *Pink Ponies Cupcakes*, *UT Longhorns Cookbook*, and *Spa Princess Cookbook*. This is part of the Laurel Mountain Elementary

Bookfair. *Noon. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

FAMILY SATURDAY Kids are invited to create their own holiday cards. *Noon-4pm. Austin Museum of Art - Downtown, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$7 per family. www.amoa.org.*

FOODWAYS TEXAS LAUNCH PARTY features food from the menus of local restaurants, a foodie film screening, and live music. *Noon-5pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth #200, 479-8848. \$30. www.facebook.com/foodwaystexas.*

HOW TO EAT LIKE A CHILD and *Other Lessons in Not Being a Grownup* teaches adults the fine arts of torturing sisters and begging for a dog, among other skills. This musical stars students in the Zach Performing Arts School. *Sat., Dec. 11, 12:30 & 2:30pm; Sat., Dec. 18, 2:30 & 4:30pm. Zach Theatre's Kleberg Stage, 1421 W. Riverside, 476-0541 x1. \$10 (\$8, kids). www.zachtheatre.org.*

AUSTIN DOG ALLIANCE OPEN HOUSE Learn about this organization's classes, trainers, and adoptable companions while you get your presents wrapped in exchange for a donation. Storytime for the kids starts at 2pm. *1-5pm. Austin Dog Alliance Training Center, 12129 RR 620 #401. Free. www.austindogalliance.org.*

CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS In conjunction with the Mexican-American Trailblazers exhibit, the Austin History Center brings six of those luminaries to talk about their experiences in the fields of the arts, media, public service, and more. *1pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7498. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc/trailblazers.htm.*

MARIO KART TOURNAMENT FINALS Vie for one of the wildcard spots, or watch Austin's finest Mario Kart racers (ages 6 and older) battle it out. *1pm. Twin Oaks Branch Library, 1800 S. Fifth. Free. www.connectedyouth.org.*

PRUNING FRUIT TREES WORKSHOP Get hands-on lopping and trimming experience with the proceeds going to TreeFolks and Urban Roots. *1-3pm. Urban Roots Farm, 7756 Delwau, 342-0424. \$20. www.youthlaunch.org.*

WINTER WONDERLAND PSYCHEDELIC COMMUNION THROWDOWN This epic 12.5-hour hoopedoo pits the most delirious of the Austin underground against staid sensibilities and aural comfort zones. Come challenge your brain and booty with Elizabeth Jackson, LA Cameron, Amanda Hickey & the Bruises, Venison Whirled, Devil Bat's Daughter, and more. *1pm-2am. Cheer Up Charlie's, 1104 E. Sixth, 431-2133.*

CLEARVIEW SUDBURY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Meet teachers and faculty from this "democratic community for students ages 5-19." *2-4pm. 1507 Wilshire, 524-0085. Free. www.clearviewsudburschool.org.*

CRAFT BREWERS MINI-FESTIVAL The only thing better than beer is locally brewed beer. Come taste what Texans are brewing, and the proceeds will go to Urban Roots. *2-5pm. Black Star Co-op Pub & Brewery, 7020 Easy Wind #100, Midtown Commons, 441-3971. \$15. www.edibleaustin.com.*

YO GABBA GABBA! LIVE! The children of hipsters and hip-hoppers agree, *Yo Gabba Gabba!* is the hot ticket to increase your preschool cool. *2 & 5pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$37-48. www.yogabbagabbaalive.com.*

SPEAKING OF JUNK TOUCHING TENT goes there. Transgender Education Network of Texas is dedicated to furthering the cause of gender-diverse people in Central Texas. This month, TENT's guest speakers will be folks from the Transportation Security Administration, you know: body scanners, pat downs, junk touching. *Yeasssss! Second Saturday each month, 3pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 448-6354, 877/532-6789. www.tentex.org, www.myspace.com/tactx.*

GIVING IS GOOD Roughly a dozen local acts, including Will T. Massey and Sleep Good, take the stage to help children with mental and physical challenges. See Music Listings, p.82, for a complete lineup. *4pm-12mid. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 515-6889. \$10. www.hopehouseaustin.org.*

TOY DRIVE & HOT ROD SHOW N SHINE Bring a new toy to donate to SafePlace and get shiny vintage hotrods, delicious local food, crafts, and live music in return. *4-10pm. Community Renaissance Market, 6800 West Gate Blvd., 690-3125. www.billycannons.com.*



HONK!TX WINTER FUNDRAISER (SEE FRIDAY)



FAMILY GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP (SEE SATURDAY)



CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER (SEE FRIDAY)

CCMC'S HOLIDAY CONCERT Don you now your gay apparel, angels. Speaking of angels: Have you heard these fellas? A chorus of heavenly magnitude! Buy a ticket for this one show, or check out the rest of the season's package deals. 6:45pm. *United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 389-0315. \$15-25. www.ccmcaustin.org.*

AMY COOK PLAYS THE SIMS BASH Our fave "Hotel Lights" angel plays along with Kat Edmonson, Eliza Gilkyson, the David Garza Septet, Graham Reynolds, Maestro Peter Bay, Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Will Sexton, and Sahara Smith, all for the love of musicians! 7pm. *Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146. \$25 (\$15, advance; \$100, VIP dinner). www.amycook.com, www.simsfoundation.org.*

GINGER LEIGH Head on up to P'ville for this early night, co-headlining with Meagan Tubb. 8pm. *Hanovers, 108 E. Main St., Pflugerville, 512/670-9617. www.hanoversaustin.com.*

EBENEZER'S JOURNEY (See Friday.)

WINTERLAND: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAHANUKWANZAAKKAH (See Friday.)

CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER (See Friday.)

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR (See Friday.)

VISUAL ARTS (See Arts Listings.)

Domy Books: You Can Observe A Lot By Watching Domy Books

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Domy Books, Gallery Black Lagoon, Omni Hotel Southpark

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

"Frosty the Snowman" @ Millennium, 10:15am
Bad Writing @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am
Spamarama: The Movie @ Alamo Ritz, 1pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Wu-Tang Clan *Emo's*
Riverboat Gamblers *Red 7*
I Wanna Be Your Dog! *Beauty Bar*
Uranium Savages *Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz*
Paul Green School of Rock *Ruta Maya*
Biz Markie *The Scoot Inn*

SUNDAY 12

LEGENDARY: THE DRAG BRUNCH

You had us at "unlimited bacon." (Not to mention washing it all down with all those mimosas.) Come get diva'd up on a Sunday with sassy Saffire, Topaz, Tara St. Stone, and Miss Ima Hoot. *Brunch, 11am-3pm; shows, noon & 2pm. M Two, 208 W. Fourth, 478-7222. \$20.*

JUNKYARD CASSEROLE Ingredients in the recipe include an art show, a yard sale, trash sculptures, recycled treats, live music, and more. *Noon-9pm.*

Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½, 538-1991. Free. www.palfloat.com.

PTERADACTAL CACTUS A team of talented improvisers take kids and their families through stories, games, and songs based on audience suggestions. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. www.flyingtheatremachine.com.*

SCIENCE SUNDAY Students from UT's Hands-on Science program bring the museum's big ideas down to size with interactive experiments. *Sundays, 3pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50 (free, 4-5pm). www.austinkids.org.*

AU GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING The newly recognized Austin chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State gathers to keep religion out of government. *4pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 280-6950. Free. www.au.org.*

CHRISNUKKAHWANZAA: A WACKY FAMILY HOLIDAY Bring the kids to this interactive theatrical romp through the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. *4pm. Bachus Conservatory, 800 Anderson Square, 454-2533. Donations appreciated. www.bachusconservatory.com.*

NOCHE NAVIDEÑA Univision sponsors this event packed with entertainment from the likes of Ballet Folklorico, Cristina, Las Fenix, and Santa himself. Don't forget canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank or toys for the Austin Children's Shelter. 'Tis the season, you know. *5-9pm. Symphony Square, 1101 Red River, 476-6064.*

ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL No Trail of Lights again this year, but the tree is still available for spinning under. There will be nightly entertainment, concerts, and a lighted pedestrian footpath display to help you from going into twinkly-light withdrawal. *Through Dec. 21, 5:30-9:30pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zilker/zhtree.htm.*

GREEN PARTY MEET-UP The Travis County Green Party congregates to discuss the upcoming legislative session. *6pm. Dominican Joe, 515 S. Congress #108, 448-3919. www.txgreens.org.*

JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH! Thespianic theologians James Dean Jay Byrd, Kristin Firth, Marc Majcher channel the naked Jews wandering the desert and get you to salvationing. *7pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$5.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BARBARELLA It's their party and they'll drink PBR if they want to! And those red, white, and blues will only cost a buck on this celebratory night. *New Noise, FOOTLOOSE, and Grits & Gravy make it all spinny. 10pm. Barbarella, 615 Red River, 476-7766.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (See Saturday.)

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR (See Saturday.)

WINTERLAND: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAHANUKWANZAAKKAH (See Friday.)

CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER (See Friday.)

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR (See Friday.)

LITERA (See Arts Listings.)

Indie Lit Roadshow *United States Art Authority*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Immortal Beloved @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers @ MonkeyWrench Books, 7pm

Winter Night @ Alamo Ritz, 11:15pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Eyehategod *Red 7*

Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin *Paramount Theatre*

MONDAY 13

PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Learn the facts and come out to share your thoughts with the people at TxDOT who can make your suggestions a reality. *6pm. Joe C. Thompson Center, UT campus, Dean Keeton & Red River, 974-9715. www.campotexas.org/programs_plan.php.*

BRIEF HISTORY OF TAMALES *Chronicle* Food scribe Claudia Alarcón shares her knowledge of the history of this Mexican staple along with tips for cooking your own. E-mail to RSVP *7pm. Habitat Suites, 500 E. Highland Mall Blvd., 467-6000, 800/535-4663. Free. anneh@slowfoodaustin.org, www.slowfoodaustin.org.*

MANIC MONDAYS With a name like that, one might suspect this to be the same ol' Eighties dreck. Umm, no way. XBRMNT (aka Nakia) spins crazy good juxtapositions from classic cunt'ry and R&B to goofy hits. *Mondays, 9pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. www.facebook.com/ManicMondays.*

EMPLOYMENT GROUP A presentation on job-searching skills is followed by networking. One-on-one guidance with a vocational expert can also be arranged. *Second & Fourth Mondays, 6:30-8pm. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 3525 Bee Caves Rd., 327-3370. Free. www.austinemploymentgroup.org.*

ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

A Christmas Carol @ Cepeda Branch Library, 6pm
Bad Writing @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
Deconstructing Dad: The Music, Machines and Mysteries of Raymond Scott @ Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm
La ilusión viaja en tranvía (Illusion Travels by Streetcar) @ MACC, 8pm
The Devil's Backbone @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Mister Heavenly *The Scoot Inn*

TUESDAY 14

HACA PUBLIC HEARING Got something to say about the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's Annual Plan? Don't we all. Check out the plan online, and bring your two cents to this meeting. *11am. HACA central office, 1124 S. I-35. Free. www.hacanet.org.*

BENEFIT NIGHT Shopping at this fair trade boutique will help raise funds for VSA Texas' work with people with disabilities. *5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.*

BARTHOLOMEW DISTRICT PARK POOL INPUT MEETING Meet the architectural design team and learn about the potential changes around this community pool and surrounding park. *6pm. University Hills Branch Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/bartholomewpool_improvement.htm.*

CHIEF ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICER MEET & GREET Abigail Smith is one of five finalists for the position of Austin pet czar. Come out and see if the glass slipper fits. *6pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING Bring your plant-loving neighbor to this annual potluck and silent auction. *7pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free. www.npsot.org/austin.*

PFLAG HOLIDAY SOCIAL Holidays with the family can be rough on teh gheys. PFLAG makes it so much better! Time for a holiday hang-out! Bring finger food to share and a non-perishable for a local food pantry in the name of this sweet allies group. *Second Tuesday of every month, 6:45pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/302-3524. Free. pflagaustin@gmail.com, www.pflag-austin.org, www.straightforequality.org.*

ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bad Writing @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
Cold Light @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm
Love Actually @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

The Gay Blades *Emo's*

WEDNESDAY 15

21ST CENTURY FORUM The Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Austin Energy present speakers and foster discussion of sustainable business practices. *7:30-9am. Nuevo León, 1501 E. Sixth, 462-4318. \$5. www.gahcc.org.*

HOLIDAY markets

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Nothing says holidays in Austin like scouring aisles and aisles of local art, crafts, and lord knows what else, surrounded by tunes from one of many musical acts performing this year. Don't worry; Post Office reps will be on the premises (until Dec. 20) to spare you from lugging all those herbal soaps home for the holidays. *Dec. 15-24, 11am-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 447-1605. \$4, weekdays till 7pm; \$7, evenings and weekends. www.armadillobazaar.com.*

ARABIC BAZAAR Arabic music, belly dancing and belly-dance classes (free with purchase of dance card), complimentary Arabic sweets, candy, and coffee – all of these accompany a bazaar full of goodies from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco for exotic holiday gifts. *Sun., Dec. 12, 11am-7pm. Arabic Bazaar, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. www.wmdproductions.com.*

★ BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Need something Austin-y (art, jewelry, prints, clothing, etc., whatnot, and then some) for a loved one this year? More than 100 artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. Special events occur throughout the month of December, so shop often. *Through*

Dec. 24, 10am-10pm (Fridays & Saturdays, 10am-12mid). The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. Free admission. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR Eighty artists offer their wares for your holiday purchasing pleasure. Live music from the likes of Colin Gilmore and the Boxcar Preachers makes supporting the local art scene and this neighborhood elementary school easy. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 11-12. Maplewood Elementary School, 3808 Maplewood, 964-5621. Free. www.cherrywoodartfair.org.*

HANDMADE ART HOLIDAY SALE Local artists, vendors, and designers put their creative output up for sale to make your holiday shopping easier. *Starts Sat., Dec. 11, 2-10pm. Gallery Black Lagoon, 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. Free. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.*

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR Belly dancing, live music, and theatre performances make this holiday shopping bazaar feel more like a night out in Austin. *Dec. 10-19: Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 4pm. Gemini Playhouse, 5214 Burlison #209, 436-9020. \$15. www.thegeminiplayhouse.com.*

🐾 EXPERIENCE MUSIC TOGETHER Children younger than 5 years of age and their parents are invited to sample classes by Heartsong Music. Start nurturing your kid's inner musician early. Go online to sign up. *9:30 & 10:45am, 3:30 & 4:45pm. Heartsong Music, 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. Free. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.*

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS MEETING Hosted by the Association for Women in Communications, this meeting features a discussion on the art of selling your product. *11:30am-1pm. UT Club, Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. \$50 (\$40, members). www.awcaustin.org.*

👑 GAY SENSITIVE AA MEETING You don't have to be a UT student; you just have to want to quit drinking. Meet in the basement of the School of Social Work every Hump Day at lunchtime. *Noon-12:45pm. UT School of Social Work, 1925 San Jacinto, 475-8352. hn85@mail.utexas.edu or i.grahovac@uhs.utexas.edu.*

TRIANGLE FARMERS' MARKET Fresh, local produce without the early hours of those other farmers' markets. *Wednesdays, 3-7pm. Austin Farmers' Market at the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 236-0074. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE Vernita Gordon of UT's Physics Department discusses biofilms (aka slime). *7pm. American Legion Post 76, 2201 W. Cesar Chavez. Free. www.centerforinquiry.net/austin.*

👑 QUIZZNESS Join Quizmaster Lois and the gang for another rousing round of memorized minutiae and some damn fine south of the border (and river) grub. *Every third Wednesday of the month, 7pm. Nueva Onda, 2218 College Ave., 447-5063. www.nuevaaustrin.com.*

👑 HOLIDAY BEDPOST CONFESSIONS We confess. Last month's Bedpost Confessions knocked us sideways. We left that dang thing confessing into the wee hours things we'd never told anyone. Our compass now perpetually points South. No joke. This month, there will be a Slutty Santa. We might even know Santa. But we're not confessing that. Randy dance party to follow. *8pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. Free. www.bedpostconfessions.wordpress.com.*

👑 OCH RETRO NIGHT: BACK TO THE BOATHOUSE Come for the memories at this veritable class reunion of an old beloved Austin gay bar with all your Eighties tricks, tunes from the times, and drinks for \$1. Not exactly Reaganomics. Thank God. *Wednesdays, 10pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

★ ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Bhutto @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Carnival Magic @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid
The Devil's Backbone @ Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm
True Grit @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Pataphysics, Talmadge d'Amour Emo's
Brown Santa Toy/Capital Area Food Bank Drive Flamingo Cantina

THURSDAY 16

🐾 LEGO STORY LAB If your kids find reading to be a chore, why not throw in some LEGOs to mix things up? Part playtime, part storytime, all fun. For kids ages 10 and older. *4:30pm. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

GREEN HOLIDAY PARTY Buy your tickets ahead of time, and hobnob with local environmental orgs. Live music from Tribal Nation, food, and drinks get attendees in the party mood. *5:30-9:30pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318. \$30 (\$20, members). www.texasgreennetwork.org.*

NORTH LOOP HOLIDAY NIGHT OUT Put a dash of partying into your relentless seasonal shopping spree. Stores along this popular hip strip will be gussied up with music, food, and other surprises. *6-9pm. North Loop, from Guadalupe to Martin Street. www.libuyaustrin.com.*

★ HEALTH CARE REFORM & YOU Local health-care professionals and policy wonks translate the

Kate X Messer (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

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

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

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/commform.

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

governmental jargon into answers that pertain to your coverage and the reality of the new law. *6:30-9pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 250-1043. Free.*

BOTANICAL BEAUTY PARLOUR OPENING SOIREE

It's not just a grand opening, it's a party. The alt-tap-dancing outfit (if there is such a thing) What's Tapping brings its happy feet, and local artists fill up the gallery portion of the shop with their visions. For those looking for free stuff, there will be wine, appetizers, and giveaways. *6-9pm. PALOMA Botanical Beauty Parlour, 4600 Mueller Blvd. #1005, 480-8090. Free. www.palomabeauty.com.*

👑 BETCH SAYS, 'YES MEANS YES!' Join the French Inhales, Lola Cola, the Queertastics, and more, as new radical feminist organization Beautiful Educated Thunder Cunts From Hell rallies to envision a world without rape, amen. *7-11pm. Trailer Space Records, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445.*

🐾 EXPERIENCE MUSIC TOGETHER (See Wednesday.)

TRAVIS COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET (See Thursday, 12/9.)

★ ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Daft Punk's Electroma @ Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 10pm
O Brother, Where Art Thou? @ Alamo Draffhouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Holy Wave, English Teeth The Parish

now ...

👑 ACTOM: COFFEE, TEA, ETC. Because men are like coffee; the best ones are rich, hot, and can keep you up all night. Join the monthly meeting of Austin Coffee, Tea, or Me? – an online group to help you find Mr. Right ... or at least Mr. Right There, oh yes, right there. groups.yahoo.com/group/actom.

👑 COMMUNICATE QUEERLY Finally! A socially intricate, yet easy-to-use Web presence designed to "help foster communication and planning within the queer community to avoid competing events." Thank you, Poochie. Go check it out, and load up all your events. Now! What are you waiting for? *Free. www.communicatequeerly.com, www.facebook.com/communicateATX.*

EMILYANN THEATRE TRAIL OF LIGHTS As long as the weather is good, there will be 9 acres of illuminated decorations for your holiday gawking. Hot dogs, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, and live entertainment round out the festivities. *Through Dec. 31, 6-9pm.*

The EmilyAnn Theatre, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free. www.emilyann.org.

FLAVORS FOR SAVORS So you're donating blood. What do you want, a pint of ice cream from Amy's Ice Creams? Done and done. Go online for a list of donation spots. *Blood Center of Central Texas, 4300 N. Lamar, 206-1266. www.inyourhands.org.*

FREE SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES Pets whose owners live within certain Austin ZIP codes are eligible for free rabies shot, collar and tag, microchip, and spay/neuter services. Call to check your eligibility and to schedule an appointment. *Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez, 587-7729. Free.*

FRONT STEPS HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE Go online to find out what the people at Front Steps could use to help those in need this holiday season, and drop it off during business hours. *Through Dec. 31. Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.*

HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW This local coffee shop has been stepping up its holiday light game for years. Every hour the lights and music explode with the spirit of the holidays. *Through Dec. 31, 6pm-12mid. Mozart's Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900. Free. www.austintexaschristmaslights.com.*

MCCOY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY Forty thousand synchronized lights ensure that your holidays are filled with joy ... and possibly seizures. *Through Dec. 31, 5:30-10:30pm. 8304 Roan, 698-6944. Free. www.mccoyleftlights.com.*

👑 RAINBOW NIGHT For Bobcats (and friends) who swish and sway to a different beat. Sadly, no bar will commit to this weekly night, but Silvia and pals are hanging in there, trying to build LGBT community in SM. Stay tuned to their FB page for news. *When it happens, we'll let you know. Somewhere in San Marcos ... Bueller? www.facebook.com/rainbownight.*

SANTA'S RANCH Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up to the North Pole. He's spending most of his time among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. Get in the car, and join in the festivities. *Through Jan. 2, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall), 830/743-1293. \$20 per car. www.santasranch.net.*

SUPPORT FOR ANTHONY GRAVES who was exonerated after spending 18 years on death row. The Texas Moratorium Network is collecting funds to help him get on his feet while he navigates the long legal process to receive compensation from the state of Texas. www.anthonnygraves.org.

WHERE'S MY TAX REFUND? Did you move without leaving a forwarding address? Perhaps your stalker made you go off the grid. Whatever the reason, if you haven't received your refund check from the Man, then you should call or go online and see if your name is on one of the 9,800 checks waiting for Texans. 800/829-1954. www.irs.gov.

& later

👑 A VERY PINK CHRISTMAS The Austin Baptist Women bring the sass, Mike Burns (New Jerusalem fame, how apropos) brings the class, and you bring the donkey! *Sun., Dec. 19, 6-10pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

👑 CAP CITY QS HOLIDAY GALA Come on upstairs to Marker 10! This month the Cap City Q-ties will be courtin' and a-flirtin' while collecting holiday cheer for ASA and CARE Communities. Bring grocery gift cards, new toiletries, nonperishables, and your big, fat Santa attitude (a big, fat wallet is welcome too, of course) and share. *And flirt. Mon., Dec. 20, 7pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. Free. www.capitalcityqsocals.com.*

👑 HOT/ICE HOLIDAY BATHHOUSE The Bathhouse boys are back. Where? We do not yet know. But when? Next weekend! Check their FB page for the latest details as they unravel (just like your drawers). *Fri., Dec. 17, 10:30pm. To be determined. www.facebook.com/bathhouseaustin.*

👑 SUCK MY CHRISTMAS! Rebecca Havemeyer, Little Stolen Moments, Silky Shoemaker, and Dr. Bruce Kirkland will help you unstuck that yule log. Now that's better, isn't it? *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 17-18, 9pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$10.*

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 Dec. 24 issue is Monday, Dec. 13.** 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, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings

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

TXRG Referee Recruitment

Let's face facts. As much as the crowd hates them, every sport needs refs. In 2011, the **Texas Rollergirls** head into their biggest season ever with their move to the **Austin Convention Center** (season passes on sale at www.texasrollergirls.org), and now they're looking for some new referees. All you need are basic skating skills and a willingness to learn the difference between a minor and a major penalty. So if you think you'd look good in black-and-white vertical stripes and you're available for league practices on Monday and Wednesday evenings, then it could be you getting booed by the crowd next season. Recruitment meeting: *Wed., Dec. 15, 7pm. Italo's, 1600 E. Sixth.*



– Richard Whittaker

BY NICK BARBARO **soccer watch**

About 35 former **Austin Aztex** supporters met Saturday for an exploratory session aimed at bringing minor-league soccer back to Austin, up to and including the option of creating a community-owned team from scratch. Among those in attendance were Aztex minority owners **David Markley** and **Hugh Bender**, joined by outgoing Aztex CEO **Djorn Buchholz**, along with representatives of various supporters' groups. No decisions were made (none were expected), but it was resolved "to form an Executive Discovery Committee to evaluate the options and present best of breed to the supporters." Go to www.austinphoenixsoccer.com or www.chanticosarmy.com for more info or to make yourself known as an interested party.

Notre Dame became the lowest seed ever to win the **NCAA Division I women's** championship with a 1-0 upset over **Stanford**, who for the second year in a row went into the final top-ranked and unbeaten and came out empty-handed.

In the lower divisions, **Hardin-Simmons** of Abilene, Texas, won its first NCAA Division III women's title on Saturday in San Antonio, while the **Messiah** men won their third straight D-III national title and eighth in the past 11 years. In Division II, **Grand Valley State** repeated as national women's champion and **Northern Kentucky** won its first title on the men's side.

This weekend the **Division I men** take the stage: The semifinals are Friday, Dec. 10 (**Louisville vs. North Carolina**, 7:30pm, ESPN; **Akron vs. Michigan**, 10pm, ESPN2), and the **College Cup Final** is Sunday, Dec. 12, 3pm, on ESPN2.

Also on TV: a top-of-the-table **English Premier League** clash, **Arsenal at Manchester United**, live on ESPN2, Monday, Dec. 13, 1:55pm.

The rich get richer: This Wednesday was the final game day for the **European Champions League** group stage, and not surprisingly, as the dust settles, just five countries supply 14 of the 16 teams advancing to the knockout rounds. All four **English** teams advance (three as group winners), along with all three **Italian** teams and all three **Spanish** teams; **Germany** and **France** each advanced two teams, but from the other 13 countries represented in the group stage, only Copenhagen and Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk survive. Round of 16 play starts Feb. 15; for a complete list of qualifiers, see this column online.

THE MAIN EVENT

★ **ANARCHY CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: DELUSIONS OF OUR CHILDISH DAYS** will feature underground wrestling greats ACH, Jason Silver (of the Lost Boys), Skylar Skelly, Matthew Palmer, and more in all their blood-spurting, face-bashing glory. Sun., Dec. 12, 5:15-9:30pm. Mohawk, 912 Red River, 482-8404. \$15, front row; \$10, general admission. www.anarchychampionshipwrestling.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** For more on the Stars, see *Chronicle Sports* blog the Score at austinchronicle.com/thescore. Vs. Manitoba: Tue., Dec. 14, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/467-8277. \$10-50. www.texasstarshockey.com.

★ **AUSTIN TOROS** The Toros welcome the Bakersfield Jam (affiliates of the Clippers and Lakers) to Cedar Park Center. Wed., Dec. 15, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$5-100. www.austintoros.com.

★ **UIL FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** See website for playoff brackets and venues. 3A Division I: Fri., Dec. 10. 1A and six man Division I and II: Sat., Dec. 11. \$5-12. www.uilutexas.org.

TXRG REFEREE RECRUITMENT SESSION Basic skating skills required, and you'll need to be available for Monday & Wednesday practices. Wed., Dec. 15, 7-9pm. Italo's Pizzeria & Bar, 1600 E. Sixth, 467-1500. Free. www.texasrollergirls.org.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Dillard University: Mon., Dec. 13, 7:30pm. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Dillard University: Mon., Dec. 13, 5:30pm. athletics.htu.edu.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Schreiner: Sat., Dec. 12, 1pm. Robertson Center, 930 Southwestern Blvd. www.southwesternpirates.com.

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Texas Southern University: Thu., Dec. 16, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum. \$6-10. **Women's Basketball** Vs. UT Pan American: Sun., Dec. 12, 2pm. Strahan Coliseum. \$4-6. www.txstatebobcats.com.

★ UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Men's Basketball Vs. Texas State: Sat., Dec. 11, 3pm. Vs. North Florida: Tue., Dec. 14, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-40. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Tennessee: Wed., Dec. 12, 12pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-16. **Volleyball: NCAA Regional:** Florida Vs. Purdue: Fri., Dec. 10, 4:30pm. Texas Vs. Illinois: Fri., Dec. 10, 6:30pm. Second round: winners from Friday: Sat., Dec. 11, 6:30pm. Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. www.texasports.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

DECKER CHALLENGE HALF-MARATHON, MARATHON, AND RELAY Sun., Dec. 12. Marathon, 7:30am; half-marathon, 8am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 854-4900. \$75-105. decker.austinrunners.org.

JINGLEBELL 5K BENEFITING MADD Sun., Dec. 12, 8-11am. The Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 795-4230. Timed, \$40; untimed, \$35; kids' k, \$12.

JINGLE BELL 5K FOR ST. JUDES Sat., Dec. 11, 9am. \$15-30. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/708-2991. www.nbrunclub.com.

BROWN SANTA 5K AND KIDS K Sun., Dec. 12, 8:15am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 854-4900. \$10-25. www.brownsanta.org.

ESMERALDA'S RUN Sun., Dec. 12, 9:30am. Austin Tennis Academy, 6800 Spanish Oaks Club Blvd. www.esmeraldasrun.com.

PROJECT OVERFLOW 5K Sat., Dec. 11, 9am. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 409/781-1061. \$15-25. www.pflame.com.

FOOTBALL WATCH

The **Texans** suck, the **Horns** sucky season is over, and the **Cowboys** have gone from sucky to scrappy (but still kind of sucky). This week, both the Cowboys (vs. the Eagles, Sunday, 7:20pm, NBC) and the Texans (vs. the Ravens, Monday, 7:30pm, ESPN) play on national TV. Two extremely tough matchups for both Lone Star State teams.

But let's talk about my nonsucky predictions against the spread. Over the season, I am 18-14-2 against the spread. This might not sound very impressive, but I'd argue it is. To post your predictions, see this column online at austinchronicle.com.

Picks of the week: My (not so) stone-cold locks are the Ravens minus 3 in Houston, the Rams plus 9 in NOLA, the Falcons minus 7 in Carolina, the Bucs minus 2.5 in Washington, and the Chiefs plus 7 in San Diego.

Read more "Football Watch" online at austinchronicle.com.

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arts listings

The Trip to Bountiful

Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, 476-0084
www.austinplayhouse.com
 Through Dec. 18
 Running time: 2 hr., 10 min.

“Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.” The old country hymn is never far from the lips of Carrie Watts, the elderly protagonist of Horton Foote’s best-known play. She must sing it, she remarks

to a stranger at one point, a hundred times a day. Small wonder, then, that the hymn is a constant source of irritation to Mrs. Watts’ daughter-in-law, Jessie Mae, setting on edge nerves already jangled from spending all day, every day, with the older woman in the close confines of a three-room apartment in Houston.

But in this quietly affecting drama, the Christian anthem serves a higher purpose than that of a flash point of conflict between the two women, or even a signifier that Mrs. Watts is a woman of abiding faith. It tells us her story. “Come home, come home,” calls the refrain. “You who are weary, come home.” Mrs. Watts, worn and unsettled from her years of captivity in a cramped, urban cell far from the farm of her youth, hears the call of her home, feels its pull, and is resolved to return to it, even if that means lying to her son, stealing away like a thief, and making the journey alone. Though we never hear it in the play, the hymn’s third verse no doubt drives Mrs. Watts onward: “Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me; shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me.”

With the simplicity and modesty of that hymn, Austin Playhouse’s production tracks this unlikely Ulysses’ odyssey from Bayou City to Bountiful, the small town on the gulf where Mrs. Watts was reared and then reared Ludie, her sole surviving child of three. A cot, a rocker, a table, and a bed are all that are needed to suggest the tight quarters in which these characters live. Three chairs make up a bench in the bus station; when shifted, they become seats on the bus itself. We don’t need trappings more elaborate than these any more than we need speeches that describe the characters’ psychological conditions in extravagant detail. Foote’s spare prose imparts so much about these figures; the common courtesies and passing references to past persons and events reveal their histories, something of the moral polestars that guide them, and their own measure of their lives against the tide of time.



Here, the burden of time on these people is eloquently expressed. Brian Coughlin’s Ludie, troubled by his failure to provide a suitable home for his wife and mother and anxiously anticipating asking for a raise at work, shoulders his cares like physical weights; they seem to be perpetually pressing down on him, and projecting all the gentle decency and dignity that Coughlin does, his plight pierces our hearts. As Jessie Mae, Amy Kay Raymond exudes the brittleness of bone china, a quality she frequently exploits to comic effect with impressive finesse. But she also lets us glimpse beneath that jittery surface of the character’s fearful sense of the ticking clock, of life turning in directions she hasn’t foreseen and may not wish to follow.

Whether Jessie Mae grasps it or not, that concern is what’s pushing her mother-in-law back to Bountiful. Time has led Mrs. Watts away from the person she was, and she feels the only place she can understand how she came to be who she is is her home. In Foote’s cosmology, home is not a nostalgic abode of eternal sunshine and unconditional love; it is the place that shapes us, for good or ill, and thus the place where we may best know ourselves. Before she reaches it, Mary Agen Cox’s Mrs. Watts is a portrait of agitation, nervously rubbing one wrist, darting glances this way and that, and if she isn’t sitting in tight-lipped silence, she’s chatting up a blue streak. But on the porch of the old Watts manse, now largely a ruin, Cox settles into a luminous calm. She speaks of the farms of yesterday and the forests of today that replaced them, but then imagines new farms tomorrow replacing those, and forests then overtaking them. As she locates herself in those cycles of history, Cox conveys it with a peace that passes all understanding.

Softly and tenderly, Foote tells us of one woman’s passage back to her birthplace. With sensitivity and true feeling, director Don Toner and his talented company carry us home.

— Robert Faires

theatre

OPENING

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Award-winning actress and storyteller Bernadette Nason performs Charles Dickens’ own abridged version of his famous yuletide tale, bringing vivid life to more than 30 characters, along with bells, chains, and other sound effects. We kid you not: This is the *Carol* to see. Dec. 9-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (half price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

MAGIC IN MANHATTAN More than 50 performers from Ballet Austin’s Butler Community School join forces to present this energetic holiday musical filled with classic songs and carols. Dec. 11-12. Sat., 2pm; Sun., 6pm; Mon., 7pm. AustinVentures StudioTheater, Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third, 476-9051. \$12. www.balletaustin.org/magicinmanhattan/.

GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS You won’t believe your eyes, but, all those incredible miracles of human physicality, all that astonishingly kinetic meatspace architecture? It’s really happening. Sat., Dec. 11, 4 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$35-50. www.austintheatre.org.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM’S COMPANY This seldom-staged Sondheim is brought to the Austin scene by Doctuh Mistah Productions (which previously delighted us with *Evil Dead: The Musical*) under the direction of Michael McKelvey. See “Company,” p.31, for more. Wed.-Sun., Dec. 15-19, 8pm. Extra show: Sat., Dec. 18, 2pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 339-4934. \$10-25. www.salvagevanguard.org.

FEAST OF FOOLS: MERRIMENT & MISRULE This holiday shindig from **Shrewd Productions** is a one-weekend festival of song, dance, comedy, and games, replete with gourmet treats, prizes, live music, and a silent auction. It’s a wild feast where you could be crowned King or Queen of Misrule. And dance numbers choreographed by **Sharon Sparlin**? Yes. And a performance from those Mametian **Confidence Men**? Oh, oh yes! Thu.-Sat., Dec. 16-18, 8pm. *The Off Center*, 2211-A Hidalgo, 626-5901. \$20-30. www.shrewdproductions.com.

CLOSING

MORNING’S AT SEVEN Different Stages presents this Paul Osborn comedy about the longstanding rivalries among four aging sisters. Directed by Karen Jambon and starring the prodigious talents of Jennifer Underwood, Lana Dieterich, Bobbie Oliver, and Kathleen Lawson. Through Dec. 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Bonus show: Wed., Dec. 8, 8pm. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.

ONGOING

CRUMBLE (LAY ME DOWN, JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE) The Poison Apple Initiative’s newest is a weird comedy by Sheila Callaghan, directed by Bastion Carboni, in which Janice (inspired by visits from J. Timberlake) and her mother, Clara, fight against an apartment that is, literally, plotting to kill them after the death of the paterfamilias. Through Dec. 18. Wed.-Sat., 8pm. *The Blue Theatre*, 916 Springdale. \$15 (pay what you can, Thursdays). www.poisonappleinitiative.com.

THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL Horton Foote’s heartwarming classic about the power of home is directed by Don Toner for Austin Playhouse and features Mary Agen Cox, Tom Parker, Scotty Roberts, and others. Through Dec. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-35. www.austinplayhouse.com.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Barry Pineo directs Robert Harling’s wise and wisecracking Southern comedy classic for City Theatre. Through Dec. 19. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$10-25. www.citytheatreAustin.org.

WINTERLAND: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRISTMAHANUKWANZAAKKAH Color us gob-smacked as we list this: A chick & a dude productions’ first *kid-friendly* show, in which the Winter Wizard conjures a joyful, multiculti exploration of the holiday season. Written by Melissa Livingston and Shanon Weaver, directed by Livingston, enhanced by magic elves. Through Dec. 19. Fri., 7pm; Sat., 2 & 5pm; Sun., 2pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 921-4264. \$12 (\$10, children). achickandadude@gmail.com.

A KODACHROME CHRISTMAS This new holiday comedy presents “cable-access TV hostess Earlene Hoople, the self-proclaimed Queen of Rural Media, as she tapes her first Christmas special in front of a live audience.” Written and directed by Pat Hazell, the one-

man retro dynamo of *The Wonder Bread Years*. See review, p.68. Dec. 15-19. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 3 & 8pm; Sun., 3 & 7pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 474-5664. \$34-39. www.thelongcenter.com.

LA PASTORELA This contemporary musical comedy (based on a yuletide play from American Indian and Latino communities, traditionally performed since the late 16th century) is presented by the Austin Latino Theater Alliance under the direction of Patricio Villarreal Avila. Through Dec. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River. \$15 (\$8, students, seniors). www.lapastorela.org.

SCROOGE, THE MUSICAL This vigorous stage adaptation of the 1970 holiday film is directed by Ron Watson out in Georgetown. The Dickens, you say! Through Dec. 30. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. *Palace Theater*, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$24 (\$22, seniors; \$14, students, military; \$10, children). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.

THE RATGIRLS GO TO HELL O, come all ye faithful to witness this dance-spiced, music-enhanced, infernal journey full of emotional danger, sticky drinks, and random celebrity carnage as the mind-meltingly messy Ratgirls Holiday Special returns to *Salvage Vanguard Theater* to put the *rodentia* into your Merry Christodentiamas. “Now with 30% new jokes and 50% new dances!” Recommended, because who doesn’t totally love those natty bratty Ratgirls? Through Dec. 18. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10 (\$8.57, exact change; \$5, students). www.gnaptheater.org.

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW Four days before Christmas in the tiny town of Ninsel, Texas, a bunch of eccentric guests arrive at the Snowflake Inn in this Jones Hope Wooten comedy, directed by Andy Brown. Through Dec. 18. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. *Sam Bass Community Theatre*, 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15 (\$13, seniors, students; \$10, Wednesdays & Thursdays). www.sambasstheatre.org.

SANTALAND DIARIES The classic David Sedaris holiday treat returns, this time with Zach’s original star, Martin Burke, as the beleaguered and snarky elf Crumpet, and of course the sonic and visual loveliness of Meredith McCall, accompanied by the expert ivory-tickling of Jason Conner, directed by Dave Steakley. When we called this a *treat*, we weren’t just whistling “Jingle Bells.” Recommended. Through Dec. 31. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Extra shows: Sat., Dec. 11 & 18, 4pm. *Zach Theatre*, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$39-48. www.zachscott.com.

DINNER THEATRE

REALLY BAD SANTA A whodunit for your holidays: Gary Payne and his madcap Capital City Mystery Players present a humor-laced, interactive murder mystery where you, the audience, try to solve the crime after a Really Bad Santa attempts to sabotage the competition. Fri., Dec. 10, 7pm. *Spaghetti Warehouse*, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.capcitymystery.com.

AUDITIONS

EXPERIMENTAL COMEDIC ENSEMBLE Award-winning ColdTowne co-founder Arthur Simone seeks fearless actors/actresses to explore the absurd fundamentals of human interaction using techniques of Jerzy Grotowski. Rehearsals begin in January, culminating in regular performances in spring. Improv experience desired, but not necessary. Sun., Dec. 12, 4-6pm. *ColdTowne Theater*, 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. arthur@arthursimone.com.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Dec. 24 issue is Monday, Dec. 13.** 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, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy, visual arts.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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A Kodachrome Christmas

Rollins Studio Theatre
at the Long Center,
701 W. Riverside, 474-5664
www.thelongcenter.org
Dec. 15-19
Running time: 1 hr., 45 min.



Here we have yet another Christmas show that proves the old adage: You can't ever have enough Christmas shows. If you peruse the performing arts listings this month, you'll find mostly seasonal holiday fare, and why not? No matter your religious

or spiritual background, the holiday season is magical, celebratory, and nostalgic, ripe with both comedic and dramatic possibilities.

Pat Hazell, the onetime *Seinfeld* writer who brought Austin *The Wonder Bread Years* and *Bunk Bed Brothers*, writes and directs this tale of Earlene Hoople, TV hostess of *The Early Bird Morning Show* on Dripping Springs Cable Access Channel 17. Earlene, at least as played by Marianne Curan – formerly of the *Groundlings* and a regular on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* – is like the nicest neighbor you've ever had or could possibly imagine having. She's funny; she's friendly; she's charming; she bakes. She does crafts, but you forgive her because the things she makes are so much fun. Being welcomed into her TV studio is like being welcomed into her home.

And what a wonderful home it is. Not to give too much away, but the set, designed by Steve Wheeldon, besides representing a very warm kitchen and appropriately decorated living room on the two sides of the stage, is rigged with Christmas surprises that Earlene reveals at appropriate moments. Earlene is taping her first Christmas special in front of a live audience, so the premise allows Curan to interact extensively with the crowd, and Curan does so in a completely nonthreatening, always fun manner. There are other "characters" in the show – a bird, appropriately enough, and a technician named Spider – but the show belongs to Earlene.

Hazell knows the appeal of nostalgia, and he capitalizes on it here in a way similar to *The Wonder Bread Years*. One scene revolves around projecting a set of Kodachrome slides, and Earlene comments on the slides (one of which depicts a 5-year-old boy in full cowboy regalia, lighting his grandmother's cigarette) with great affection and humor, just as Hazell does in *Wonder Bread*. It's tried and true, and it works. Indeed, a lot of things in Hazell's script work, including an impromptu choir bell performance, the baking of Christmas cookies, and a presentation of awards for local Christmas crafts (the winner: a Christmas wreath made mostly of tiny green army men). These short scenes are interspersed with some well-made commercials offering such Catholic-oriented fare as the Praying Hands Vise and the law firm of Fatherson and Holyghost.

If it sounds funny and almost utterly non-threatening, that's because that's exactly what it is. It's charming and homey, and those are the show's greatest strengths. Still, it feels lighter than it perhaps should. Hazell introduces a subplot, one I'm hesitant to mention simply because I don't want to give too much away. Suffice it to say that the subplot, which actually plays a major role in tying up the story, feels almost thrown away, and given the brief running time of the show, adding something to flesh it out would likely be a help. That caveat aside, this is sweet, funny family fare from Sweetwood Productions and the Long Center to help you celebrate your holiday. – Barry Pineo

PARADISE KEY A chick & a dude productions is casting this Dean Poynor thriller, and they're looking for a man (ages 40-60) who can do a decent German accent. *Performers will be paid, mein freund!* E-mail or call for appointment; bring headshot and resumé. Sun., Dec. 12, 4-9pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 921-4264. achickandadude@gmail.com.

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAFE CAFFEINE 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.
www.cafecaffeine.com.

Comedysportz Competitive improv? Yes, a vigorous battle between skilled improvisers – sort of like *Highlander* but unscripted – and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. \$7.*

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

Mark "The Chinaman" Britten Man of a thousand voices, whether channeling rock stars Steven Tyler, Eddie Vedder, or Dave Matthews, ad hilarium, or providing sound for the lip-flaps of *Dragonball Z*. Britten's got a radio-honed menu of hijinks to brighten your night to funny-bone shambles. **Chip Pope** opens. Dec. 9-11. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807.
www.coldtownetheater.com.

The Week in Coldness: Corporate Synergy promises to make good on ColdTowne's sketch-supremacy agenda. Thu., 8pm. **Midnight Society Presents the very fit Parkour Christmas Explosion.** Thu., 10pm. **Rapture the Flag** promises to make good on ColdTowne's sketch-supremacy agenda. Fri., 8pm. **Live at ColdTowne** is the house flavor of stand-up comedy, featuring some of Austin's best. Fri., 10pm. **Stool Pigeon** features some Austintatious celebrity types jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. Sat., 8pm. **Cage Match** Two improv teams go all *lucha libre* on each other for your grins and giggles. Sat., 9pm. **Stone Cold Improv** brings the irresistible feminine wiles of **Sarah 7.** Sat., 10pm. **The Late Night Show** sizzles with **Midnight Society** and, yes, the everlovin' **Frank Mills.** Sat., 11pm. Oh, and there are **Free Shows on Sunday Night!** Check them out, citizen. Sun., 7 & 8pm. Also, the **Monday Night Mash** happens each week, also with free admission, and can you guess the night on which it occurs at 8:30pm?

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553.

www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies Esther's popular jesters bring the best of cheer with their Holiday Spectacular and Mistletoe Mayhem show this month. Sarah Palin checks out the weirdness of Sixth Street. Kerry Awn spotlights Rick Perry and George W. Bush, head-to-head on book tours. The Church of Everlasting Savings and Snuggie Choir sings about the holidays' "Buying Bonanza!" There's musical comedy, a political satire revue, and magician **Ray Anderson's** Illusion – The Impaler! – gets all stabby with the stage-sized legerdemain. Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20-27 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military).

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688.
www.hideouttheatre.com.

Thursday: The **Threecer** brings you sets by **Secret Senate, Rachel & Dave,** and the **Amazon & the Milkop: Fitzgeralds for Hire.** \$10.

Friday: The weekend's first show is **Pick Your Own Path**, in which a retro adventure story unfolds onstage according to your whims. 8pm. \$10. Next, **The Spectacle!** features **Parallelogramophonograph** and who? The men, OK? The fuckin', you know, the **Confidence Men: Improvised Mamet.** 10pm. \$10.

Saturday: Here's a mind-shattering holiday version of the Dargeresque **Who Is T. Henry Baudecliffe?** 8pm. \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience, sure to bring out the wackiest. 10pm. \$10.

Sunday: The Weekender Just a five-spot gets you into the perfect capper to your steady two-day vacation: sketch comedy somewhere between pure silly and near brilliant, from one of Austin's up-and-coming troupes. 7pm.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

www.thevelveetaroom.com.

Bryan Gutmann He was the official Funniest Person in Austin in 2007, and he hasn't been resting on his laurels since then. No, Gutmann's gotten Gutsier, honed his hilarity to military-grade laser specs, and now wields it on the Cheese Palace stage after **Cody Hustak** and **Stefan Arensdorf** open. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.



Open Mic Night is hosted this week by **Stefan Arensdorf.** Thursdays, 10pm.

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.

MOTHER PLUCKIN' COMEDY OPEN MIC Mike Navarrete and **Chance Royce** host this free-for-all, and they're offering prizes for funny people. Mondays, following Monday Night Football. Pluckers, 9070 Research #201-C. 533-9464. Free. www.pluckers.com.

TIKI TUESDAYS @ CHERRYWOOD Local funnyman **Seth Cockfield** hosts an open mic where anybody can do a short set, but some of the city's top comedy talents break in their new material. Tuesdays, 10pm. Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38½.

THE NEW MOVEMENT Acclaimed comedy instructors **Chris Trew** and **Tami Nelson** execute their brand of hijinks with talented friends and disciples. You want comedy? See the website for details, but also check this: **The Megaphone Show** puts a local celeb onstage to spin tales of true truth before being interviewed and instantly improvised upon. Wednesdays, 9:30pm. Free. **Chris & Tami** Ah, the fearless leaders themselves, showing you how it's done, with **Spirit Desire.** Thu., Dec. 9, 8pm. Free. **Lamebook** Fri., Dec. 10, 8pm. **The Only Ultimate Culmination of Human Expression** Word. Fri., Dec. 10, 9:30pm. **You Are the Messiah** and **The House That Drips Blood on Alex** Sat., Dec. 11, 8pm. New Movement Theater, 1819 Rosewood. www.newmovementtheater.com.

SINBAD You remember this Sinbad, right? He "never tells jokes – 'I don't know any,' he admits – but rather stalks the stage, telling real-life stories. He doesn't deliver payoff lines; he slam-dunks them. His comedy is large, physical, and impetuous." And here he is, for two large, physical, and impetuous shows. Fri., Dec. 10, 7 & 9:30pm. One World Theater, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500. \$35-110. www.oneworldtheatre.org.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Two Gnap!tastic improv troupes, one after the other. This weekend, **Bad Company** goes first, followed by a special surprise guest who may or may not know the secret identity of that ol' Martian Manhunter. Sat., Dec. 11, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.

dance

SPANK DANCE COMPANY: FREE BUTOH PERFORMANCE Half an hour of this vivid kinetic event will open your eyes to weirdling wonders. See "Moving Real Strange for Free," p.32, for more. Thu., Dec. 16, 7-7:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.spankdance.com.

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: A JAZZ NUTCRACKER An hourlong rhythm-tap version of the season's classic adds live music and jazzy takes on the original's most famous moments. Through Dec. 19. Tue.-Sat., 7pm; Sun., 2pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at the Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. \$25. www.thelongcenter.org.

BUENOS AIRES CAFE: UNA NOCHE PORTEÑA Tango and folklore singer Daniel Montserrat performs weekly. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Buenos Aires Cafe, 1201 E. Sixth, 382-1189. Free.

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER This 48th annual *Nutcracker* boasts a cast of more than 200, including 160 Ballet Austin Academy students ages 8 and up, and is choreographed by Stephen Mills to the luscious music of Tchaikovsky (performed by the Austin Symphony). Among the guest Mother Gingers: Todd Boatwright, Mike Barnes, and AISD Superintendent

Merla Carstarphen. *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun. 2pm; also Tue., Dec. 21, 7:30pm; Wed.-Thu., Dec. 22-23, 2pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. www.balletaustin.org.*

KATHY DUNN HAMRICK DANCE COMPANY: HERE. ME.NOW. The company's latest evening-length original production explores how to be heard amid the digital hubbub that is crowding out (live) human contact. Put down that iThing and take in some live art, as nine collaborating dancers connect with the audience in the Here. And the Now. *Through Dec. 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 934-1082. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students; \$10, Dec. 2). www.kdhdance.com.*

TWO LEFT FEET

ISRAELI FOLK DAANCING Mon., Dec. 13. 574-1228. \$7; \$45 for eight sessions.

Wait, you enjoy dance performances well enough, but you're really looking for dance classes? Belly dancing? Tap dancing? Swing? Tango? And so on? We print those in our third issue of each month, but they're always available in the Dance Listings at austinchronicle.com/dance.

classical music

OPENING

CONSPIRARE YOUTH CHOIRS: AWAITING This holiday concert of works by British composers includes Ralph Vaughan Williams, John Rutter, and the exquisite "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11, 7:30pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 476-5775. www.conspirare.org.*

MUSIC & A MOVIE: IMMORTAL BELOVED Live precortain and intermission music from composer P. Kellach Waddle and friends complements the film, starring Gary Oldman as that mad genius, Ludwig van Beethoven. *Sun., Dec. 12, 7pm. Alamo Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-5408. \$12. www.drafthouse.com.*

CAROLING AT NOON Seasonal music and Christmas caroling, followed by an optional lunch. Free parking in church garage at Eighth and Trinity. This week: **Amy Brumley, soprano; Austin Haller, organ.** *Thu., Dec. 16, noon. St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. Eighth, 610-3500. Free (\$8, with lunch). www.stdave.org/site/music/cat/concerts.*

CLOSING

AUSTIN HANDBELL ENSEMBLE: A RINGING HOLIDAY The community handbell choir of Central Texas performs seasonal fare. *Thu., Dec. 9, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth. Fri., Dec. 10, 7:30pm. University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio. Donations welcome. www.austinhandbells.org.*

ONGOING

NOONDAY CONCERT This weekly series features local professionals, students, and guests. Lunch follows (reservations required by 10am on day of the concert; if e-mailing, write "lunch" in the subject line). *Thursdays, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free (lunch: \$5, adults; \$3, children). www.cpcastin.org.*

Texas Early Music Project: An Early Christmas In Northern Europe

Chants and carols from Germany and France from the Renaissance and baroque periods, Celtic lullabies, and festive English celebrations performed by solo voice, small chorus, harp, violin, and continuo put a holiday spin on things. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis, 478-1933. \$20 (\$15 seniors, students; \$5 student rush). www.early-music.org.*

visual arts

EVENTS

JILL THRASHER: NEW LINOCUTS This is a website launch party, we're told. Well, we love websites, and we love parties, sure, but we're most excited because, Thrasher, she's one hell of a fine artist. *Wed., Dec. 15, 6-8pm. 2000 East Side Dr. www.austincc.edu/jthrashe.*

FIRE TREE STUDIOS: VISIONARY ART PARTY Celebrate the holiday season among a sensational array of new paintings in this busy studio. *Sat., Dec. 11, 7-11pm. 710 E. 41st, on the Perry Estate. Bring a bottle of wine or other beverage to share or a figurine for the sand play collection. www.firetreestudios.com.*

ROI JAMES: ART IN GRATITUDE The Roi James Studio and Gallery presents a fundraiser exhibition for the McCallum Fine Arts Academy and KIVA micro financing, offering some of the artist's early works at highly discounted prices. *Sat., Dec. 11, 6-10pm. 3620 Bee Caves Rd., 970-3471. www.roijames.com.*

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR It's the 10th anniversary of this eminently shoppable powerhouse of local creativity and craft, now at the Marchesa in Lincoln Village. More art vendors than you can shake a newly discovered Picasso at, as well as much live music and general frivolity to brighten your way to the Christmas tree (or whatever object best corresponds in the holiday mythos you subscribe to). Recommended. *Through Dec. 24. Daily, 10am-10pm. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.*

OPENING

YARD DOG FOLK ART: TWO GUYS FROM READING + JESSE SUBLETT Antiques dealer Mike Miller lacerates vintage photos to create his silhouette collages; Dave "Big Dutch" Nally goes to town with colored pencil, acrylics and watercolor, and jewelry from found metal objects. And there's the direct-from-his-Mole-skin "Colorful Women" show by author and musician Jesse Sublett, too! *Through Dec. 19. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

GALLERY BLACK LAGOON: GROUP SHOW Paintings, mixed media, assemblages, and more: New works by David Lujan, Jeffrey Swanson, Dieter Geisler, Max Voss-Nester, Jamie Spinello, and Kristler Van Patten. Reception: *Fri., Dec. 10, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 15. 4301-A Guadalupe, 371-8838. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.*

N HOUSE GALLERY: HOLIDAY SHOW It's the annual exhibition from Ethan Azarian and Melissa Knight, yes! *Wed.-Thu., Dec. 15-16, 5-9pm. 2514 E. 17th, 628-0209. www.ethanazarian.net.*



CLOSING

STENSURD ART STUDIO: HOLIDAY TIME Visit this working artist's studio during the holidays, and you can have a family portrait done in one hour. Call for appointment. 1601 Eva. 694-9207. www.carolstensrud.com.

HAVEN GALLERY: WOVEN GLASS Glassmaking savants Eric Markow and Thom Norris, who do only one show a year, present new works created with their internationally acclaimed (and gloriously effective and damnably secret) technique. *Through Dec. 11. 1122 W. Sixth, 477-2700. www.havengalleryaustin.com.*

CO-LAB: FABRICATION AND VALUE Kale Roberts' newest installation explores the discrepancy between value and worth, taking into account labor and comfort as intrinsic components of monetary value, with a bed, a quilt made of dollar bills, television, sound installation, and the smell of money. Closing reception: *Sat., Dec. 11, 7-11pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.colabspace.org.*

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

DUMONT GALLERY Linda Dumont: cityscapes, abstracts, and portraits. Call for appointment. 815 E. 52nd. 698-1890. www.lindadumont.com.

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

360 GALLERY: HARVEST ART SHOW Local artists depict sunrise and sunset around the world. *Through Dec. 28. 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N. 522-6098. www.multiculturalartfestivals.org.*

STUDIO L: METAL ART STUDIO SHOW Behold the work of nationally known copper sculptor Daryl G. Colburn. Also, pieces in diverse metal media by Jacob Colburn, Erin Waters' photography, silver jewelry by Rita Marie Ross, and Sandy Muckleroy. 2309 Thornton, 577-3479. www.daryilcolburn.com.

ART IN A NUTSHELL Ismael Cavazos, creator of "The Old Man in the Peanut," features his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.

FASTFRAME'S PRICKLY PEAR GALLERY: FIVE AUSTIN ARTISTS Featuring Kim Brill's kiln-formed glass, Amy Hillenbrand's still-life oils, Nancy Michalewicz's wildlife oils, Debbi Smith Rourke's landscapes, and Paula Simpson's edible chocolate paintings. *Through Dec. 24. 4301 W. William Cannon, 288-8825. www.austinfastframe.com.*

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

TESTSITE: FULL FOREGROUND This collaboration between artist Rob Verf and writer and poet Roberto Tejada features a video installation in which language plays a determinate role. *Through Dec. 19. 502 W. 33rd. www.fluentcollab.org/testsite.*

QUALITY FRAMES AND ART: SURREALISM AND SKYSCAPES New work by Drew Mounce. *Through Dec. 27. 3663 Bee Caves Rd. #4. 328-3631.*

SCARBROUGH BUILDING LOBBY: SHIFTING CONSCIOUSNESS Paintings by Matchi. *Through Jan. 1. 101 W. Sixth. www.matchiart.com.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

GALLERY AT MUSEO: ABOUT FACE Works by Lisa Bussett, Nicole Jeffords, and Maria Lyle. *Through Jan. 11. 11266 Taylor Draper. www.museoaliving.com.*

AMOA: 20 YEARS OF FLATBED PRESS The Austin Museum of Art's celebrating a double-decade of local fine-art print powerhouse Flatbed Press with a retrospective that features work by **Julie Speed, Trenton Doyle Hancock, Terry Allen, Michael Ray Charles, Melissa Miller, James Surls**, and others. Finally, a higher-profile show of what brilliance Flatbed has generated for so long. Recommended. *Through Feb. 12. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY 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 St., 457-0171. www.pablataboadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE This newly remodeled stunner of a visual-arts venue has a sweet array of exhibitions and artists' talks to delight and inform and confound you. **Mequitta Ahuja: "Automythography II"** *Through Jan. 2. Ryan Hennessee: "The Specious Present at 700 Congress"* *Through Jan. 2. Jason Middlebrook: "More Art About Buildings and Food"* *Through Jan. 16. Sofia Cordova: "Fiebre Tropical"* *Through Jan. 16. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

AUSTIN DETAILS + ART: BEST OF THE FESTS The proprietors daresay they've gathered all the best art from the various holiday festivals around town. *Through Jan. 31. 106 E. Eighth, 391-0999. www.austindetailsart.com.*

AUTHENTICITY GALLERY: LUMINESCENCE Lighted plexi towers designed and built by a local team, featuring *Kokopelli* by Kathi Herrin and *Luminescent Vines* by Greta Olivass. *Through Dec. 31. 910 Congress, 478-2787. www.authenticitygallery.com.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

BROCCA GALLERY: New works by Augusto Brocca, Mary Morse, Jeffrey Primeaux, Kathleen Wilson, Tom Bishop, and Marja Spearman. *Through Jan. 15. 1103 E. Sixth, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.*

CHAMPION GALLERY: DAN RUSHTON "Planted" offers vivid images created by layering piece upon piece upon piece of painted paper. Also, **Chris Sauter's** "Exploding Silos." *Through Jan. 15. 800 Brazos, 354-1035. www.championcontemporary.com.*

CLAYWAYS An array of work by local potters. *Through Dec. 24. Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm; Sat., noon-5pm. 5442 Burnet Rd., 459-6445. www.clayways.com.*

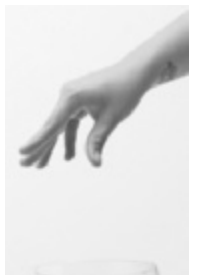
D BERMAN GALLERY: 10TH ANNIVERSARY GROUP SHOW Many of the works here can be bought for less than \$1,000, and the people responsible for them are **Malcolm Bucknall, Ellen Berman, Cynthia Camlin, Jimmy Jalapeño, Lance Letscher, George Krause, Lauren Levy, Marjorie Moore, Joseph Phillips, Belli Liu, Jana Swec**, and, wow, even more. *Through Jan. 22. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: CAPRICE PIERUCCI, DAVID EVERETT, AND DAVID HEFNER Three artists with distinct but strangely complementary styles brighten and complicate the walls of this fine gallery. *Through Dec. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.*

JCC GALLERY: ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN Historical images from the famous photographer of the 1920s and 1930s. 7300 Hart, 735-8000. www.shalomaustin.org.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN This annual

exhibition features recent work from participating members. Also, the 2010 trade portfolio "Wanderings of the Id: A Suite of Dreams/Nightmares." Reception: *Tue., Dec. 14, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 29. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. www.womenprintmakers.com.*



Domy Books: You Can Observe A Lot By Watching

Devon Dikeou, the daring doyenne of *zingmagazine* fame and much other creative brilliance, presents a show about how connections are made, where they lead (or don't), and the value of those connections, the various ways they can be lost, destroyed, outdated. Recommended. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 11, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 13. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domystore.com.*



Studio2Gallery,
1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102
www.studio2gallery.com
Through Jan. 22

'Library Foliage'



'TREE OF WISDOM' BY JOHN MARK SAGER

Butchery is an art, or at least a bladed craft, that can lacerate whatever membrane separates the realm of art from the quotidian world.

Writing is an art, and about that declaration there is little argument. Another craft that might be considered art: making books. Novels, collections of short stories, volumes of verse or prose or more prosaic palaver lovingly locked into concrete existence with paper and ink and diverse methods of binding.

There are butchers loose in the library, my darling. Butchers, yes, and not even St. Francis de Sales can stay their vorpal blades. Count this among your blessings: These butchers are true artists. See their new creations, deconstructions not of texts but of the physical objects themselves, at Studio2Gallery's "Library Foliage" show: books carved and compromised, fractured and framed, transmogrified to sculpture at least as deep and beautiful as the narratives they once offered.

John Mark Sager is the curator and featured artist of this show, and, though many of the other artists' works are superlative, it's not difficult to see why. The largest of Sager's works in this show, *Hagia Sophia*, is a complex structure of surpassing beauty, composed of books, cast iron, printing blocks, toy blocks, bits of calcite, and more; it's like some ancient gravestone marking the death of printed wisdom with a skill that brings printing's disparate elements to

new life. Sager has a suite of much smaller works, too, including *The Voice of the City*, in which he's taken an eponymous collection by O. Henry and, with the addition of steel, turned it into a curving urban landscape upon which stands a small, lone figure. It's simple and breathtaking.

Damian Priour, he of the Global Chair Project, hasn't wielded his cutting tools on a standing volume of paper and glue but has employed his signature combination of glass and limestone to create a new book object. *Key, Volume 1* is composed of thin pages of glass encompassed by thick covers of native stone – the sort of thing, we imagine, used as a guest book where Bifröst, the rainbow bridge, enters the Norse gods' home of Asgard.

The assemblage called *Bad Idea*, by James Michael Starr, is a tiny book, its dark cover and grimy pages spread as if midflight, placed in exile, imprisoned in the middle of a tall and delicate cage of iron.

There are many more works here – by Jessica Maffia, Kathy Van Torne, James B. Campbell, and others – and they may well lock you in a cage of fascination for long pleasurable minutes, providing food for thought as you wander, like a character in a compelling story about the meat of literature, this bookishly holy abattoir. – Wayne Alan Brenner

GRAYDUCK GALLERY: DRAWN TOGETHER Allen Brewer's drawings mix text and images on used documents to create strange palimpsests; Pamela Valfer reorganizes taxidermy and the kitschiness of flocked animal banks into something altogether different. Through Jan. 9. 608-C W. Monroe, 826-5334. www.grayduckgallery.com.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: THE LANGUAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY The Gernsheim Collection's holdings on display here highlight photography's first 150 years, including work by Lewis Carroll, Alfred Stieglitz, Man Ray, and others. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY 411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: CHARLIE FERGUSON In "Wasted Expressions," the photographer's painterly abstractions comprise parts of metal recycling centers, construction and demolition sites, and random street corners. Through Jan. 8. 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.lnowlingallery.com.

LA PEÑA GALLERY: WE TO THE EDGE OF TIME Artwork by six women from Tamaulipas who are students of Cuban artist Jose Hernandez. Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress #300, 477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.

LAUGHING CARDINAL GALLERY: RELIQUARY BOX An exhibition of works new, old, rediscovered, and reclaimed by Kelly Mae Newhouse. 2503-A E. Sixth.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: MIX 'N' MASH More than 200 local and regional artists present new works of art on 12-inch-by-12-inch panels. Through Jan. 2. 419 Congress, 480-9373. Free. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

MITCHIE'S GALLERY presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

NEW EAST ARTS GALLERY Work from Black and Bluebird Studios, David Zvanut, Ed Watson, Erica Howard, Caminamos Juntos, and other fine local artists. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

REVERSE GALLERY: WORKS OF SPRING Michael Bacon paints abstracts on the back of clear vinyl, and his works are viewed through the untouched side. 612 Brazos #100, 592-0219. www.michaelabacon.com.

SCANLAN GALLERY: FLORA & FAUNA Thematic work by Melissa Miller, Linda Ridgway, Liz Ward, Nance Friese, and Madeline Irvine. 2900 Bunny Run, 327-1213. www.sstx.org.

STUDIO2GALLERY: LIBRARY FOLIAGE This show, in which a massive volume of creative talents have interpreted humans' love for and relationships with books. See review, left. Through Jan. 22. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102. www.studio2gallery.com.

VISUAL ARTS CENTER UT Art Faculty Exhibition Recent work by UT faculty artists in Studio Art, Art Education, and Design span the East Gallery and the Mezzanine Gallery. Through Dec. 18.

Anthropogenesis Curators Ariel Evans and Lauren Hamer present a show of new art – by Kelly Rae Burns, Kristina Felix, Margot Holtman, Jules Buck Jones, Jonathon Keats, and Jill Pangallo – in which animals and animal behavior are considered as an artistic source. Through Dec. 18. 23rd and Trinity, 471-1108. www.utvac.org.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: WILL KLEMM New paintings delight the gallery walls. Through Dec. 23. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK: AMERICAN DREAM Without ever revealing a face, photographer Lupita Murillo Tinnen creates powerful portraits of undocumented students. Through Jan. 6. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

YARD DOG FOLK ART: TWO GUYS FROM READING Antiques dealer (and former Austinite) Mike Miller lacerates vintage photos to create his silhouette collages; Dave "Big Dutch" Nally goes to town with colored pencil, acrylics, and watercolor, and jewelry from found metal objects. Through Dec. 19. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

SPACES

TREES BY STEPHANIE CHAMBERS Sat., Dec. 11, 5-9pm. 4140 Governor's Row, 254/718-7407. www.stephchambers.com.

For more Spaces, check out the Visual Arts/Spaces section at austinchronicle.com/visualarts.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CITY GLASS: WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES 1105 E. Sixth, 584-9323. www.cityglass.us.

CO-LAB: CALL FOR PROPOSALS The collective maintains an open and ongoing call for proposals regarding installation-, performance-, video-, public-, and community-based projects. E-mail for details. colabspace@gmail.com.

PEOPLE'S GALLERY: CALL FOR ARTWORKS The city of Austin currently seeks artworks in all mediums created by Austin-area artists or on loan from Austin galleries, art organizations, or museums for the 2011 Austin City Hall "People's Gallery" exhibition. See website for details. Application deadline: Dec. 12. 301 W. Second, 974-9313. www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/cityhall.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS: CLASSES 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

HELIOS KILN GLASS STUDIO: CLASSES AND DEMONSTRATIONS 10700 Anderson Mill, 996-0960. www.heliosglass.com.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY Art Seen Alliance presents a live model painting and drawing session. Bring your own supplies. Mondays, 7-9pm. 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$5. www.artseenalliance.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ALIX STRAUSS describes the lives of eight women in his critically acclaimed novel *Based Upon Availability*. Thu., Dec. 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

MICHAEL POLLAN presents his *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual* and discusses the latest in healthy living. Fri., Dec. 10, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, UT campus, 471-1444. \$26-42. www.texasperformingarts.org/season/pollan.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA SHOW: ZODIAC! That multimedia exploration of theme, hosted by Mike Graupmann and Ralph Hardesty, presented by a cast of erudite (and sometimes zany) regulars and their equally sharp guests – the *Chronicle's* own Audra Schroeder, the Dionysium's Kurt Hildebrand, and more, this month – turns its diverse attentions to the starry patterns we've long conjured within the vault, the vault, the vault of heaven. Fri., Dec. 10, 8pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$6. www.encyclopediahowaustin.com.

CHERYL HAZELTINE'S CENTRAL TEXAS GARDENER The author signs her new book at Breed & Co. Sat., Dec. 11, 10-11:30am (718 W. 29th) & 1-2:30pm (3663 Bee Caves Rd.). 474-6679. www.breedandco.com.

TELEPORTAL READINGS This bright splendor of media-enhanced readings spikes the multiverse punch with a lineup featuring local sci-fi rebel Chris Nakashima-Brown, Andy Devine stopping by during his national tour, and legendary poets Ed Hirsch and Eileen Myles. Capped off with live music from YellowFever. Sat., Dec. 11, 8pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. www.teleportalreadings.org.

THEY SPEAK WRITING WORKSHOP AND YOUTH POETRY SLAM Keeping the ninth season hot for some of the most exciting slamming on the planet. Workshop, 2pm; slam, 3pm. Sat., Dec. 11. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 422-6653. \$5 (free, slam participants). www.tywc.org.

JUDITH ROCK presents her *The Rhetoric of Death*. Mon., Dec. 13, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

RACHAEL RAY sizzles Rachael Ray's *Look and Cook*. Tue., Dec. 14, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

WRITE BY NIGHT Write, read, collaborate, or just kick back and dream: It's the place you've been looking for. See website for details. 322-5242. www.writebynight.net.

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP meets to write, read, and discuss screenplays. Mondays, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 444-4357, 328-3155.

Looking for more Book Groups or Open Mics? See those sections in the Litera Listings at austinchronicle.com/litera.



Come to this free event and check out tables from American Short Fiction, Bat City Review, BookWoman, Domy Books, Effing Press, and Monofonus Press, with readings representing great shows in town including ASF Live, Five Things, Teleportal, the Encyclopedia Show, and more. *Sun., Dec. 12, noon-9pm. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. Free. www.indielitshow.com.*

THE CHANGING STATE OF PUBLISHING Candice Adams of EditorMuse publishing company speaks at the Sisters in Crime monthly meeting. *Sun., Dec. 12, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Free. www.hotxsinc.org.*

BOOKPEOPLE'S BUYERS SUGGEST GIFTS on the second floor, and you can get some great deals on books for all ages. *Wed., Dec. 15, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

BOOK DISCUSSIONS AT BOOKPEOPLE *Wherever You Go, There You Are* by Jon Kabat-Zinn. *Mon., Dec. 13, 7pm. Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran Foer. *Wed., Dec. 15, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

OPRAH SOULSEARCHERS *A New Earth-Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle. *Third Wednesday of each month at 6pm. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010. www.cityofaustin.org.*

SHAKESPEARE ALOUD Austin Shakespeare reads an entire play aloud (like, an act each week) and stops often to discuss the images, characters, and story. *Sundays, 5-7pm. Greater Austin Creative Alliance, 701 Tillery, Box 9, 247-2531. \$5. www.austinsakespeare.org.*

GRAPHIC NOVELS CLUB *Sloth* by Gilbert Hernandez. *Wed., Dec. 15, 7pm. Halcyon, 218 W. Fourth, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library/bookclubs.htm.*

HAMPTON BOOK CLUB *The Perfect Spy* by John Le Carré. *Mon., Dec. 13, 7pm. Hampton Branch Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680.*

HOWSON CLUB *Strength in What Remains* by Tracy Kidder. *Wed., Dec. 15, 7pm. Howson Branch Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.*

RADICAL READERS Alan Weisman's *The World Without Us*, Parts 3 and 4. *Tue., Dec. 14, 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.*

SPICEWOOD SPRINGS CLUB Best of 2010. *Tue., Dec. 14, 1:30pm. Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.*

WINDSOR PARK CLUB *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World* by Niall Ferguson. *Tue., Dec. 14, 7pm. Windsor Park Branch Library, 5833 Westminister, 928-0333.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

THE WRITING CLUB FOR YOUTH This six-week creative writing program led by Spike Gillespie is for students in fifth through eighth grades at three Austin-area schools. Every student receives an anthology including works by each student. The 2011 Writing Club starts in January. *O. Henry Museum, 409 E. Fifth, 472-1903. www.cityofaustin.org/ohenry/programs.htm.*

OPEN MICS

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM OMG! It's **Mike Henry's Last Slam** with DJs Digg and Metranohm. Do it up right and send one of the most influential slam promoters in the world out with a roar that implodes the motherhumpin' sun itself! Bam! Rock! Out! *Wednesdays, 8pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com.*

POETRY AT THE ARBORETUM *Thu., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158.*

CAFE CAFFEINE *Wednesdays, 7-9pm. 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.*

FAIR BEAN COFFEE *Fridays, 5-7pm. 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN. www.fairbeancoffee.com.*

GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoecoffee.com.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE *Mondays, 7-10pm. 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.*

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR *Sundays, 4-6pm. 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. www.hotmamasaustin.com.*

SPOKEN & HEARD *Sundays, 7-10pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcffee.com.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF DIVERSE YOUTH 2011 Austin International Poetry Festival's youth anthology, *Diverse Youth 2011*, needs poetry submissions from Kindergarteners through 12th-graders in Central Texas and beyond. *Deadline Feb. 1. www.aipf.org.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *she knows how the rider races, how shadows play smallness. the lane is not a boulevard. is it the smithy or an issue of heat? recount the processes, the cold conductors of this orchestra of infinite moments. we do feel better when we hear "yes," a culture of pearls & a handful of mane. the shadows in the grass compel us beyond the emptiness of their gage: so authentic in their inauthenticity: marry your biography to its snippets of dreams to its fish in a bucket to its sea in a busted cloud or listen: i said i talked because i was afraid, that my talking was a defense no different than silence save how some thought you were shy because you never spoke & i knew Buck Owens was never a fake. Namaste. The race is on.*

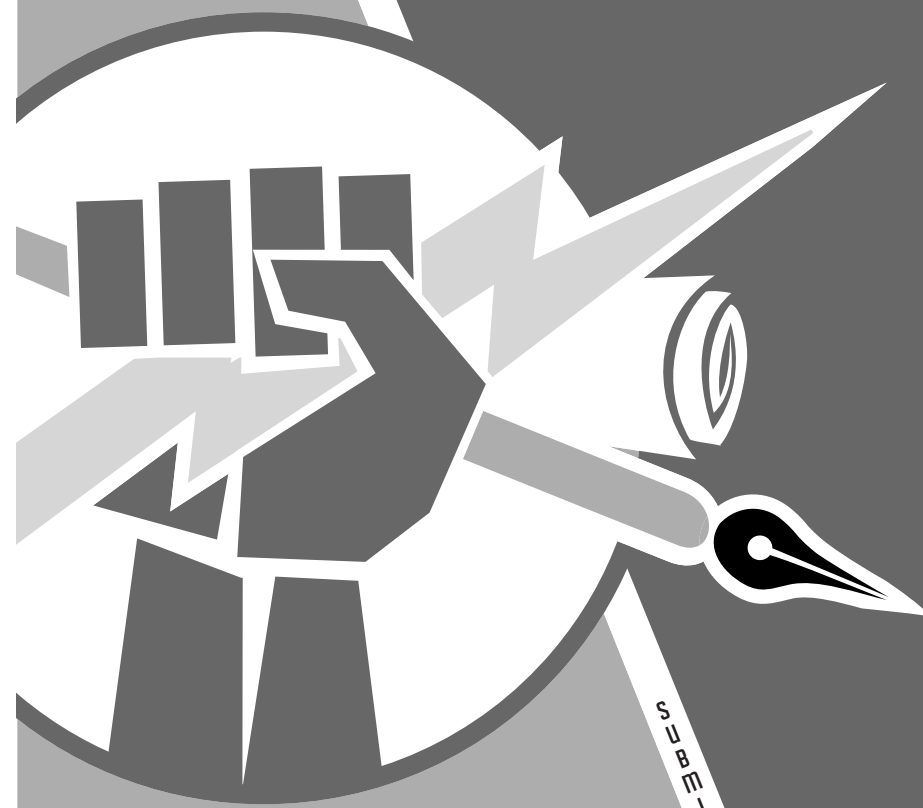
HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE The Women's Storybook Project collects donations of new books so an incarcerated mother can connect with her child through literature. *Through Dec. 25. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. www.storybookproject.org.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

forgive the now
we forgot we wanted
in years past;
years passed -
now shadows traverse us gravely
and we laugh, remember
sitting on the floor
drinking wine in winter
cold (but not alone)

- Kristi Sprinkle

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film listings

Black Swan

D: Darren Aronofsky; with Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel, Barbara Hershey, Winona Ryder, Benjamin Millepied. (R, 108 min.)

After 2008's conventionally plotted, overpraised *The Wrestler*, Darren Aronofsky dives back into another competitive sport of sorts in the deliciously wackadoodle *Black Swan*. This drama-horror hybrid, set within a New York ballet company, strikes

a tone more along the lines of the terrifying hallucinations of Aronofsky's breakout film, *Requiem for a Dream*, revisiting, too, favorite themes of monster mommies and female hysteria. In an opening dream sequence, an overlooked ballerina named Nina Sayers (Portman) imagines herself dancing the lead in *Swan Lake*; when she wakes in the morning, it's with a little girl's smile at a wish-fulfillment fantasy come true, however fleetingly. It's her last moment of uncomplicated bliss before a brutalizing descent into madness. The dream, it turns out, is prophetic: Nina is tapped early on by the troupe's manipulative, Diaghilevlike company director (Cassel) to play the Swan Queen, which is in fact two roles in one – the sweet, virginal White Swan, who awaits a true-love kiss from a prince, and her evil twin, the sexually provocative Black Swan, who lures the prince away. Nina is a tentative, bruises-easily young

woman who still lives with her overbearing mother (played by a marvelous Hershey; ever-hovering, she grooms her daughter like a maniacal monkey with nail clippers). Nina is a natural for the White Swan, but embodying the Black Swan is a stretch for her. Already crumbling under the punishing stresses of training, a twisted home life, and her own sexual repression, soon enough she's having scary visions of her body's metamorphosis into a swan. *The Red Shoes* and its theme of losing one's self to a part is an obvious influence, but it's another Powell and Pressburger film, *Black Narcissus*, with its sex-starved nuns, that hits closer to home. *Black Swan* is part of a tradition – I hesitate to call it grand, but it's certainly cinematically fertile – of young women whose desire, sans an outlet, explodes into delirium. Potent stuff, that. (See also: Polanski's *Repulsion* and Kazin's *Splendor in*



the Grass; Aronofsky surely has.) In previous roles, Portman's petite frame was bolstered by a husky, lightly ribald voice; she could have handily dispatched the part of Nina's competitor, Lily, but then we wouldn't have had the surprise delight of Kunis – earthy, kittenish, calculating, and miles from her amusingly bratty turn on *That '70s Show*. But Portman has a few tricks up her sleeve, too: She strips herself of sensuality, even keying that husky voice to a higher, thinner pitch, and she wears a perplexed look throughout, as if she's trying to remember map directions and is stuck on whether the first turn is a right or a left. She's dynamite stuff – a very good dancer, too, at least to this untrained eye – and she looks appropriately hounded by a camera that stalks her from behind and circles her, ensnaring her, especially in the harrowing closing performance of *Swan Lake* (scored, of course, to thundering Tchaikovsky; it's never sounded so menacing). The entire last act is gid-

dily torturous to watch, with plot turns that are almost aggressively bewildering. But, as they say, let's go back to the text. The script (by Mark Heyman, John McLaughlin, and Andres Heinz, from a story by Heinz) tips its hand as soon as it spells out the plot of *Swan Lake*, and Aronofsky hammers the idea home every time a mirror fractures faces into multiples or Nina spots her own visage in people on the street: This is about flight from self. That simple fact is obscured – but not confused – by Aronofsky's expert use of horror-film technique via jump cuts and creepy audio cues, wherein even the squish of a cut grapefruit is amplified to queasy, supremely uneasy effect. But what startles most is how exquisitely controlled his command of so much madness truly is. He mashes high art and low, classical and camp, and whips it all up with a kind of baroque frenzy for a sumptuously unnerving, singular experience. – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor

new reviews

BAND BAAJA BAARAAT D: Maneesh Sharma; with Anushka Sharma, Ranveer Singh. (NR, 140 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. The co-owners of a wedding-planning service become the couple most observed in this Bollywood romantic comedy. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER D: Michael Apted; with Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley. (PG, 112 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The third film coming of C.S. Lewis' *Narnia* fantasy/allegory series is helmed by the eclectic director of the famed *Up* series of documentaries. Interesting bedfellows, no? Fox-Walden declined to screen the film for Austin press. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill

Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

NO PROBLEM D: Anees Bazmee; with Anil Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Sushmita Sen. (NR, 143 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. A game of hide-and-seek between cops and robbers propels this new Bollywood comedy. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE D: Jalmari Helander; with Onni Tommila, Jorma Tommila, Ilmari Järvenpää, Peeter Jakob. (R, 80 min., subtitled)

If you're sick and tired of the saccharine explosion of treacly holiday fare that began bombarding us somewhere around Halloween, and if you prefer the pre-Christian rites and pagan revelations upon which so much of the current, Christianized calendar conveniently hangs, then you could do far worse than this year's Fantastic Fest horror favorite, *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*. Set in the icy north of Finland, this small, dark gem out-Scrooges *Scrooged* and makes *Bad Santa* look like a feel-good film. *Rare Exports* depicts the travails of a tiny community of Laplanders forced into battle against a resurrected ur-Santa, complete with massive, goatlike horns, cloven hoofs, and a legion of scrawny, naked, ancient "elves" that look as though they just wandered in from the set of Uwe Boll's *Auschwitz*. Creepy, no? It's not all blood and death and boiling children alive, though. *Rare Exports* subverts the usual holiday drivel on multiple levels, adding a non-cloying amount of humor and one really cute

openings & ratings

Black Swan (R)

Band Baaja Baaraat (NR)

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

No Problem (NR)

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (R)

The Tourist (PG-13)

Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen (NR)

★★★★★ 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

little kid to what is essentially *Rawhead Rex* meets *30 Days of the Night Before Christmas*. Director Helander barely scratches the surface of one hell of a great idea, but what this *Christmas Tale* does, it does with wild abandon. When a multinational corporation begins taking seismic samples (so they say) from the peak of the forbidding Korvatunturi mountain, beneath which 11-year-old Pietari (Onni Tommila) and his widowed, reindeer-butcher father live, odd things begin to happen. The valley's reindeer turn up eviscerated, effectively throwing the local reindeer-based economy into sudden tumult. Unnervingly humanlike tracks are found in the snow and, even more disturbingly, outside Pietari's bedroom window. Clutching his favorite stuffed animal and arming himself with his trusty shotgun, Pietari hits the history books and uncovers the disturbing truth about the real Santa. Jolly is not in this crimson nightmare's repertoire, and all that jazz with the presents? Totally inaccurate. This holiday housebreaker is more likely to feast on your sweetbreads than on your cookies and milk. Much of *Rare Exports* is seen through the eyes of its preteen protagonist, which explains some of the story's minor omissions (who, exactly, hired this nefarious multinational mining outfit, and why exactly?). But quibbling about such things would seem to be a fine way to fast-track myself onto you-know-who's Naughty List. Nuts to that; I need new socks. — Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

THE TOURIST D: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck; with Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie, Paul Bettany. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Johnny Depp. Angelina Jolie. Venice. Do I need to say more? Columbia Pictures declined to screen the film in time to be reviewed in this issue; *The Tourist* will be reviewed here next week. — Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

VISION: FROM THE LIFE OF HILDEGARD VON BINGEN

D: Margarethe von Trotta; with Barbara Sukowa, Heino Ferch, Hannah Herzsprung, Alexander Held, Lena Stolze, Sunny Melles. (NR, 111 min., subtitled)

The fifth collaboration between writer/director von Trotta and beautiful leading lady Sukowa, both icons of the German

New Wave, finds them in a nunnery. Specifically, they have combined forces to tell the life story of Hildegard von Bingen, the 12th century Benedictine nun, a woman of many talents and mystical visions. Throughout her career, she composed music that remains distinctive among medieval works, wrote plays and poetry, authored several books that described her visions, and oversaw the Benedictines' production of illuminated manuscripts. She was also an herbalist who used her knowledge for medicinal and ecological purposes. Within the male-dominated hierarchy of the church, Hildegard figured out how to use diplomacy and strategy to achieve her aims. It is for all these reasons and more that Hildegard has become a subject of renewed study for feminist scholars in recent decades. Not much is known about Hildegard's early life: Born only a couple years before the turn of the millennium, Hildegard was a sickly child who was prone to visions and, at the age of 8, was given – or tithed – by her parents to the church. She grew up in the monastic life, and her accomplishments began to earn notice after 1136, when she was elected to be the *magistra* of her community by her fellow nuns. Von Trotta and Sukowa create a very nuanced study of Hildegard, one that imbues the figure with human foibles in a number sufficient to keep at bay any hagiographic impulses. Envy and competition are shown to be issues with which Hildegard and the other sisters struggle (although, to be fair, the nuns probably didn't view them as "issues" so much as sins). Nevertheless, Hildegard is clearly portrayed as a forward thinker: She argues with her superior, Abbot Kuno (Held), and instructs her self-flagellation-prone sisters and brethren that "God wants mercy, not sacrifice." Another time, she condemns the "double standard" (there's that 21st century terminology again) that allows a monk to remain cloistered after he impregnates a nun. Her plays, during which the nuns doffed their habits, costumed themselves in white silk gowns, and let down their hair, caused some conniptions among the more ascetic Benedictine monks, some of whom already had reasons to resent Hildegard's shining light. Light, however, is exactly what is missing from this biopic. Von Trotta's film is informative, instructive, intriguing, and polished, yet it finds no ecstasy – religious or otherwise. Though these nuns can sing, they are no singing nuns – which is a good thing, for sure, although a little more pizzazz wouldn't hurt. — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor



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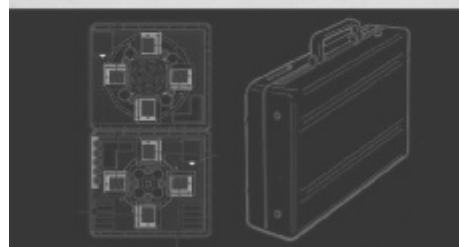
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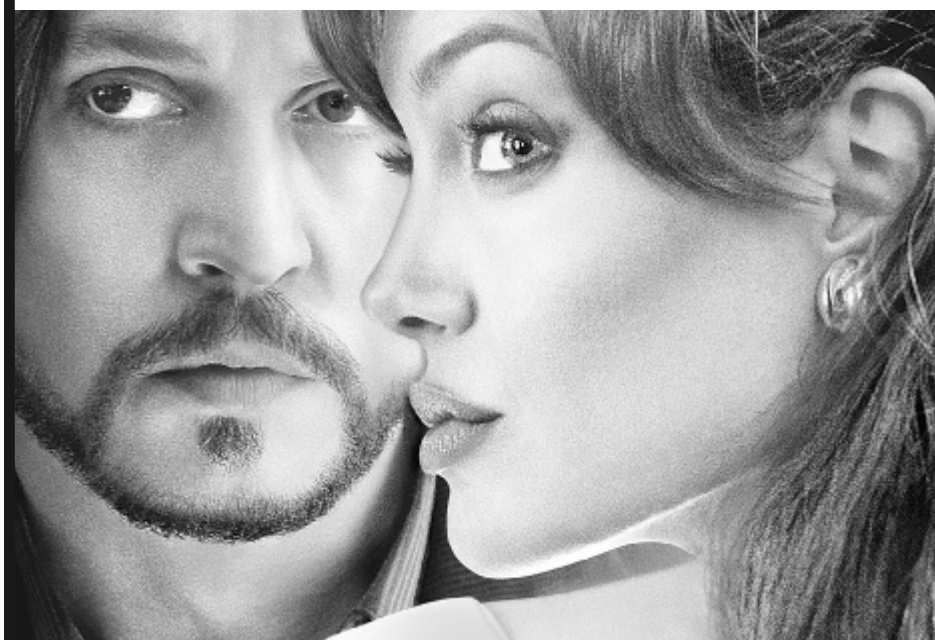
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Terror Tuesday: *The Best of Sex and Violence* Tue, 10:15pm
AFS Doc Tour: *Bhutto*: Wed, 7:00pm
Black Swan: Fri, 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:50; Sat, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:00, 11:00; Sun, 3:50, 4:50, 7:45, 8:45, 10:00; Mon-Tue, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Wed, 3:30, 9:20; Thu (12/16), 7:30, 10:20
Weird Wednesday: *Carnival Magic*: Wed, 12mid
Action Pack: Christmas Pops Sing-Along: Sun, 7:00pm; Thu (12/16), 9:45pm
Music Monday: Deconstructing Dad: *The Music, Machines and Mysteries of Raymond Scott*: Mon, 9:50pm
Big Screen Classics: *The Devil's Backbone*: Mon, 7:00pm; Wed, 9:40pm
Action Pack: *Elf* Quote-Along: Thu (12/16), 7:00pm
Girls Night: *Love Actually*: Tue, 7:00pm
SPAMARAMA: *The Movie*: Sat, 1:00pm
Winter Night: Sun, 11:15pm

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13729 Research, 219-5408.
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri, 11:00am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:00, 7:55pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:55, 3:50, 4:45, 7:05, 7:50pm; Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 4:50, 7:15, 9:00, 10:00pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:55, 2:55, 3:55, 7:00, 9:15, 9:45pm; Tue, 11:00am, 1:55, 3:55, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15, 9:55pm; Wed, 11:00am, 1:55, 3:55, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15, 9:55pm; Thu (12/16), 11:00am, 1:55, 4:00, 4:40, 6:40, 7:30, 9:35pm
Daft Punk's *Electroma*: Thu (12/16), 10:00pm
Tough Guy Cinema: *Die Hard*: Tue, 7:00pm
Due Date: Fri, 12:15, 6:50, 10:45; Sat, 6:40, 10:10; Sun, 11:05am, 1:35, 2:30, 6:55, 10:15pm; Mon, 11:05am, 1:30, 7:10pm; Tue, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:50, 6:55, 10:30pm; Wed, 2:10, 4:40, 6:55, 10:05; Thu (12/16), 11:05am, 1:30, 7:10pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1: Fri, 12:00, 3:15, 7:20, 10:20; Sat, 12:00, 3:30, 6:50, 10:30; Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55; Mon, 11:30am, 2:40, 7:35, 10:10pm; Tue, 1:30, 3:00, 7:25, 10:05; Wed, 3:30, 7:30, 9:30; Thu (12/16), 12:00, 3:30, 7:20, 10:30
Movies & Music: *Immortal Beloved*: Sun, 7:00pm
***Love & Other Drugs**: Fri, 2:05, 4:55, 7:10, 10:10; Sat, 2:05, 4:25, 7:20, 9:50; Sun, 11:25am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40pm; Mon, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:20, 10:15pm; Tue, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:45pm; Wed, 11:20am, 3:20, 7:20pm; Thu (12/16), 12:15, 3:00, 7:40
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri, 11:15am, 4:10, 6:40, 9:30pm; Sat, 11:15am, 12:45, 3:15, 9:15pm; Sun, 11:10am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:35, 9:25pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:35pm; Tue-Wed, 11:10am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25pm; Thu (12/16), 11:10am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:50pm
***The Tourist**: Fri, 11:30am, 1:45, 4:20, 4:30, 7:40, 10:00, 10:35pm; Sat, 11:30am, 1:40, 4:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05pm; Tue, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:35, 10:20pm; Wed, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 4:55, 7:00, 9:45pm
***The Warrior's Way**: Fri, 9:10pm; Sat, 1:45, 10:20; Sun, 10:30pm; Mon, 12:15, 10:40; Tue-Wed, 10:35pm; Thu (12/16), 2:25, 9, 9:15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.
Bad Writing: Sat, 11:00am; Mon-Tue, 7:00pm
Burlesque: Fri, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20; Sat, 1:30, 4:15, 9:40; Sun, 12:40, 3:30, 6:30, 10:15; Mon, 11:30am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Tue, 11:30am, 2:20, 4:20, 10:15pm; Wed, 11:10am, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:20am, 2:10, 4:25pm
Butt-Numb-a-Thon: Sat, 12:00pm
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri, 11:30am, 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40pm; Mon, 11:15am, 2:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40pm; Tue, 11:00am, 1:40, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40pm; Wed, 11:15am, 2:05, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40pm; Thu (12/16), 11:15am, 1:40, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40pm
AFS: *Cold Light*: Tue, 7:00pm
Four Lions: Fri, 7:45pm; Sat, 8:55pm; Sun, 7:40pm; Mon, 1:45, 7:45; Tue, 1:45, 7:35; Wed, 1:45, 7:45; Thu (12/16), 1:50, 7:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri-Wed, 11:55am, 3:25, 7:05, 10:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:55am, 3:25, 7:05pm
Lord of the Rings: *Trilogy Hobbit Feast*: Sun, 11:00am
Feast: *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*: Thu (12/16), 7:00pm
127 Hours: Fri, 11:10am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:05pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:55, 7:40, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:55, 7:40, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:55, 7:40, 10:05pm; Tue, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05pm; Wed, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:55, 7:40, 10:05pm; Thu (12/16), 10:55am, 1:45, 4:10, 7:20pm
Rare Exports: *A Christmas Tale*: Fri, 5:05, 7:00, 10:25; Sat, 7:05, 11:25; Sun, 10:35pm; Mon, 11:25am, 5:10, 10:25pm; Wed, 11:25am, 5:05, 4:15, 10:25pm; Thu (12/16), 11:30am, 4:50, 10:15pm
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri, 10:50am, 4:15, 9:20pm; Sat, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:30pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05pm; Mon-Tue, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:05, 9:30pm; Wed, 11:05am, 1:35, 6:55, 9:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:10am, 1:35, 4:05pm

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE
austinchronicle.com/film.

> **An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.**

> **Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.**

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 at the Alamo: *Brew Masters*: Thu (12/16), 10:00pm
Master Pancake: *Choose Your Own Master Pancake*: Sun, 7:00pm
Master Pancake: *Christmas Show*: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:00
Film & Food: *A Christmas Story With Chinese Food Mini-Feast*: Wed, 7:00pm
Due Date: Fri, 5:15pm; Sat, 1:45, 6:05; Sun, 5:35, 10:35; Mon, 4:30, 10:35; Tue, 1:50, 4:45, 7:15
TV at the Alamo: *Glee*: Tue, 9:45pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri, 11:10am, 2:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:35pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:15, 4:40, 8:30pm; Sun, 12:30, 4:20, 6:30, 9:40; Mon, 4:20, 7:00, 10:00; Tue, 11:40am, 4:20, 7:30, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; Thu (12/16), 4:15, 7:00
Love & Other Drugs: Fri, 11:05am, 1:30, 7:30pm; Sat, 12:15, 3:10, 8:00; Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 3:45, 7:50, 9:40pm; Mon, 4:45, 7:50, 10:10; Tue, 11:20am, 2:05, 7:00pm; Wed, 4:55, 7:50, 10:10; Thu (12/16), 4:25, 7:10
TV at the Alamo: *NBC Thursdays*: Thu (12/16), 10:00pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Social Network: Fri, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:55, 10:40pm; Sat, 11:15am, 2:20, 4:10, 7:30, 10:15pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05; Tue, 11:20am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Wed, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30; Thu (12/16), 3:20, 7:30
The Warrior's Way: Fri, 4:25, 10:20; Sat, 4:55, 10:50; Sun, 11:15am, 1:45pm; Mon, 7:30pm; Tue, 12:00, 10:35; Wed, 10:00pm

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.
Black Swan: 11:50am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:55, 10:30pm
Burlesque: 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:05
Opera: *Don Carlo*: Sat, 11:30am
Fair Game: Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45; Mon, 12:40, 6:50, 9:45; Tue-Thu (12/16), 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest: 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50
Inside Job: Fri, 3:10, 10:10; Sat, 10:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/16), 10, 10, 10
127 Hours: 12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
The Social Network: Fri, 12:20, 7:20; Sat, 7:20pm; Sun-Thu (12/16), 12:20, 7:20
Vision: *From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*: 12:30, 3:30, 10:40, 10:20

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek

Square mall, MPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Burlesque: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30pm; Mon-Wed, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30; Thu (12/16), 10:10am, 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:25pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (sensory friendly): Sat, 10:00am
The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*: 11:55am, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 10:45pm
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri-Sun, 10:55am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55pm; Mon-Wed, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55pm; Thu (12/16), 11:25am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35pm
Due Date: Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm; Sun, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm; Thu (12/16), 11:50am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:30, 4:10, 5:00, 8:20, 10:00pm; Mon, 1:30, 4:10, 5:00, 8:20, 10:00pm; Tue, 1:30, 4:10, 5:00, 8:20, 10:00pm
Love & Other Drugs: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Wed, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20pm
***Megamind (3-D)**: Fri, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:55, 6:30, 9:00pm; Sat, 10:00am, 1:25, 3:55, 6:30, 9:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/16), 1:25, 3:55, 6:30, 9:00
127 Hours: Fri-Sun, 10:45am, 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:15, 3:40, 6:05, 8:30, 10:50
Tangled: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 7:30pm; Mon, 11:10am, 1:45, 7:30pm; Tue-Wed, 11:30am, 1:45, 7:20pm; Thu (12/16), 11:10am, 1:40, 7:30pm
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Wed, 11:50am, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15pm; Thu (12/16), 9:45am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15pm
The Tourist: Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 12:10, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Wed, 12:10, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35pm; Thu (12/16), 9:40am, 12:10, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35pm
The Tourist (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Wed, 11:35am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:00, 9:35pm; Thu (12/16), 11:15am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:00, 9:35pm
Unstoppable: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm; Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45; Mon-Thu (12/16), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
***The Warrior's Way**: Fri-Sat, 9:55am, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30pm; Sun, 12:45, 3:00, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30; Mon-Wed, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30; Thu (12/16), 9:55am, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30pm

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Burlesque: Fri, 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:00, 3:40, 6:30, 9:30
The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Fri, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:50; Sat-Sun, 9:30am, 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 8:50
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri, 12:0, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:20, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:20, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:40
Opera: *Don Carlo*: Sat, 11:30am
Faster: 12:10, 5:20, 10:10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri, 3:10, 7:10, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 3:10, 7:10, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 3:10, 7:10, 10:20
***Love & Other Drugs**: Fri, 12:50, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00; Sat, 6:20, 9:00; Sun, 10:00am, 12:50, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:50, 3:30, 6:20, 9:00
Megamind: 12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
Tangled: Fri, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
***The Tourist**: Fri, 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10
Unstoppable: Fri, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
***The Warrior's Way**: Fri, 2:30, 7:50; Sat-Sun, 9:40am, 2:30, 7:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:30, 7:50

CINEMARK CINEMAX GALLERY 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.

Burlesque: Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/16), 3:50, 6:50, 9:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 5:40, 8:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:45, 5:40, 8:40
Opera: *Don Carlo*: Sat, 11:30am
Due Date: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 4:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 4:30, 10:00
Faster: 3:45, 9:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:50, 6:15, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:50, 6:15, 9:45
***Love & Other Drugs**: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:20
***Megamind (3-D)**: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
Morning Glory: Fri, 11:05am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15pm; Sat, 7:35, 10:15; Sun, 11:05am, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
The Next Three Days: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 6:30; Mon-Thu (12/16), 6:30pm
Red: 1:45, 7:00
Tangled: Fri-Sun, 12:50, 3:40, 6:25, 9:15; Mon-Thu (12/16), 3:40, 6:25, 9:15
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25
***The Tourist**: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
Unstoppable: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 9:55
***The Warrior's Way**: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:00, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays,

Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 6pm.
Alpha and Omega: Fri, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00
Despicable Me: Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
Easy A: Fri, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15
Tangled: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Taken: Fri, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 2:05, 5:10, 8:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:05, 5:10, 8:15
Toy Story 3: Fri, 1:30, 4:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:30, 4:00
You Again: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:05
You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger: Fri, 1:50, 4:35, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:50, 4:35, 7:40, 10:10

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock,

800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
Burlesque: Fri, 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 9:40am, 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:20
The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
***The Chronicles of Narnia: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (3-D)**: Fri, 12:40, 2:25, 3:20, 5:10, 6:05, 8:00, 8:50, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 11:40, 12:40, 2:25, 3:20, 5:10, 6:05, 8:00, 8:50, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:40, 2:25, 3:20, 5:10, 6:05, 8:00, 8:50, 10:40
Due Date: 2:00, 8:10
***Faster**: Fri, 4:30, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 4:30, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 4:30, 10:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: *Part 1*: Fri, 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:20, 8:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 11:10, 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:20, 8:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:10, 3:00, 4:50, 6:20, 8:20, 10:00
Love & Other Drugs: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
Megamind: Fri, 12:50, 3:50, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:50, 3:50, 7:10, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 12:50, 3:50, 7:10, 9:40
Morning Glory: Fri, 11:30am, 1:25, 4:10, 6:50, 9:45am, 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
***Tangled (3-D)**: Fri, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10
***The Tourist**: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/16), 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
Unstoppable: Fri, 1:00, 3:30, 7:20, 10:05;

THE WARRIOR'S WAY D: Sngmoo Lee; with Jang Dong-gun, Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, Tony Cox, Ti Lung, Nic Sampson, Ryan Richards. (R, 100 min.)

Although it's a strange, not-quite-successful but visually entertaining attempt to merge the tropes of the classic American Western with those of the sword-wielding chopsocky genre, *The Warrior's Way* is drained of much of its presumed power by a distinct "been there, seen that" vibe. Director Kim Ji-woon (who, like Sngmoo Lee, emerged from the thriving South Korean film industry) already finessed this sort of stylistic collision with 2008's *The Good, the Bad, the Weird*. Even Takashi Miike, years ago, joined the duster-wearing, sharp weapon-and-six-shooter-wielding fray (with Quentin Tarantino, not surprisingly, in tow) for 2007's *Sukiyaki Western Django*. It goes back further than that, of course: Without Akira Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* and *Seven Samurai*, there would be no *A Fistful of Dollars* or *The Magnificent Seven*. All of the aforementioned rely, to one degree or another, on special effects to achieve their all-encompassing stylistic immersion, but *The Warrior's Way* goes overboard to a significantly silly degree and capsizes due to a veritable tsunami of CGI. Granted, ninjas are involved, but does the world of fantastic filmmaking really need another slo-mo shot of a bullet or blade speeding toward its intended target? Enough already. Arterial blood sprays do not equal passion, and although first-time director Lee fills every single frame with enough eye candy to drive a person blind – you could remove the human cast entirely and the remaining sunsets alone would make for grand, trippy fun – it's ultimately too much of a good thing. Yang (Jang) is an assassin on the lam who is forced into self-imposed exile in the old American West when he refuses to kill his rival clan's only surviving member (a child). Jang has cheekbones that look like leftover props from Tsui Hark's *Swordsmen II* and rogue panache to match; unfortunately, that's not enough to carry this heaving, overwrought pseudo epic. Surrounding the taciturn, archetypal *Lone Wolf and Cub*-esque character played by South Korean superstar Jang with an English-speaking cast that includes a wildly hammy Rush as the town tosspot does little to offset the film's overall "everything and the kitchen sink" tone. There's so much over-the-top acting going on – Huston's scarred, evil Colonel; Bosworth's knife-fighting, Annie Oakley OD Lynne – that at times it appears the actors attempted to out-act the digital set-pieces they knew would eventually subsume them. Prescient move on their part, but it doesn't quite work. The CGI wins, the actors lose, and we, the audience, are left wishing Stephen Chow would hurry up and make a sequel to *Kung Fu Hustle*. – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

first runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

BURLESQUE D: Steve Antin; with Cher, Christina Aguilera, Stanley Tucci, Cam Gigandet, Eric Dane, Julianne Hough, Kristen Bell, Peter Gallagher, Alan Cumming. (PG-13, 116 min.)

Burlesque bumps and grinds. And then it continues to grind and grind and grind. This new musical leaves no cliché unturned as it struggles to find the heart of cabaret. The girls at the Burlesque Lounge on the Sunset Strip dance onstage in exotic underwear while lip-synching risqué numbers, but no clothing is removed. Aguilera stars as Ali, the orphaned Iowa waitress who ditches her job, straps on her platform pumps, and heads for the glittering lights of Hollywood. The dialogue plods along predictably and the performance numbers are edited like a cut-and-paste mosaic. Cher was a shrewd casting choice in terms of upping the film's camp cred, but the diva plays it straight as the club's proprietor and den mother, Tess. As *Burlesque* ground along its obvious and well-worn path, my inner voice indeed shouted, "Take it off," though my request was directed toward the projection booth rather than the dancers onstage. (12/03/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

DUE DATE D: Todd Phillips; with Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis, Michelle Monaghan, Jamie Foxx, Juliette Lewis, Danny McBride, RZA, Matt Walsh. (R, 95 min.)

Due Date is the comedy delivered by director Phillips in between his breakout success, last year's *The Hangover*, and its coming-soon-to-a-theatre-near-you sequel, which is already in production. Galifianakis, whose comic man-child schtick gets a full workout, plays Ethan Tremblay, gauche and rotund, against Downey Jr.'s Peter Highman, who is just trying to make it home to Los Angeles in time for the birth of his first child. Phillips steers this road-trip movie through a wicked variety of set-pieces and celebrity guest cameos. The problem with *Due Date* is that it is less funny at 95 minutes than it is in its succinct trailers. In between the jokes, the darker moments of *Due Date* emerge and deflate some of the froth. Nevertheless, in its best moments, the film's duo of Galifianakis and Downey Jr. remind us of a bickering Laurel & Hardy digging themselves out of another fine mess. And we're happy to be along for the ride. (11/05/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Gold Class, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FAIR GAME D: Doug Liman; with Naomi Watts, Sean Penn, Sam Shepard, Noah Emmerich, Bruce McGill, David Andrews, Ty Burrell. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Were it not for the fact that Sean Penn and Naomi Watts turn in a pair of top-notch performances as columnist/politico Joseph Wilson and his wife, Valerie Plame, a covert CIA field operative, *Fair Game* would have all the gripping suspense of an Urdu 101 class at Langley. Think *The Spy Who Was Publicly Outed* by *Morally Bankrupt Partisan Ideologues*. That's what happened to Plame when conservative columnist Robert Novak, acting on a tip from Bush's White



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House, penned a column about her husband in *The Washington Post* on July 14, 2003. Cutting between Plame's doomed covert ops in Iraq and the war of words on the home front, Liman keeps things moving along at a frantic pace. Still, *Fair Game*, which both fascinates and infuriates, comes across as little more than a footnote in an ever-lengthening list of the Bush White House's sordid, potentially treasonous actions leading up to and beyond the invasion of Iraq. (11/05/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

FASTER D: George Tillman Jr.; with Dwayne Johnson, Tom Berenger, Billy Bob Thornton, Carla Gugino, Mike Epps, Michael Irby, Oliver Jackson-Cohen. (R, 95 min.)

Faster goes a long way toward dispelling the memory of *Tooth Fairy*, but it also serves as a nagging reminder that Thornton hasn't worked much over the last few years. *Faster* turns out to be a better-than-average vendetta film with enough forward momentum to keep audiences glued (Elmer's, not Super) to their seats. Johnson plays Driver: fresh out of prison, sound of mind, and of single intent. He means to kill each and every one of the snitches who killed his brother and made off with the spoils of a past robbery. Carrying a list of names in his pocket and a really big revolver in his hand, he covers a lot of ground between California and Nevada while culling the scumbag herd in his cherry '65 Chevy Chevelle. The former "Rock" plays it wicked straight throughout, as does everyone else involved, including Thornton, playing the junkie cop with a dark secret on Driver's tail. (11/26/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★ CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FOR COLORED GIRLS D: Tyler Perry; with Kimberly Elise, Janet Jackson, Loretta Devine, Thandie Newton, Anika Noni Rose, Kerry Washington, Tessa Thompson, Phylicia Rashad, Whoopi Goldberg, Macy Gray, Michael Ealy, Hill Harper, Omari Hardwick. (R, 134 min.)

What at first sounds like an awkward fit – artistically ham-handed filmmaker Tyler Perry adapting Ntozake Shange's "choreopoem" about black women's identity – becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. *For Colored Girls*, Perry's first film that doesn't sport his name in front of the title, signals his ambition to expand his creative palette. Perry has brushed up his directing skills, though his plainspoken, unobtrusive aesthetic is an uncomfortable match for the fragility of Shange's poetic monologues. Still, Elise, Newton, Devine, Rose, Washington, and Rashad find the pulse of their characters and are able to convey something of their emotions, even when they lack clarity and backstory. There is a lot of turmoil captured in these vignettes: date rape, infanticide, promiscuity, back-alley abortion, pathological religiosity, and AIDS, to name but a few. Even though *For Colored Girls* had the second weakest opening weekend for any Perry release, his choice to revive and recalibrate Shange's classic work is a good thing overall. (11/12/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

FOUR LIONS D: Chris Morris; with Riz Ahmed, Arsher Ali, Nigel Lindsay, Kayvan Novak, Adeel Akhtar. (R, 102 min.)

Quite probably the world's first Islamic terrorist comedy, *Four Lions* is set in Sheffield, 150 miles north of London, and details the bumbling efforts of a group of radicalized Muslims who dream of becoming suicide bombers. Faisal (Akhtar) is soft-spoken and maybe soft in the head; Waj (Novak) is dim but eager to please; Barry (Lindsay), a white convert, is a bilious fanatic; and Hassan (Ali) is a wannabe rapper just looking for a community. But leader Omar (Ahmed) is a genuinely politicized and embittered young man with a wife and son. *Four Lions* is a riot of physical comedy, and much of the dialogue is sneakily hilarious in its sheer banality. Director Morris, in his first feature film, imperceptibly shifts from pure satire to accommodate a more complete and, yes, humanizing portrait of the conflicted jihadis. This is provocative stuff, to be sure. A comedy of errors and terrors? Who woulda thunk it? (11/05/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South



Bhutto

Bhutto (2010) D: Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara. (NR, 111 min.) **AFS Documentary Tour.** This documentary chronicles the life of Pakistani political leader, Benazir Bhutto, a woman who was born into the country's leading political family and assassinated in 2007, a couple of weeks before her party was expected to sweep the 2008 democratic election. @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 7pm.

THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST

D: Daniel Alfredson; with Noomi Rapace, Michael Nyqvist, Lena Endre, Anders Ahlborn, Georgi Staykov, Annika Hallin, Jacob Ericksson. (R, 147 min., subtitled)

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest is the concluding chapter of Stieg Larsson's phenomenal clutch of paranoid Svenska-noir novels and the Swedish films based on his work. The follow-up films don't quite live up to the visceral, chilly, black-leather Euro-punch of director Niels Arden Oplev's original film. But they all star Rapace, who so utterly embodies the character of Lisbeth Salander as a sort of forcibly detached, hideously scarred – mentally, physically, emotionally – force majeure that it's inconceivable, for now, that any actor would have the brass balls to place herself at the center of the forthcoming, inevitable Hollywood remakes. (David Fincher will direct.) If *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* lacks a measure of the sexually turbo-charged torque of its precursors, the fault lies not with Rapace or Nyqvist, but with a concluding storyline that breathlessly attempts to weave all those loose ends from the previous films into a cunningly crafted hangman's knot. (11/19/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Arbor

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1

D: David Yates; with Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter, Julie Walters, Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Tom Felton, Rhys Ifans, Jason Isaacs, Helen McCrory, Peter Mullan. (PG-13, 146 min.)

The first half of a two-film adaptation of J.K. Rowling's final book about the battle between the damaged boy-wizard Harry (Radcliffe) and the dark Lord Voldemort (Fiennes), *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1* is, as a whole, the finest Potter film yet. From the superlative digital effects and original score to the saga-scoped camerawork, *Deathly Hallows* is all business – taut, fraught, and fearsome. When Voldemort's minions, the Death Eaters, storm the Ministry, Harry and best friends Hermione (Watson) and Ron (Grint) go underground to find and destroy the remaining Horcruxes, talismans in which Voldemort safeguarded splinters of his soul. *Deathly Hallows* is still truthful to the spirit of these decent, sometimes goofy kid-characters, whom we've watched grow up in the course of 10 years. They remain fundamentally the same, only now with jaws set hard from troubled times. They've been through something epic, and for the first time, truly, so have we. (11/19/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



INSIDE JOB D: Charles Ferguson; narrated by Matt Damon. (PG-13, 120 min.)

These days, everyone is talking smack about the United States economy. Most of us have painful evidence that the whole system is in the toilet, yet few can explain how or why. Director Ferguson (*No End in Sight*), however, illuminates the situation with this detailed yet engaging documentary analysis narrated by Matt Damon. *Inside Job* uncovers little that hasn't already been reported elsewhere, but Ferguson does an excellent job of organizing the presentation and showcasing his clear-eyed perspective of the American people as the victims of Wall Street insiders who are themselves victims of their own greed and inflated self-worth. *Inside Job* is divided into five digestible sections: How We Got Here, the Bubble, the Crisis, Accountability, and Where We Are Now. Ferguson's provocative, incredulous questioning is one of the greatest lessons of *Inside Job*. That and his demonstration that the current economic crisis is definitely not too difficult for us to understand – and correct. (11/05/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor

JACKASS 3D D: Jeff Tremaine. (R, 94 min.)

The cunning stuntwork of *Jackass*' motley band of jackanapes is marginally less shocking this time out, even when we're presented with scenes so bile-risible that the cameraman pukes on his own camera. Stomach contents and an outflow of redolent porta-potty effluvium rule the day, while testicles and taboos are smashed flat with equal abandon. *Jackass* is 10 years old this year but thankfully evinces no more maturity than when it first premiered on MTV. In between Johnny Knoxville getting rammed senseless by a buffalo and tooth extraction via Lamborghini (an inspired bit, in theory), there are moments of comic brilliance that, cleverly, don't make you want to hurl. *Jackass* continues to rock on like your older brother's crazy best friend with the creepy gleam in his hooded eyes, only now you can pull up YouTube and see that sort of thing 24/7, should you feel the uncontrollable urge. (10/22/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★ Tinseltown South

KHELEIN HUM JEE JAAN SEY

D: Ashutosh Gowariker; with Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone. (NR, 175 min., subtitled)

This Bollywood picture is based on historical events that occurred in 1930 when a group of 64 Indians in the port of Chittagong rose up against the British. (12/03/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
 Tinseltown South



SPAMARAMA: The Movie

SPAMARAMA: The Movie (1996) D: Cressandra Thibodeaux; with Joe Stevens, David Arnsberger, Marco Parella, Julie Lowery, Emily York, Kim Krizan. (NR, 75 min.) **Uranium Savages 36th Birthday Celebration.** This Austin-made companion piece to the event blends truth and fiction in a quasi-documentary that purports to explain how SPAMARAMA all began. Music by the Secedars (with Savages past and present) starts at 1pm, doors open at noon. Posters, cookbooks, and T-shirts will be on sale in the lobby. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Saturday, 1pm.



La ilusión viaja en tranvía (Illusion Travels by Streetcar)

La ilusión viaja en tranvía (Illusion Travels by Streetcar) (1954) D: Luis Buñuel; with Fernando Soto, Carlos Navarro, Lilia Prado. (NR, 90 min.) **Cine las Americas and the Consulate General of México in Austin: Luis Buñuel in Mexico.** Two drunken Mexico City transit workers take a streetcar out for a joyride and then are stuck picking up passengers all night to cover up their caper. The movie is as delightful as its title. @MACC, Monday, 8pm; free.

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS D: Edward Zwick; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Anne Hathaway, Oliver Platt, Hank Azaria, Josh Gad, Gabriel Macht, Judy Greer, George Segal, Jill Clayburgh. (R, 112 min.)

Jake Gyllenhaal has always done better with edgy material that subverts his sunny, smiling look. But there are no hard angles to be found in this soft-hearted drama that straddles comedy, medical crisis, and the three-ring circus of Big Pharma in the Nineties. Gyllenhaal plays Jamie, a Pfizer rep who, when he lands the new Viagra account, happily combines his two great loves: sex and hustling. When free-spirit artist Maggie (Hathaway) enters the picture, the pair embarks on something of a no-strings-attached sex romp. Zwick's film blooms into sentimental hash when their love affair becomes complicated by Maggie's early-stage Parkinson's disease and creeping feelings of real, not entirely welcome love for each other. There's nothing wrong with sentimental hash, but whenever Zwick catches the rhythm of one mood, he skips the needle to try on another one. This broadness is like a stake to the heart of the film's hard-earned but fast-lost authenticity. (12/03/2010) – 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

MEGAMIND D: Tom McGrath; with the voices of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill, Brad Pitt, David Cross. (PG, 95 min.)

The DreamWorks Animation team devotes its extraordinary attention to 3-D visual detail in *Megamind* – most commonly to the illustration of such mayhem as death rays vaporizing steel and whole buildings turning to rubble. It's a lot of Sturm und Drang that quickly grows repetitive; I'd trade 90% of the action for a few more of those tight close-ups of blue-hued Megamind (voiced by Ferrell). Megamind is a self-professed supervillain, an alien who was orphaned young and crafted an identity in counterpoint to another founding who fell to Metro City, USA, on the same day – the buff, boffo Metro Man (voiced by Pitt). But what's a big baddie to do when his nemesis and prime motivator takes an extended vacation? *Megamind* gets existential, but only in blips, and while it is never anything less than vibrant and exceedingly clever, it is also a rather slight thing for such mega-sized proportions. (11/05/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

MORNING GLORY D: Roger Michell; with Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford, Diane Keaton, Patrick Wilson, Jeff Goldblum, John Pankow. (PG-13, 102 min.)

Morning Glory aims for a mix of comedy, romance, and working-woman woes. Morning-show producer Becky (McAdams) is a little bit hunchy and bedraggled, but adorably so. Hired to turn around the disastrous ratings of a national morning show, Becky in turn hires a seasoned newsman, Mike Pomeroy (Ford), to co-anchor the program with sugar (on-camera) and spice (off-) Colleen Peck (Keaton). Mike

is hell-bent on sabotaging what he rightfully considers to be a gig way, way beneath him, and the bulk of *Morning Glory* is spent tracking Becky's uphill battle to convince Mike to play nice for the camera. "Play nice" may very well be the mantra of Michell (*Notting Hill*), a director of excessive sentimentality and empty stylishness. Well-acted and ingratiating, with at least one howlingly funny sequence, *Morning Glory* had the capacity to be a smarter, tarter picture, though it's not bad as is. (11/12/2010) — Kimberley Jones ★★ Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Gold Class, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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True Grit

True Grit (2010) D: Joel Coen and Ethan Coen; with Jeff Bridges, Hailee Steinfeld, Josh Brolin, Matt Damon. **Austin Film Society: Sneak Peek.** *True Grit* opens on Dec. 22, but catch an early sneak of the film that was made partially in Austin and at Austin Studios. Tickets, which include access to an after-party, go on sale to the public at noon on Thursday; see www.austinthatre.org or go to the Paramount box office. Proceeds benefit the Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund. @Paramount, Wednesday, 7pm.

THE NEXT THREE DAYS

D: Paul Haggis; with Russell Crowe, Elizabeth Banks, Ty Simpkins, Olivia Wilde. (PG-13, 122 min.)

Haggis presents a mishmash of genres in this redo of Fred Cavayé's 2008 French film *Pour Elle*. Working with such familiar – and potentially dramatic – ingredients as jailbreaks, the wrongly accused, and femmes fatales, Haggis culls the least interesting bits from these scenarios to make a fatally confused film. A lumbering, sleepily engaged Crowe stars as literature professor John Brennan, whose wife, Lara (Banks), is abruptly accused of murder in the film's opening minutes and carted off to jail and sentenced to life in prison. Along the way, Haggis tosses in everything from mild puzzlers (what the hell are Liam Neeson, Olivia Wilde, Daniel Stern, and Brian Dennehy all doing in go-nowhere bit parts?) to real plot head-scratchers (how did Brennan advance from "where do the bullets go?" to a shoot-'em-up at a meth lab in a matter of scenes?). There's only one psychologically intriguing character in the film, and she spends most of it behind bars. (11/26/2010) – Kimberley Jones
 ★ Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Gold Class, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

★ **127 HOURS** D: Danny Boyle; with James Franco, Kate Mara, Amber Tamblyn, Treat Williams, Kate Burton, John Lawrence. (R, 94 min.)

Calm, cool, and tear-your-hair-out exciting, *127 Hours* is an archetypal tale of man vs. nature vs. himself. Danny Boyle adapts Aron Ralston's "trapped in the wilderness" memoir with gripping aplomb. Ralston, after a morning of mountain-biking and cavorting in underground swimming holes with a pair of newbie female hikers (Tamblyn and Mara), falls from nature's grace and lands in a horrific situation: His arm is crushed and unable to be freed, he's low on water, and absolutely no one is aware of his plight. It's a bad trip in every sense of the phrase. *127 Hours* is an unrelenting tour de force but it's also an unforgettable examination of

the human spirit under extreme duress. The fact that Franco gives the performance of his career is the icing on the cake. Fair warning, oh squeamish ones: *127 Hours* does not shy away from Ralston's ultimate method of obtaining egress from his predicament. Which is exactly as it should be. (11/19/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan, Westgate

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2

D: Tod Williams; with Brian Boland, Sprague Grayden, Molly Ephraim, Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Vivis. (R, 91 min.)

Believe the hype: *Paranormal Activity 2* is exactly what you think or hope it is. I loathed the first film, but its cheap shocks and wait ... wait ... wait ... gotchas were a box-office cash machine. *Paranormal Activity 2* is something of a prequel to Oren Peli's initial film. But, most importantly, does it scare the hell out of you? Well, yes, it does. As it turns out, the new pair of victims, Kristi and Dan (Grayden and Boland), are related to the previous couple by blood ties. Plus, they have a child and a German shepherd in tow. The entire production is faux cinema verité, captured remarkably via security apparatus and nanny cam. That's the pitch, really: Supernatural stuff happens, and the audience gets to view it in edited real time. Granted, this inevitable follow-up is considerably spookier than its predecessor, but only in terms of the amount of jump-out-of-your-seatiness. It's not hell, but it's close. (10/29/2010) – Marc Savlov

★ Tinseltown South

RED

D: Robert Schwentke; with Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Karl Urban, Rebecca Pidgeon, Ernest Borgnine, Brian Cox, Richard Dreyfuss. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Proof that the artistic collision between the aging baby boomers and their comic-book-obsessed progeny makes for some strange, but entertaining, bedfellows, *Red* features four leads with a combined age of 257 – add the grand, Methusalem Borgnine and you get a round 350 – who alternate between waxing eloquent on the ephemerality of youth and resuscitating said salad days by blowing shit up real good. Yee-haw! Willis plays a retired CIA badass named Frank Moses who, when the Agency decides to clean out the old guard, is forced to round up his Cold War "associates" – Freeman's rest-home-residing Joe, Cox's bearish ex-Soviet Ivan, Malkovich's paranoid comic foil Marvin, and the elegant Mirren as ex-MI6 operative Victoria. *Red* is, at its heart, a rom-com, guns 'n' bombs mash-up that poses serious questions about the role of the aged in a youth-mad, globalized system and then answers them with a smirk and a whole lot of terrifically choreographed action set-pieces. (10/15/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★ Hill Country Galleria, Lakeline, Metropolitan

SKYLINE

D: Colin Strause, Greg Strause; with Eric Balfour, Scottie Thompson, Brittany Daniel, Donald Faison, David Zayas, Crystal Reed, Neil Hopkins. (PG-13, 94 min.)

"Don't go toward the light" is the advice given to patients trying to resist death's embrace. The advice might also prove wise for the characters in *Skyline*, an effects-heavy thriller about an alien invasion of Los Angeles. I'd use the term "science fiction" to describe *Skyline* but the movie decidedly lacks both science and fiction. The effects in this new movie are, indeed, quite stunning. However, *Skyline*, directed by the Brothers Strause, is the kind of movie in which the characters make so many dumb moves and repeat the same trite exclamations that audiences love to watch them in order to yell mocking comments back at the screen. Logical questions arrive with almost every new sequence. Most curious of all, however, is how the filmmakers could pass up the obvious joke opportunities about Angelinos being done in by their "brainless" inability to resist bright, shiny objects. Don't make the same mistake: Don't go toward the light. (11/19/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

D: David Fincher; with Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Armie Hammer, Rooney Mara, Max Minghella, Joseph Mazzello, Rashida Jones. (PG-13, 121 min.)

Fincher's blisteringly entertaining *The Social Network* touches down in the calm before the storm, before social media rewrote the rules on how information moves. We first meet the eventual founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg (Eisenberg), in a bar, having drinks with his girlfriend (Mara). He is callous, socially inept, and ravenously ambitious – the boy who would be king, not yet fixed on what the kingdom will look like. *The Social Network* cuts with ease from flashbacks of Zuckerberg's undergraduate days to depositions related to two concurrent lawsuits brought against him. Although the legal proceedings provide a handy framework for the film, who did what to whom, when, and with how much premeditated bloodlust is of ancillary concern to the film's layered examination of an asshole. (That's the filmmakers' word, not mine.) History as we know it is still unfolding, and *The Social Network* is that rare film that has something – not yet definitive but certainly provocative – to say about it. (10/01/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

TANGLED

D: Nathan Greno, Byron Howard; with the voices of Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi, Donna Murphy, Ron Perlman, M.C. Gainey, Jeffrey Tambor, Brad Garrett. (PG, 92 min.)

The venerable Disney animators have climbed aboard both the CGI and 3-D bandwagons for their latest holiday release, which reworks the Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Rapunzel*. The classic hallmarks of Disney animation are all here: stunning attention to the details of nature and the inclusion of an evil mother figure as a trigger for the storyline. Rapunzel's hair should be listed as one of the story's main characters, so intrinsic is it to the film's appeal. As voiced by Moore, Rapunzel is a spunky gal, capable of defending herself and singing sturdily. Tony Award-winner Murphy brings stage showmanship to her musical interludes as Mother Gothel, which drip with sarcasm and biting wit. The songs by Alan Menken and Glenn Slater are fun but unmemorable, however. Even though the sight of Rapunzel's shimmering hair and scenes of flickering lanterns across the skyline are visual wonders, the biggest reactions to the animation seemed to come from scenes of classic physical comedy. (11/26/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

UNSTOPPABLE

D: Tony Scott; with Denzel Washington, Chris Pine, Rosario Dawson, Ethan Suplee, Kevin Dunn, Kevin Corrigan, Lew Temple, Jessy Schram. (PG-13, 98 min.)

Unstoppable is a lot like speed. Not the movie, the amphetamine. It's manic and wearily predictable, and as soon as it begins, you know exactly how it's going to end: with a hard, fast crash (and the requisite yakkety epilogue). Oh, but what a fun pitch meeting it must have been: "There's this

unmanned train, see, powered up at full throttle, see, and it's headed toward population! And Denzel Washington plays a heroic motorman who recently lost his wife to cancer! And that new Captain Kirk guy's the rookie conductor, and he has a broken heart! How can it miss?!" How indeed? *Unstoppable* is interminable, especially for connoisseurs of the action spectacle. They will recall with fondness such far better films as *Runaway Train* or even *Von Ryan's Express*. Director Scott tosses the occasional foreign object onto the track from time to time, but in the end *Unstoppable* is derailed by its own one-track premise. (11/19/2010) – Marc Savlov

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Westgate

YOU AGAIN

D: Andy Fickman; with Kristen Bell, Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver, Odette Yustman, Victor Garber, Betty White, James Wolk, Kristin Chenoweth. (PG, 105 min.)

Bell is an appealingly tart, wheels-always-turning kind of actress, and someday she'll find a film role that suits her as well as her star turn on TV's *Veronica Mars* did. We get sparks of the same spitfire here that make one long for a director who knows how to harness her innate screwball physicality. Bell plays Marni, a former high school loser who has remade herself as a successful public relations exec. That reinvention is threatened, however, when she returns home to discover her big brother (Wolk) is about to wed her high school nemesis, Joanna (Yustman). Almost as an afterthought, *You Again* poses an interesting question – what if our long-ago bullies were just as psychically scarred by the tormenting as their tormented victims were? – but that curveball is buried under a lot of gunk: dance-offs, sing-alongs, awkward exes, and a dirty-talking Betty White blasting through, I'm afraid, the last bits of her novelty. *That again?* (09/24/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Movies 8

YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK

STRANGER D: Woody Allen; with Antonio Banderas, Josh Brolin, Anthony Hopkins, Gemma Jones, Freida Pinto, Lucy Punch, Naomi Watts, Pauline Collins; narrated by Zak Orth. (R, 98 min.)

In Allen's latest romantic roundelay, *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*, it is libido that ostensibly drives all the characters – Alfie (Hopkins) to ditch his senior-aged wife, Helena (Jones), for a nubile new bride, his daughter Sally (Watts) to make eyes at her boss (Banderas), and Sally's failed novelist husband, Roy (Brolin, boorish and frankly unbearable), to court their comely neighbor (Pinto) – but it's a weirdly inert kind of libido. In theory, there are some interesting ideas here: How disaffection pushes these characters to marinate in drink; how they assiduously avoid truth-telling, only to be confronted with inevitable fallout of so many lies. But in practice, the characters are one-dimensional cutouts kept at a dogged remove. Their miseries are a bore – maybe to Allen, too, who abruptly ends the film just when it finally catches some dramatic traction. Still, who can blame him? I know I couldn't get away from these shrill, complaining people fast enough. (10/15/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★ Movies 8



The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (2010) D: Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith; narrated by Daniel Ellsberg. (NR, 93 min.) **Austin Indymedia and P.O.V.** After the screening of this documentary, which was just nominated for an Oscar, there will be a discussion of the recent WikiLeaks' dump and its effects on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (*) @MonkeyWrench Books, Sunday, 7pm; free.

also playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

ALPHA AND OMEGA ★★ Movies 8

DESPICABLE ME ★★★ Movies 8

EASY A ★★★ Movies 8

LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS:
THE OWLS OF GA'HOOLE ★★ Movies 8

TAKERS ★★★ Movies 8

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THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 12:15 2:20 2:40 4:40 5:05 7:05 7:30 9:30 9:55 11:50

Sun. - Thu. 12:00 12:15 2:20 2:40 4:40 5:05 7:05 7:30 9:30 9:55

THE TOURIST (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:10 12:35 2:30 2:55 4:50 5:15 7:10 7:35 9:30 9:55 11:45

Sun. - Thu. 12:10 12:35 2:30 2:55 4:50 5:15 7:10 7:35 9:30 9:55

THE WARRIOR'S WAY (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:10 2:25 4:40 7:10 9:25 11:50

Sun. - Thu. 12:10 2:25 4:40 7:10 9:25

TANGLED 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20 11:45

Sun. - Thu. 12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 3:30 7:00 10:15 11:45

Sun. - Thu. 12:00 3:30 7:00 10:15

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:05 9:30 11:59

Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:05 9:30

MEGAMIND 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35 11:50

Sun. - Thu. 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:35

UNSTOPPABLE (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:30

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Special ADVANCE Screening
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The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



The Devil's Backbone

THURSDAY 09

Indie Darlings Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946) D: Frank Capra; with James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers, Gloria Grahame. (NR, 129 min.) **Digital Classics.** In this holiday chestnut, a man learns he has mattered in the lives of others, and an angel gets its wings. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 7:15pm.

NBC Thursdays TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 10pm.

Waiting for 'Superman' (2010) D: Davis Guggenheim. (PG, 102 min.) This documentary has helped kick off a national discussion about remedying our failing educational system. Call for showtimes. (*) @Millennium, 11am, 1:30, 4, 6:30pm.

Zoolander Quote-Along (2001) D: Ben Stiller. (R, 90 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Attack of the Giant Leeches (1959) D: Bernard L. Kowalski; with Ken Clark, Yvette Vickers, Jan Shepard. (NR, 62 min.) **Triple Feature.** See website for info and reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7:30pm.

Creature From the Haunted Sea (1961) D: Roger Corman; with Antony Carbone, Betsy Jones-Moreland, Robert Towne. (NR, 63 min.) **Triple Feature.** See website for info and reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 6pm.

Panic in Year Zero! Triple Feature. See website for info and reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 8:45pm.

FRIDAY 10

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. The seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 7, 10pm.

White Christmas (1954) D: Michael Curtiz; with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Dean Jagger, Mary Wickes. (NR, 120 min.) **Holiday Classic Films.** Whether you're a seasoned regular or a newbie, this Irving Berlin holiday classic about four entertainers falling in love and saving a Vermont inn is essential seasonal froth. @Paramount, 7:30pm.

SPACES

The Karate Kid and Master of the Flying Guillotine Kung Fu U. See website for info and reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm.

SATURDAY 11

Bad Writing (2010) D: Vernon Lott. (NR, 89 min.) Dismayed by the discovery of some poetry he wrote as a teenager, the filmmaker visits with established writers to discover what defines the difference between good and bad writing. @Alamo Draffhouse South, 11am.

Butt-Numb-a-Thon As usual, Harry Knowles' birthday party o' film surprises is long sold out. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse South, noon.

Christmas Show @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (sensory friendly) (2010) D: Michael Apted. (PG, 115 min.) **Autism Society of America: Sensory-Friendly Films.** At these screenings, the auditorium has its lights brought up and the sound turned down. Additionally, audience members can get up and move about during the screening and bring along special-diet snacks. For more details, see www.austinautismsociety.org. @Barton Creek Square, 10am.

Don Carlo (2010) D: Nicholas Hyntner. **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** Roberto Alagna leads the cast, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts this new production of the Verdi opera. @Arbor, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, 11:30am.

"Frosty the Snowman" (1969) D: Jules Bass and Arthur Rankin Jr.; narrated by Jimmy Durante. (NR, 22 min.) **Holiday Movie Matinee.** Animation. @Millennium, 10:15am; free.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 12mid.

Spamarama: The Movie (1996) See p.76.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010) D: David Yates; with Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Ralph Fiennes, Alan Rickman, Helena Bonham Carter, Julie Walters, Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Tom Felton, Rhys Ifans, Jason Isaacs, Helen McCrory, Peter Mullan. (PG-13, 146 min.) See review, p.76. (*) Thu. (12/9)-Wed., 1, 4, 7, 10pm; Thu. (12/16), noon, 3, 6, 9pm.

Hubble 3D (2010) D: Toni Myers; narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. (NR, 45 min.) This breathtaking documentary follows NASA's May 2009 mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. (*) Thu. (12/9)-Sat., 11:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/16), 11:30am.

Legends of Flight (2010) D: Stephen Low. (NR, 42 min.) One hundred years of aviation history are explored in this 3-D film, which also looks to the future of commercial airline travel. Thu. (12/9)-Thu. (12/16), 10:30am.

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 producing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/9)-Sat., 9:30am; Mon.-Thu. (12/16), 9:30am.

offscreen

Austin FilmWorks: Production One Spring Registration Open Filmmaker Steve Mims covers issues of technology, design, and practical application of technique with this comprehensive, hands-on, 14-week series of classes. Registration is now open for the spring 2011 series; see website for details. *Classes begin Feb. 1. Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm. Studio A-7, 701 Tillery. \$960.* www.austinfilmworks.com.

Austin School of Film Classes Prime your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film before the year ends, with professional instruction in **Final Cut Pro 10.1**, which will help you understand the editing software for filmmakers, video artists, and all forms of digital media. *Fri.-Mon., Dec. 10-12, 10am-6pm.* There are equally pro classes for **Sound Recording for Film & Video**, **InDesign**, **Lighting 101**, and more: the best knowledge for all aspects of the industry. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

Call to Filmmakers: Faces of Austin This multimedia program screens on-demand films on the three wide-screen video displays in the City Hall atrium. Selected entries will be shown in a public screening during "The People's Gallery" exhibition in February at City Hall, on Channel 6, and online. See website for details. *Application deadline: Jan. 28. 974-7860.* www.cityofaustin.org/redevelopment/austinfaces.htm.

channelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional, hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. *1143 Northwestern.* www.channelaustin.org.

Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival happens in April of next year. See website for submission details. *Deadline: Jan. 14.* www.cinelasamericas.org.

Rare Exports: Feral Santa Photo Op Want to have your holiday photo taken while you brandish a (fake) weapon at the caged feral Santa Claus from the darkly comic as-seen-at-Fantastic-Fest film *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale?* Of course you do, you sick little monkey. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 10-11, 6-10:30pm. Alamo Draffhouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Free.* www.originalalamo.com.

The Screenplay Workshop: Register for Winter Classes All programs are taught by professional screenwriters in Central Austin classrooms. **Screenwriting Fundamentals** *Tuesdays, Jan. 18-Feb. 15, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 22-Feb. 19, 1:30-4pm. \$225 (\$210 until Dec. 17).* **Master Class** *Tuesdays, Jan. 18-March 22, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 22-March 26, 1:30-4pm. \$395 (\$370 until Dec. 17).* **Private Screenwriting Coaching and Consultation** also available. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

SPACES

Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights D: Seth Kearsley; with Adam Sandler. (PG-13, 70 min.) **Because It's That Time of Year.** See website for info and reservations. (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 9pm.

A Christmas Story (1983) D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon. (PG, 98 min.) **Because It's That Time of Year.** See website for info and reservations. (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm.

SUNDAY 12

Choose Your Own Master Pancake Master Pancake Theater. It's interactive night, so the audience gets to select the title to be screened. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 7pm.

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Immortal Beloved (1994) D: Bernard Rose; with Gary Oldman, Jeroen Krabbé, Isabella Rossellini, Johanna Ter Steege, Marco Hofschneider, Miriam Margolyes, Valeria Golino. (R, 120 min.) **Movies & Music.** The Beethoven biopic will be preceded by live chamber music by composer and bassist P Kellach Waddle and the musicians of PKW Productions, who will also play during the intermission. (*) @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast (PG-13, 640 min.) Sold-out. @Alamo Draffhouse South, 11am.

Winter Night D: Doreen Girard, Irene Bindi, Julia Ryckman and Aston Coles. (NR, 90 min.) Join four Winnipeg artists for a program of live music and moving images inspired by Manitoba's cold winters, grim histories, and supernatural stories. @Alamo Ritz, 11:15pm.

SPACES

Dexter Watch Party @Jo's (Downtown), 8pm; Free.

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (2010) See p.78.

MONDAY 13

Bad Writing (2010) @Alamo Draffhouse South, 7pm. (See Saturday.)

Deconstructing Dad: The Music, Machines and Mysteries of Raymond Scott (2010)

D: Stan Warnow. (NR, 100 min.) **Music Monday.** This is a music-filled biographical documentary about the life and work of Raymond Scott, an eclectic and pivotal figure in 20th century music. It also is a personal investigation into the father/son dynamic. People interviewed include DJ Spooky, Mark Mothersbaugh, Hal Willner, and John Williams. The director will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm.

The Devil's Backbone (2001) D: Guillermo Del Toro; with Eduardo Noriega, Marisa Paredes, Federico Luppi, Iñigo Garcés, Fernando Tielve, Junio Valverde. (R, 106 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** Set in a crumbling boys' school/orphanage/fallout shelter during the Spanish Civil War, the lost boys of this haunting film contend with a vengeful ghost as well as the more worldly traumas of war, greed, and abandonment. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm; Wednesday, 9:40pm.

SPACES

A Christmas Carol (1951) D: Brian Desmond Hurst; with Alastair Sim. (NR, 86 min.) **Austin Public Library: Classic Christmas Cinema.** Sims' portrayal is, perhaps, the definitive Scrooge. @Cepeda Branch Library, 6pm; free.

La ilusión viaja en tranvía (Illusion Travels by Streetcar) (1954) See p.76.

imax

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 Dec. 24 issue is Monday, Dec. 13.** 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, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Twilight Zone: The Movie (1983) D: Joe Dante, John Landis, George Miller and Steven Spielberg. (PG, 101 min.) **I Luv Video Presents.** "Classic TV at the Drive-in" begins at 6:30pm. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm.

TUESDAY 14

Bad Writing (2010) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm. (See Saturday.)

The Best of Sex and Violence (1981) D: Ken Dixon; narrated by John Carradine. (NR, 81 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Carradine hosts this compilation of trailers and scenes from various exploitation films. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

Cold Light (2004) D: Hilmar Oddsson; with Ingvar Eggert Sigurðsson, Áslákur Ingvarsson. (NR, 90 min.) **Austin Film Society: Fire Beneath the Ice – Films of Iceland.** Winner of numerous Icelandic film awards, this movie is a story about how the past shapes the present. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm; \$8, AFS members free.

Die Hard (1988) D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Tough Guy Cinema.** Free cap gun with ticket and live explosions in the theatre. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

Glee TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm.

Love Actually (2003) D: Richard Curtis; with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Keira Knightley,

Martine McCutcheon, Billy Bob Thornton, Joanna Page, Rowan Atkinson. (R, 135 min.) **Girlie Night.** Sold-out. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

The Princess and the Frog (2009) D: Ron Clements and John Musker; with the voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos, Keith David, Michael-Leon Wooley, Jennifer Cody, Jim Cummings, Peter Bartlett, John Goodman, Jenifer Lewis, Terrence Howard, Oprah Winfrey. (G, 97 min.) **Austin Public Library: Family Movies.** Free. (*) @Twin Oaks Branch Library, 6:30pm.

WEDNESDAY 15

Bhutto (2010) See p.76.

Carnival Magic (1981) D: Al Adamson; with Jennifer Houlton, Howard Segal, Don Stewart, Mark Weston. (G, 85 min.) **Weird Wednesday With Elvin Feltner.** A mind-reading magician and a talking chimp arouse envy and retaliation when they become a carnival's new stars. Producer Elvin Feltner will be in attendance; see "Bumpy Ride," p.45, for an interview. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

A Christmas Story With Chinese Food Mini-Feast (1983) D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley. (PG, 98 min.) **Film & Food.** See website for menu. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7pm.

The Devil's Backbone (2001) @Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm. (See Monday.)

True Grit (2010) See p.78.

THURSDAY 16

Brew Masters TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm.

Christmas Pops Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Sunday.)

Daft Punk's Electroma (2006) D: Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel De Homem-Christo; with Peter Hurteau, Michael Reich. (NR, 74 min.) Two robots – played by the Daft Punk musicians, composers of the score for *Tron: Legacy* – try to become human. Other musicians provide the soundtrack for this dialogue-free work. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm.

Elf Quote-Along (2003) D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. (PG, 95 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

NBC Thursdays @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm. (See Thursday, 12/9.)

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000) D: Joel Coen; with George Clooney, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson, John Goodman, Holly Hunter, Chris Thomas King, Charles Durning, Michael Badalucco, Stephen Root. (PG-13, 103 min.) **Food & Film Feast.** Addie Broyles of *The Austin American-Statesman* will introduce the film. See website for menu. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

SPACES

Tron (1982) D: Stephen Lisberger; with Jeff Bridges, Dan Shor, Barnard Hughes, Cindy Morgan, David Warner, Bruce Boxleitner. (PG, 96 min.) See website for info and reservations. @Blue Starlite Drive-In, 7pm

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IMAX Theatre tickets and showtimes at TheStoryofTexas.com
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music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Mister Heavenly

Scout Inn, Monday 13
Freshmillions opens.

Without so much as a 7-inch single or live performance to its name, Mister Heavenly – a collaboration between Islands captain Nick Diamonds,

Man Man key gypsy Honus Honus, and Modest Mouse drummer Joe Plummer – signed last month to Sub Pop and coined a new genre: “doom-wop.” Recent YouTube footage suggests a combination of terminal love songs and 1940s-style doo-wop, filtered through their individual strains of indie rock.

“In this band there are definitely three strong-headed and strong-willed individuals,” Diamonds relays the day after the band’s first performance. “It’s like a dictator conference. There might be some warheads that go off.”

Not if Michael Cera has anything to do with it. While not featured on Mister Heavenly’s debut, which is tangled in red

tape for the time being due to other contractual obligations, the perpetually awkward marquee actor is sitting in on bass for this tour. Diamonds and Cera first crossed paths at a 2007 benefit for *McSweeney’s* and remained close. Impressed by his moves in the fictional band Sex Bob-omb in this year’s brilliant *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, Diamonds simply texted him about the gig.

“We’re not trying to underline that because we don’t want it to come across like a Dogstar situation,” laughs Diamonds, referencing Keanu Reeves’ pitiful rock band. “He’s very musical. I think he has better chops than any of us at our respective instruments, without a doubt.”

– Austin Powell

BEAT BOX

Friday 10 & Saturday 11

Holy hip-hop, Bat City! Subliminal kid **DJ Spooky** kicks off the weekend summit Friday with a cerebral set of down-tempo house at Aces Lounge. Saturday, **Wu-Tang Clan** loads in every living member (R.I.P. ODB), save perennial Quentin Tarantino Film Festival enthusiast RZA, to Emo’s for the Voltron rally, along with locals MC Overlord, Phranchyze, and Riders Against the Storm. For a guaranteed party, head to the Eastside where the diabolical **Biz Markie** holds it down behind the decks at Scout Inn, with Drastik, Kaizen, and Kid Slyce.

– Thomas Fawcett

ANDERS OSBORNE

The Parish, Friday 10

Anders Osborne, whose “Watch the Wind Blow By” was a No. 1 hit for Tim McGraw, raises the bar with his latest, *American Patchwork* (Alligator), which deals with the rebuilding of his adopted New Orleans in a fiercely personal manner while traveling the back roads of the South. Galactic drum maestro Stanton Moore, who co-produced Osborne’s album, throws down with his opening trio.

– Jim Caligiuri

KVRX HOLIDAY SHOW/ ‘MISPRI’ COMPANY HOLIDAY PARTY

United States Art Authority/
Club 1808, Friday 10

’Tis the season for local concerns and their holiday to-dos. The radio rebels of KVRX stay central in hosting orchestral sugar plums Mother Falcon, Cat Power-ish Monarchs, Spoon-bending Bitter Birds, indie lounge merchants Mermaid Blonde, and more. To the East, the zine peddlers and beard enthusiasts of *Misprint* magazine crawl into Club 1808 with Marriage (members of the Awesome Cool Dudes/When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth/Expensive Shit ménage à trois) and Whitesquirrels.

– Audra Schroeder



Weed, wolves, and song at austinchronicle.com/earache

RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

Red 7, Saturday 11

After a summer on Warped Tour and a run through Canada and the UK with Sum 41, Riverboat Gamblers finally return for a proper homecoming blowout. Battle-scarred and road-tested, the hometown punk heroes are still pushing last year’s crossover *Underneath the Owl*, assisted by a recent appearance on *Rock Band 3*. Red River old-schoolers the Chumps and Ignorance Park bruise alongside newcomers the Cassingles and A Giant Dog.

– Austin Powell

URANIUM SAVAGES

Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz,
Saturday 11

In honor of the band that wouldn’t die and its 36th birthday, original Savage and SPAMARAMA founder David Arnsberger presents the Secedars, featuring past and present Savages, and dedicated to the same good-time Texas roots music and tomfoolery. *SPAMARAMA: The Movie*, featuring Kinky Friedman and Ray Benson, screens after that, and, most importantly, there will be SPAMARAMA cookbooks for sale! 1pm.

– Margaret Moser

SHAWN COLVIN, PATTY GRIFFIN

Paramount Theatre, Sunday 12

Two of Texas folk’s diamond voices join forces tonight, for the children. Shawn Colvin’s been telling her story onstage since the 1970s, and last year’s *Live* album showcases her prowess with a six-string. Patty Griffin released the Buddy Miller-produced *Downtown Church* early this year, bright-eyed spirituals that showcase her stained-glass shaking pipes. The show benefits Marathon Kids, a fitness program for grade schoolers.

– Audra Schroeder

PATAPHYSICS, TALMADGE D’AMOUR

Emo’s, Wednesday 15

The DNA of Austin electronic music unspools right here. Talmadge d’Amour, the all-synth quartet that haunted 1980s dives like Club Foot, has remodeled itself and blends in perfectly with our town’s current crop of retrofitted electro-wizzes. Pataphysics, its bratty offspring, twists and shouts as headliners, with Horse + Donkey alums Hidden Ritual opening.

– Audra Schroeder

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

PSYCH NIGHT

Cheer Up Charlie’s, Friday 10

Forever Changes, ATX’s premiere Love cover lovers, rock around DJs from 13 O’ Clock Records.

DOYLE BRAMHALL, PATRICIA VONNE

Continental Club, Friday 10

Texas bluesman follows Austin’s rock & roll sirena.

PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK Ruta Maya, Friday 10 & Saturday 11

The kids pay tribute to Barrett-era Pink Floyd through *The Wall*.

I WANNA BE YOUR DOG!

Beauty Bar, Saturday 11

Sniff out this benefit for Austin Pets Alive!, plus a local Stooges cover band, featuring Iggy Pop’s drummer Hunt Sales.

EYEHATEGOD

Red 7, Sunday 12

NOLA painkillers shake Red River with Phobia, Kill the Client, Pack of Wolves, and HOD.

THE GAY BLADES

Emo’s, Tuesday 14

Dance-rock, sharp and savage; the Midgetmen open.

BROWN SANTA TOY/ CAPITOL AREA FOOD BANK DRIVE Flamingo Cantina, Wednesday 15

The Mau Mau Chaplains provide the jams, free with the donation of a toy or nonperishable food.

HOLY WAVE, ENGLISH TEETH

The Parish, Thursday 16

Reverb and retro ATX, plus Eric Brendo and Silver Ships.

live music venues p.84 ● roadshows + club listings p.86

in-stores

Saturday: The **Gary, Killdeer, We’ll Go Machete**, Trailer Space, 7pm



L - R: ANDERS OSBORNE (FRI., 12/10) | BIZ MARKIE (SAT., 12/11) | SHAWN COLVIN (SUN., 12/12) | THE GAY BLADES (TUE., 12/14)

THU SUSQUAHANNA HAT COMPANY 8:30p, OPEN MIC RETURNS, TROY CAMPBELL 6p

FRI AMY ANNELLE, DARREN KOBETICH, SUSQUAHANNA HAT COMPANY, WILD BILL AND THE LOST KNOBS

SAT THE INHERITANCE, ETHAN AZARIAN, LEE BARBER, ALEX HENLEY 6p

MON AMY ANNELLE, STEVE BERNAL, RAINS & KEANE, COUNTRY WILLIE 6p

TUE ERIK HOKKANEN'S LABORATORY 9p
DENNIS LUKIKER TRIO 7p

WED MATT THE ELECTRICIAN & SOUTHPAY JONES 8p
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FRI, DEC 10 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:15PM **CHRIS WALL**

SAT, DEC 11 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:30PM **DALE WATSON**

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Thursday 12/16

Uncle Lucius 12:00-2:30
Kalu James 3:30-6:00
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

INSIDE: **BURIAL** (GERMANY)
CRIATURAS • DEADLY REIGN • NAW DUDE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

INSIDE, DOORS @ 8PM: **PROLICIDE** • **PROPHECY DISFIGURED** • **SCATTERED REMAINS** • **PERVRSUM** • **BURIAL RITUAL** (FR MILWAUKEE)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

OUTSIDE: **WU-TANG CLAN**
MC OVERLORD • PHRANCHYZE
RIDERS AGAINST THE STORM

INSIDE: **WHITE DENIM**
THE AUTHORS • HUNDRED VISIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 7PM: NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS
EPICA • **SCAR SYMMETRY**
BLACKGUARD • **THE AGONIST**

INSIDE: **J.B. BEVERLEY & THE WAYWARD DRIFTERS**
(EX-MURDER JUNKIES)
THE GUNS OF NAVARONE • RUBY DEE & THE SNAKEHOLDERS
EAGLE EYE WILLIAMSON

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

INSIDE: **THIS DAY WILL TELL**
(INDIANOLA RECORDS, FROM PENSACOLA, FL)
GRENADIER • **OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS**
THIS TIME NOVEMBER

OUTSIDE: **ASL SWINGERS HAPPY HOUR** 5-9PM
WITH BATTING CAGE, DRINK SPECIALS, BBQ! FREE!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

INSIDE: **THE GAY BLADES** • **MIDGETMEN**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

INSIDE: **PATAPHYSICS**
TAIMADGE D'AMOUR • **HIDDEN RITUAL**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

INSIDE: **ROCKBUSTERS**
BABY DICK • **BULEMICS** • **EL PATHOS**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

INSIDE, DOORS @ 8PM: PRESENTED BY TANGLED SNARK
UME • **RINGO DEATHSTARR**
SUNDRESS (FR. DENTON)
FOLLOW THAT BIRD! • **SCHMILLION**

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 7:30PM: **SNAKE SKIN PRISON**
POWDERBURN • **CINDER CELL**
EPIC • **BLOOD FOR MASTER**

COMING SOON: • 1/19/11 FIGHT THE QUIET, BEN BAXTER, SHEER KAHN & THE SPACE CASE JUNGLE SET (IN) • 1/21/11 UNDEROATH, THURSDAY, A SKYLIT DRIVE, ANIMALS AS LEADERS (OUT) • 1/22/11 101X PRESENTS THE GET UP KIDS, STEEL TRAIN, RIVER CITY EXTENSION (OUT, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/23/11 AUTHORITY ZERO, FLATFOOT 56, LIONIZE, ATHEL (IN) • 1/25/11 BEST COAST, WAVES WITH NO JOY (OUT, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 1/26/11 AGAINST ME! WITH CHEAP GIRLS, FENCES (OUT, TIX ON SALE FRI DEC 10 @ 10AM THRU C3concerts.com) • 1/27/11 NECRO - THE KING OF DEATH RAP, DIRTY WORMZ (IN) • 1/30/11 101X PRESENTS BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: SCOTTY DONT, FULL SERVICE (OUT, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/1/11 FREE ENERGY (IN, TIX ON SALE SAT 12/11 @ 10AM THRU C3concerts.com) • 2/3/11 DARWIN DEEZ WITH FRIENDS (IN, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/7/11 SMITH WESTERNS (IN, TIX ON SALE SAT DEC 11 @ 10AM THRU C3concerts.com) • 2/9/11 PASSAFIRE W/ SINIZEN (IN, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/11/11 MAX BEHIS (SAY ANYTHING), DIGNAN (IN, TIX ON SALE THU DEC 16 @ 10AM THRU C3concerts.com) • 2/14/11 THE D.R.I. (DIRTY ROTTEN IMBECCLES), DEATH ANGEL, LAZARUS AD, EARLY MAN, BONDED BY BLOOD, HEKEN • 2/15/11 101X PRESENTS TAPES 'N TAPES WITH OBERHOFER (OUT, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/19/11 101X PRESENTS SERADOH WITH QUASI (OUT, TIX @ C3concerts.com) • 2/28/11 ELEPHANT 6 HOLIDAY SURPRISE TOUR (IN, TIX ON SALE SAT DEC 11 @ 10AM THRU C3concerts.com)

FIND UPCOMING SHOWS & BUY ADVANCE TICKETS
@ **EMOSAUSTIN.COM**

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: **emosoastin.com**, **Waterloo Records**, **Trailer Space**, and **End of an Ear Records**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

OUTSIDE: **ANDY DICK'S STOCKING STUFFER MUSIC AND COMEDY SHOW**
ANDY DICK & THE BITCHES OF THE CENTURY
TRASHY AND THE KID

ONE-EYED DOLL • **LUCAS DICK**
ALTERCATION COMEDY'S JT HABERSAAT
MACK LYNDSAY • **WHISKEY DICK**

INSIDE: **DEAD END CRUISERS**
BROKEN GOLD • **JENSEN EYES**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

INSIDE, DOORS @ 8PM: **AVIANA**
BONNIE BLUE • **FOR EVERY EMPIRE**
PART THE SEAS EMPTY THE SKIES
GHOSTS OF THE POVEGLIA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

INSIDE: **WOOLGATHER** (CD RELEASE)
TASSELS • **TWINLIGHTS**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

INSIDE: **FLASH BOYS**
NEGATIVES • **THE STRANGE ATTRACTORS**
TEMPO TANTRUMS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

INSIDE: **ALIENS**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

INSIDE: **RAD BROMANCE**
(ALL MALE LADY GAGA TRIBUTE BAND)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

OUTSIDE: **100 MONKEYS** • **KISSING CLUB**

JANUARY 1-8
FREE WEEK

GO TO **EMOSAUSTIN.COM** FOR LINEUP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

INSIDE: **A LETTER OF WARNING**
SOUND REFRACTION • **A SECOND TO LAST**
READY THE MESSENGER (CD RELEASE)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

INSIDE: **OFFICIAL GIRL TALK AFTERPARTY:**
JAVELIN • **RUSTY LAZER**
(BIG FREEDIA'S DJ)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

OUTSIDE: **MADBALL** • **COMEBACK KID**
CANCER BATS • **CRUEL HAND**

INSIDE: **ROYAL BANGS**
NETHERFRIENDS • **GEOFF REACHER**

club listings

A ALL AGES VENUE R ROADSHOW ★ RECOMMENDED 🎵 HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 09

ANTONE'S Hector Ward & the Big Time J, Public Soul, Dennis Quaid & the Sharks (9:00) Ⓜ

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Therapy Sisters

BEERLAND Quin Galavais

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Swamp Sauce (8:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton J (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Slaid Cleaves (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Raised by Pandas, Brian Kremer, Run of the Mill (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Suede (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Jimi Lee (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brian Burke

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Context Clues (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (9:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Guitar Shorty, Wendy Colonna (10:00) Ⓜ

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (8:00)

EL LEON'S The Pain Killers (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Criaturas, Infernal Stronghold, Burial Ⓜ

EVANGELINE CAFE The Flyin' A's (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Danger Cakes, the Nematoads, Los Bones (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE

Troy Campbell (6:00),
Susquehanna Hat Company (8:00)

G&S LOUNGE The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Whiskey Folk Ramblers, Broken Ghost CD Release, Future Clouds & Radar (9:30) Ⓜ

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Guthrie Kennard Trio (6:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR The Fabs J (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Buttermilk

HOLE IN THE WALL Look Mexico, Swingset, Lee Buckner & the Riverbends (10:00)

HOUSE WINE George Macias (8:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE Marty Sammon & Texas Suitcase, Nakia (8:00)

JOE'S CRAB SHACK Burnevik Vega (7:00)

JOVITA'S Devin (6:00)

THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)

LOVEJOYS TAPROOM & BREWERY Blower, Chelsea Hotel, Batusis Ⓜ Ⓜ

LUCKY LOUNGE The Soulphonics J, the Ugly Beats J, Jesse Sublett (8:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Texcellorators (8:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Damon Bramblett (8:00)

MOHAWK Knife Sharpening Party w/ Kelly Doyle, Reverend Glasseye, Salesman, East Cameron Folkcore (8:00) Ⓜ

NEWORLEDEL Bluegrass Open Mic w/ Eddie Collins

ONE 2 ONE BAR Chloe Charles, Aly Tadros, Tje Austin J (8:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis Holiday Show (8:00) Ⓜ

THE PARISH Christmas Show w/ Dave Barnes, Drew Holcomb (7:00) Ⓜ

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Amanda Cevallos

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moeller Bros. (9:00)

RED 7 Let the Dead, Cardiel, Descendants of Erdrick Ⓜ

RED EYED FLY Vehicle, Exit the Sun, Red Cry, Burning Avalanche

RED FEZ Soulation J (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike Ethan Messick

ROMEO'S The Jitterbug Vipers, Ghosts Along the Brazos (7:30)

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Anniversary Party w/ the Swingsters (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00), Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, George Devore, Matt Smith (8:00) Ⓜ

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

roadshows

December

THU 9

Dennis Quaid & the Sharks, Antone's

Kelly Doyle, Club de Ville
Guitar Shorty, Continental Club
Burial, Infernal Stronghold, Emo's

Whiskey Folk Ramblers, the Ghost Room

Batusis, **Chelsea Hotel**, Lovejoys Taproom & Brewery

Kelly Doyle, **Mohawk**
Drew Holcomb, **Dave Barnes**, the Parish

Cardiel, Red 7
Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, Saxon Pub

FRI 10

DJ Spooky, Aces Lounge
Unspoken Levels, Carousel Lounge

Doyle Bramhall, Continental Club

Prophecy, **Perversum**, **Burial Ritual**, Emo's

Anders Osborne, **Stanton Moore Trio**, the Parish

In Memory of Man, **Static Kill**, Red Eyed Fly
Bugs Henderson, Saxon Pub

SAT 11

Super Destroyers, **Indian Givers**, Beerland
Gabriel Santiago, Elephant Room

Wu-Tang Clan, Emo's
Red Falcon, the Ghost Room
Zombies for Money, ND at 501 Studios

Jan Seides, NeWorlDeli
Lazer Sword, **Fuzz**, the Parish
Biz Markie, the Scoot Inn

Frankie Hernandez, South First Food Court
Toubab Krewe, **Cas Haley**, Stubb's

Cartographers, Triple Crown

SUN 12

Speed Wolf, Dirty Dog Bar
J.B. Beverly & the Wayward Drifters, **Guns of Navarone**, **Epica**, **Scar Symmetry**, **Blackguard**, **the Agonist**, Emo's

Eyehategod, **Phobia**, **Kill the Client**, **HOD**, Red 7

Tommy & the High Pilots, Red Eyed Fly
Justin Sherburn, Salvage Vanguard Theater

MON 13

This Day Will Tell, Emo's
Cold War Kids, the Parish
Nude Beach, **Nova Sister**, Red Eyed Fly

Mister Heavenly, the Scoot Inn
Frankie Hernandez, South First Food Court

TUE 14

The Gay Blades, Emo's
Procession of Aeons, Red 7
Slow Car Crash, Red Eyed Fly

WED 15

Ted Russell Camp, Continental Club

THU 16

Bleu Edmondson, Aces Lounge
Matt King, **Tab Benoit**, Antone's
Shannon McNally, Continental Club

Rockbusters, **Ei Pathos**, Emo's
Brothers, Mohawk

THE SWORD
with Mammoth Grinder and Eagle Claw
December 31st
New Year's Eve
At Mohawk

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Entertainment

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FRIDAY, DEC. 10TH • 10:30PM
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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE REWARD! (SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS)
THIS COULD BE THE VINTAGE AD!

208 W. 4th St. Warehouse District 512-495-9669

THU 12/9	MUCH LOVE 6-8P SUEDE AUSTIN 9:30P
FRI 12/10	TRENT DURHAM 6-8P BLUE FINGER DISCO 9:30P
SAT 12/11	VEGAS STARS 9:30P
SUN 12/12	SOULUTION 8:30P
MON 12/13	JORDAN TANNER 6-8P OPEN MIC 9P
TUES 12/14	MARK GIBSON 6-8P THE INITIALS 9P
WED 12/15	JOSH AND JASON 6-8P THE SPAZMATICS 9:30P
THU 12/16	MUCH LOVE 6-8P SUEDE AUSTIN 9:30P

Cedar Street is the perfect venue for the upcoming Holiday Season. To book an event, please contact Amy Dial, Event Planner, at 512-913-3289.

cedarstretaustin.com

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THE GOURDS MASQUERADE BALL ~ 2010

LAST YEAR'S NIGHT



RUTA MAYA
LIMITED CAPACITY
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Live Local Music

Thu, Dec 9

7:30 Slim Richie & the Jitterbug Vipers
9:30 Ghosts Along the Brazos

Fri Dec 10

Friday Night Supper Club 7 - 10 pm
Hosts Jon Hogan and Maria Moss
with special guest Brian Hudson
10 Dave Madden

Sat Dec 11

1 pm O'Henry 6th grade
Christmas Choir

7:30 Chip Robinson
8:30 Bradley Kopp & Lorrie Singer
10 Steadfast Ramblers

Sun Dec 12

6-8 Brian Hudson \$12 cover after 8 pm



8p Michael Fraccaso's
Music and Menu
A special evening of
original music & food
See Michaels menu
on our website



9p Butch Morgan
9:30 - 11 Sonia from
Disappear Fear
National Touring
Artist

Wed Dec 15

6-7 Lars Bonde & Aisha Inger Holm
7-10 www.SongWriterWeekly.com
10 The Saddle

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

THE SCOOT INN The Superlites, Christy Hays & Her Sunday Best, Darren Hoff & the Hard Times (9:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D. (9:00)
STAR BAR Allen Daniels (7:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

III FORKS Bruce James (6:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Eatsfeats, Papaya (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band (6:00), Orquesta Ritmo (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura

FRI 10

THE 512 BAR Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble (7:00)

ACES LOUNGE DJ Spooky (8:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Roger Len Smith

ANTONE'S Marcia Ball (7:00), What Made Milwaukee Famous (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jerry Sires (7:30)

BEERLAND Buttermilk, Bloody Knives, Rescue Mission

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Chris Wall (8:00)

BUDDY'S PLACE Son Geezinslaw, Glenn Collins (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE BettySoo, Slaid Cleaves (8:30)

CANYON GRILL ICE HOUSE Him & Her (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE About: Blank, Unspoken Levels CD Release (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Trent Durham (6:00), Suede (9:30)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Cienfuegos (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Son y No Son (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Union Specific, HalleyAnna Finlay

CHEER UP CHARLIE'S Forever Changes

CLUB 1808 Christmas Party w/ DJ Huge Cock, Whitesquirrels, Marriage

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio (10:30); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); Patricia Vonne, Doyle Bramhall (10:00)

COTTON CLUB People's Choice

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Adoniram Lipton (6:00), JWW & the Prospectors (9:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Robert Kelley (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Son de Rey (10:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Gaila Kenneally, Elias Haslanger Quintet (6:00)

EMO'S Burial Ritual, Perversum, Scattered Remains, Disfigured, Prophecy, Prolicide

EVANGELINE CAFE Tom Gillam (10:00)

FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Anne Simoni, Kiko Villamizar Orquesta (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00); Susquehanna Hat Company, Darren Kobetich, Amy Annelie (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM 7 Orange ABC, Harmony Grits (10:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dane Sterling, Dale Watson (6:00)

GRUENE HALL William Clark Green, Zach Walther & the Cronkites (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Jonathan Fox

HOLE IN THE WALL Sleep Good, Focus Group, Becca & the Blancos (10:00)

HORNITOS TEX-MEX CAFE Leti de la Vega, Tye Dye John

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights, Stonehoney (8:00)

JOVITA'S Mike Murphy's Holiday Show (6:00), Town Hall Devils (9:00)

JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Swamp Sauce (7:30)

LAMBERTS Sam Sliva & the Good (10:00)

LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR Johnny Gonzales (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Kalu James (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK Nightmare Before Christmas, Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Spanish Anchors, Art vs. Industry, Refused Are Fucking Dead (9:00)

ND AT 501 STUDIOS The Encyclopedia Show, Peligrosa w/ DJ Sabo, DJ Orion, DJ Benzo (8:00)

NEWORLELI Eric Hanke

ONE 2 ONE BAR Ulrich Ellison (10:00)

THE PARISH Stanton Moore Trio, Anders Osborne (9:00)

RED 7 DJ Graham Williams, Let the Dead, Black Forest Fire, Baron Grod, Entropy (9:00)

RED EYED FLY Inside: Alligator Dave; Outside: Static Kill, In Memory of Man, Dark Summer Dawn, Dawn Over Zero

RED FEZ Matt Creation, Allen Daniels Band (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann Band

ROMEO'S Mike Joyner, Jon Hogan & Marie Moss (6:00)

RUTA MAYA Old Gray Mule (6:00), Pink Floyd Tribute w/ Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00)

SAXON PUB Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Joe Ely, Bugs Henderson (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN The Inheritance, the Suicide Pistols, Kwassadelic, Minor Mishap Marching Band (9:00)

SHENANIGANS King Onus (9:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS The Crush (9:00)

STAR BAR Bruce Smith (7:00)

STUBB'S Robyn Ludwick, Miranda Dodson (9:00)

III FORKS James Speer (6:30)

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE Ian Dicke, Elisa Ferrari, Dan Grissom, the Perfect Me

TRIPLE CROWN Bill Jerram (6:00); Hendrikz McLeod, Squinto (10:00)

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY Christmas Party w/ Western Ghost House, Milk Thistle, Mermaid Blonde, Bitter Birds, Monarchs, Mother Falcon

WAREHOUSE SALOON & BILLIARDS Michael Anaya (6:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Wood (10:00)

SAT 11

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE AT THE RITZ SPAMARAMA: The Movie w/ the Secedars (noon)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Stooch

ANTONE'S Imbibe, Storyville (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics (7:30)

BEAUTY BAR Pets Alive Benefit w/ I Wanna Be Your Dog!

BEERLAND Indian Givers, Planets, OBN III's, Super Destroyers

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (8:00)

CANYON GRILL ICE HOUSE Danny Bolin (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Sweat Brothers (7:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Bus Stop Stallions (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Noelle Hampton (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir



Upcoming:

12.9 7PM: Celluloid Salon featuring The Octopus Project
12.10 8PM: Encyclopedia Show
10PM: Sabo with DJ Orion and Benzo
12.11 8PM: Telporal Readings 2.2
10PM: Peligrosa with Zombies for Money
12.12 12PM: Indie Lit Roadshow Bookfair and Reading Mashup
12.13 8PM: The Family Guy Trilogy screening party

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ON-SALE NOW **WED FEB 2**

FRI JAN 28: JJ GREY & MOFRO w/ THAT ONE GUY
SAT JAN 29: LED ZEPPELIN 2

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JESSE SUBLETT & THE UGLY BEATS

THU 12/9 8PM

KALU JAMES

FRI 12/10 9PM

MEGAN OCHOA

SAT 12/11 9PM

NICK KRAUS 8PM

SOUL KITCHEN

SUN 12/12 10PM

JOSHUA JORDAN 8PM

FRANCIS

MON 12/13 10PM

'GET LUCKY' TUESDAYS

DAN SIR DANCER 9PM

TUE 12/14 9PM

BOBBY BOOKOUT

WED 12/15 11PM

DALLAS SEELY 10PM

JOSH PATTON

THU 12/16 11PM

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

JONATHAN TYLER
8PM \$10 Adv/\$12 Day of

GEORGE DEVORE
Matt Smith's World 12AM \$5

No Cover Happy Hour **EIGHTYSIXED** 6PM
w/ DAVID HOLT, TOMMY SWANSON, & GUESTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

JOE ELY
8-9PM \$20 Adv/\$25 Door

Bugs Henderson Live on Lonestar State of Mind
11PM \$10

No Cover Happy Hour
EARL POOLE BALL & THE COSMIC AMERICANS 6PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

JOE ELY
8PM \$20 Adv/\$25 Door

-TWO SEPARATE SHOWS-

UNCLE LUCTUS 12AM \$10

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MONTE MONTGOMERY
10:30PM \$10

THE RESENTMENTS
with Bruce and Scrappy 7:30PM \$7

Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 6PM \$10

Gary Cox 12:30AM \$5

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSIC PARTY
12-6PM No Cover

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

LONELYLAND
WITH **BOB SCHNEIDER**

SEELA 7PM \$10 8:30PM \$10

Jeff Plankenhorn 11PM \$5

HalleyAnna 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Kurt BoDean & Wirelence
10PM \$10

Bruce Hughes & the All Nude Army 8PM \$5

TESSA 12AM \$5

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

WALT WILKINS & THE MYSTIQUEROS
9PM \$10

Casey Hubble 11PM \$5

ghosts along the brazos 12:30AM \$5

No Cover Happy Hour **The Nortons** 6PM

COMING UP

DEC 16 THE TRISHAS
DEC 17 Oz NOY TRIO WITH ANTON FIG & ROSCOE BECK
DEC 18 WC CLARK RECORDING LIVE AT THE SAXON

the Highball

WEEKLY DRINK SPECIALS

SIGNATURE SUNDAYS:
\$2 off signature drinks

MAD MEN MONDAYS:
all classic drinks on special for \$5

TEQUILA TUESDAYS:
a selection of top shelf margaritas for \$5

HUMPDAY SPECIAL:
all day happy hour (excludes free karaoke)

TEXAS THURSDAY:
all local pints \$2.50

GEEKS WHO DRINK
Weekly pib trivia at the Highball, now on Saturdays!
Saturday, Dec 11, 7pm, Free

THE ACTION PACK'S 80s DANCE PARTY!
All the best pop music and dance hits from the 80s in music video form! Suck it, other decades!
Saturday, Dec 11, 11pm, Free

ROCK THE HIGHBALL
A new Sunday Night free live music series with The Shells, The Mole People & Boonesboro!
Sunday, Dec 12, 10:30pm, Free

more events and info online at
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IN THE CLUB

FRI DEC 10 DOORS 8PM
MIRANDA DODSON
WITH ROBYN LUDWICK & THE 71'S

SAT DEC 11 DOORS 9PM
TOUBAB KREWE
WITH CAS HALEY

FRI DEC 17 DOORS 9PM
VALLEY OF THE MARINER
WITH COLLECTIVE DREAMS & BOMBING STASSNEY

SAT DEC 18 DOORS 8PM
REVEREND PEYTON'S BIG DAMN BAND

THU DEC 30 DOORS 10:15PM
BOB FLOYD BAND
WITH ACACHAY & RICKY STEIN

FRI DEC 31 DOORS 9PM
T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS
NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW
WITH DJ JJ LOPEZ
TIX INCLUDE BBQ & A CHAMPAGNE TOAST!

THU JAN 6 FREE WEEK!
CD RELEASE PARTY
THE LONG TANGLES
FREE CDS TO FIRST 100 IN THE DOOR

FRI JAN 7 FREE WEEK!
ART VERSUS INDUSTRY
WITH THE PULSE ELECTRIC & LAUREN BURTON

SAT JAN 8 FREE WEEK!
AUSTIN VIDA PRESENTS:
THE YOUNG MATHS
WITH SOUR SOUL, HYDRA MELODY & VINYL DHARMA

FRI JAN 14
CORNMEAL

THU JAN 27
MANIFESTO

FRI JAN 28
MELISSA McLELLAND & LUKE DOUCET

OUTSIDE

FRI MAR 4
THE WALKMEN
WITH THE HEAD & THE HEART

SAT MAR 26
REBELUTION
WITH GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD

FRI APR 1
COLD WAR KIDS

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THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9PM
DARREN HOFF & THE HARD TIMES
CHRISTY HAYS & HER SUNDAY BEST
THE SUPERLITES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9PM
HONK'IX FUNDRAISER FEAT.
THE MINOR MISHAP BAND
KWASSADELIC
THE SUICIDE PISTOLS
THE INHERITANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 9PM
KNUCKLE RUMBLER PRESENTS
BIZ MARKIE (DJ SET!)
DRASTIK
KAIZEN
KID SLYCE
TIX AVAILABLE AT
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7PM
MISTER HEAVENLY
(NICK FROM ISLANDS, JOE FROM MODEST
MOUSE, & HONUS HONUS FROM MAN MAN)
FRESH MILLIONS
ADVANCE TIX AVAILABLE AT
SCOOTINN.THUNDERTIX.COM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 9PM
THE BANG BANG THEODORES
ELVIS
TEENAGE NEWS
DJ SCORPIO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 9PM
THE BLACK
WHISKEY SHIVERS
CLYDE & CLEM'S WHISKEY BUSINESS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9PM
KNUCKLE RUMBLER PRESENTS
THE JOLLY BALL FEAT.
THE ROCKETBOYS
DJ CHORIZO FUNK
THE SOUTHERN SIRENS
& MORE!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 9PM
STRANGETRIBE &
SOUL OF THE BOOT PRESENT
NIGHT FEVER! VOL. 8: BLUES XMAS
BENEFITING CARITAS AND
TOYS FOR TOTS W/
MUDPHONIC
GREYHOUNDS
DJ ORE!
& MORE!

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 09 *HOLIDAY* DOORS 9:00
LOS BONES
THE NEMATODS
DANGER * CAKES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10 *DANCE PARTY* DOORS 9:00
BRASIL MEETS COLOMBIA
F7 & THE HASHASIN
KIKO VILLAMIZAR ORQUESTRA
ANNE SIMONI & HER BAND

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 *LATIN/REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
BOMBASTA!
EL TULE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
TOY DRIVE! DON CHANI
THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
 * * * NO COVER WITH DONATION * * * *

UPCOMING SHOWS

12:16: MUCHOS BACKFLIPS, FATBACK CIRCUS, MANIC MONGRE, PERFECT PANTS
 12:17: BLAZE IT UP! WITH DJ JAHFLEX
 12:18: MELODY MEMORY, D-MADNESS & GRAVITY FEED
 VISIT US AT WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com/musicreg

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DOMESTIC BEER \$2.50
 IMPORTED BEER \$3
 PITCHERS \$6
 BURGERS \$5
 \$3 RITAS ALL DAY SAT. & SUN
 *EXCEPT ROAD SHOWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 THE AMANDA CEVALLOS BAND
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 LAST CALL OUTLAWS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 DIANA CANTU
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 URANIUM SAVAGES 7PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 OPEN MIC WITH MARK ALLAN ATWOOD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16 LONG TALL EDDY
 UPCOMING EVENTS: NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH CAROLYN WONDERLAND BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT POODIE'S

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 7PM
FLYIN A'S
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 10PM • \$5
TOM GILLAM BAND
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 3PM
6TH ANNUAL ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS REVUE
THIERRY, SPEEDY, JOHNNY X, ERNIE & FRIENDS



MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 6:30PM
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER 8PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 7PM
PAUL GLASSE & MITCH WATKINS

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio (10:30); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00); Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business, Li'l Cap'n Travis, American Graveyard (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Frenchie Burke (9:00)

THE CROW BAR Troy Dillinger (11:00)

CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Devil's Hollow

DELI WERKS Roger Len Smith

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)

EAST SIDE SHOW ROOM Luna Tart w/ the Cocktails (11:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer

EL SOL Y LA LUNA The Batikum (9:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Gabriel Santiago (9:30) Ⓜ

EMO'S Outside: Riders Against the Storm, Phranchyze, MC Overlord, Wu-Tang Clan; Inside: Hundred Visions, the Authors, White Denim Ⓜ Ⓜ

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Bombasta, El Tule (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Alex Henley, Lee Barber, Ethan Azarian, the Inheritance (6:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Red Falcon, Stereo Is a Lie, the Pons (9:30) Ⓜ

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Two Hoots & a Holler (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Stonehoney (1:00); Dirty River Boys, Cory Morrow (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Ted Roddy (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Keith Kelso

HOLE IN THE WALL Megafauna, Tornahdo, Opposite Day (10:00)

JAX NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE The Basement Tapes, Driver, Ghosts Along the Brazos (6:30)

JOVITA'S Hope House of Austin Benefit w/ Stephanie Briggs, Will T. Massey, My Pet Possum, Chubby Knuckles Choir, Christy Hays & Her Sunday Best, Whalers, Sleep Good (4:00)

JUNIOR'S GRILL & ICEHOUSE Hoodygoode (7:30)

KICK BUTT COFFEE The PJ's (8:00)

LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR Johnny Gonzales (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Chelle Murray, Megan Heavlin Ochoa, DJ Spyd

MAGGIE MAE'S Jeff Banks (7:00), the Early Stages, Obsolete4 Machines, She Sir (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (9:00)

ND AT 501 STUDIOS Peligrosa w/ Zombies for Money (10:00) Ⓜ

NEWORLD DELI Jan Seides (6)

NOMAD Sanchoville (10:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Lisa Tingle, Alan Haynes (9:00)

THE PARISH FUZZ Lazer Sword (9:00) Ⓜ

RED 7 Inside Early: Recide, Asahara, Exile, One Against Many, Night Siege (5:00); Outside Later: A Giant Dog, the Cassingles, Ignorance Park, the Chumps, Riverboat Gamblers (9:00) Ⓜ

RED EYED FLY Hyde Park Showdown, Brett McCormick

RED FEZ Gabe Hayes, Tje Austin (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Omar & the Howlers

ROMEO'S O. Henry Sixth Grade Christmas Choir (1:00); Chip Robinson, Bradley Kopp, Steadfast Ramblers (7:30)

RUTA MAYA Pink Floyd Tribute w/ Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00) Ⓜ; Venezuelans in Austin w/ La Mona Loca, DJ Put a Fyah (10:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR In the Pocket (7:00)

SAXON PUB Joe Ely (8:00), Uncle Lucius (12mid)

THE SCOOT INN Kid Slyce, Kaizen, Drastik, Biz Markie (9:00) Ⓜ Ⓜ

SHENANIGANS Rae Rae (9:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Opie Hendrix & the Texas Tallboys (9:00)

SOUTH FIRST FOOD COURT Frankie Hernandez (4:00) Ⓜ

STUBB'S Cas Haley, Toubab Krewe (10:00) Ⓜ

III FORKS Blue Mist (7:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS We'll Go Machete, Killdeer, the Gary (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Say Say Say, Zlam Dunk, Devil in the Drink, Equals, Buzz & Bangs, Cartographers (8:00) Ⓜ

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Julie Nolan (10:00)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Outside: The Agonist, Blackguard, Scar Symmetry, Epica; Inside: Eagle Eye Williamson, Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers, Guns of Navarone, J.B. Beverly & the Wayward Drifters Ⓜ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Ranch Road 12 (8:00)

FRIENDS J.T. Coldfire (5:00), Blues Jam (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Promise of the Real, Willie Nelson (7:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Tiburon (3:00)

THE HIGHBALL The Mole People, Boonesboro, Shells (10:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Karate Kids; Tump; Dayton Dean, the River King; White Dress (9:00)

HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR Open Mic (4:00)

HOUSE WINE David Webb (6:00)

JOVITA'S Invincible Czars' Nutcracker Dance Party (2:00); Paula Held (4:30)

LAMBERTS Opus de Funk (7:00); Michael Sarver's Holiday Show (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Nick Krauss, Soul Kitchen (8:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)

MEAN-EYED CAT Shawn Nelson (7:30)

MOHAWK The Shears, Sunglasses, Missions (9:00)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Kat Edmonson (7:00, 9:30)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Patty Griffin, Shawn Colvin (8:00) Ⓜ Ⓜ

RED 7 HOD, Pack of Wolves, Kill the Client, Phobia, Eyehategod Ⓜ Ⓜ

RED EYED FLY The Chorderoys, Tommy & the High Pilots Ⓜ

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S Kellye Gray & Pamela Hart (6:00)

ROMEO'S Brian Hudson, Michael Fracasso, Butch Morgan (6:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER Justin Sherburn (8:00) Ⓜ

SAXON PUB Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Resentments, Monte Montgomery (6:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D. (9:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Austin Friends of Traditional Music (2:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

THE WATER-HOLE SALOON Melissa Sellers (5:00)

Z'TEJAS Kalu James (J)

SUN 12

ANTONE'S Quin Galavis, Chief of Belief & the Barely Regals, December Boys (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Friends of Traditional Music Records Nite (2:00)

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

BEAUTY BAR Allison Thrash, One F

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Krawlers, J.T. Coldfire (8:00)

BLUE VELVET Fractals (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Barebones Orchestra Holiday Party (5:00)

CEDAR STREET Soutlution (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: James McMurtry, Mike Flanigin Trio (8:30); In the Club: Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00), Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboy (7:00)

CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Bobby Mack

DIRTY DOG BAR Blood of Patriots, Southern Front, Blunt Force Trauma, Speed Wolf Ⓜ

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Enlaces Latinos (noon)

ELEPHANT ROOM Mitch Watkins Trio (9:30)

MON 13

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny Britt (7:30)

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

COMING

- 12/21
- 1/13
- 1/21
- 1/26
- 1/27
- 1/28
- 2/10
- 2/12
- 2/19

GREG WILLIAMS BDAY BASH
 KOOP BDAY BENEFIT-SLAID CLEVES, KELLY WILLIS & SARA HICKMAN
 SUZY BOGGUSS
 JASON BOLAND & THE STRAGGLERS
 MONTE MONTGOMERY
 GUY FORSYTH
 LISSIE
 REVEREND HORTON HEAT
 GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS

• 1/8 THE RADIATORS

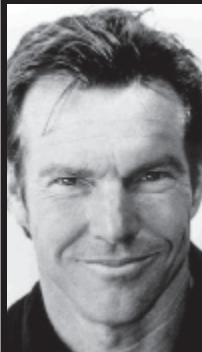


TUESDAY DECEMBER 28TH

THE JOE ELY BAND

TICKETS & VIP TABLES ON SALE NOW!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9TH



DENNIS QUAID
 & THE SHARKS
 -WITH-
 PUBLIC SOUL
 HECTOR WARD
 & THE BIG TIME

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH

EARLY 7PM SHOW!

MARCIA BALL



ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10TH

LATE SHOW!



WHAT MADE
 MILWAUKEE
 FAMOUS

-WITH-
 FRANK SMITH
 WHITE WHITE LIGHTS

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11TH

STORYVILLE



-WITH-
 IMBIBE

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH

DECEMBER BOYS



CHIEF OF BELIEF
 & THE BARELY REGALS
 QUIN GALAVIS

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET



DEC 13TH

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OPEN BLUES

JAM! EVERY

MONDAY

SIGN UPS 7PM
 JAM STARTS 8PM

Blue Tuesday TUES DEC. 14TH

-WITH-
 DEREK O'BRIEN
 MALFORD MILLIGAN
 DAVID GRISSOM
 CHRIS LAYTON
 & MORE!

-OPENING SPECIAL GUESTS-
 EVE &
 THE EXILES

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15TH

HUMP NIGHT DANCE PARTY

-WITH-
 THE BLACK
 &
 WHITE YEARS



OPENING:
 ZLAM DUNK

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16TH

TAB BENOIT



EARLY SHOW!

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16TH

RECKLESS KELLY



OPENING: MATT KING
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH CHARLIE ROBISON



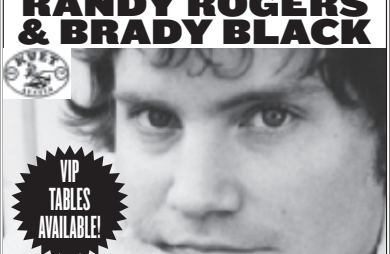
-WITH-
 STONEHONEY & JASON EADY
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH THE MOTHER TRUCKERS



COWBOY & INDIAN
 &
 DIXIE WITCH
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

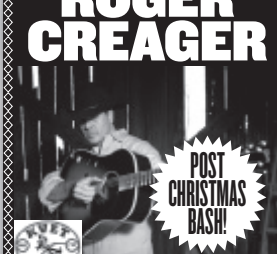
THURSDAY DECEMBER 23RD -AN EVENING WITH- RANDY ROGERS & BRADY BLACK



VIP TABLES AVAILABLE!

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26TH ROGER CREAGER



POST CHRISTMAS BASH!

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

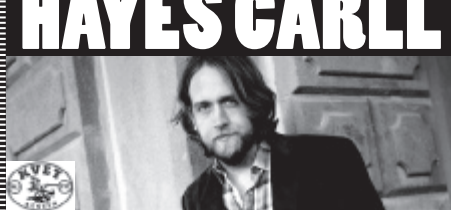
MONDAY DECEMBER 27TH

The Ladies of Antone's for Clifford

MARCIA BALL, PATRICIA
 VONNE, SHELLEY KING, LISA
 PANKRATZ, KATHY VALENTINE, EVE
 MONSES, DOMINIQUE DAVALOS,
 SARAH BROWN,
 CARI HUTSON

ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29TH HAYES CARLL



-WITH-
 BOBBY BARE JR.
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

THURSDAY DECEMBER 30TH

THE SCABS



WITH: paperthreat
 AND SOUL TRACK MIND
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST

JIMMIE VAUGHAN

OPENERS: THE HORTON BROTHERS & MIKE FLANIGAN'S B3 TRIO



NYE SHOW!
 Radisson
 VIP & HOTEL PACKAGES AVAILABLE!
 ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANTONES.NET

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KELLER WILLIAMS



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 NOV 19 AT 10AM
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TWO NIGHTS!
 TICKETS ONSALE
 SAT DEC 11 AT 10AM
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South www.threadgills.com

TONIGHT! **BOB SCHNEIDER**

THUR. 12/9
9pm \$15

SUN. 12/12
Jon Emery's Christmas Songs

11am Gospel Brunch no cover

301 W. Riverside Dr. 512.472.9304

THREADGILL'S

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Flatiron

SUN. 12/12
11am Bluegrass Brunch no cover

WED. 12/15
Christmas Jams with Earl Poole Ball

7pm no cover

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The Old COUPLAND

512.856.2226 Inn & Dancehall

Thursday, December 9th
JAKE KELLEN

Friday, December 10th
RICKY CALMBACH

Saturday, December 11th
KEVIN FOWLER

Thursday, December 16th
JONATHAN FOX BAND

Friday, December 17th
JASON BOLAND

Saturday, December 18th
JOSH ABBOTT BAND
COUPLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Friday, December 31st
GRANGER SMITH
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTIES NOW!

Thursdays in the Restaurant
\$5.99 Petite Sirloin Dinner
\$14.99 All You Can Eat Sirloin

Thursdays in the Dancehall
THIRSTY THURSDAY-\$2 PITCHERS-\$2 WELLS

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Cavender's Boot City
North and South Locations

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM MONDAY

- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Open Mic (7:00)
- BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR** Southside Ramblers, Franklin Wells (8:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** A.J. Kline (9:00)
- CEDAR STREET** Jordan Tanner (6:00), Open Mic w/ Jordan Tanner (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Jeremy Steding (9:00)
- CHEZ ZEE** Rich Demarco (6:30)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Bruce James Souttet (10:30); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Milkdrive, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)
- EMO'S** Outside: ASL Happy Hour (5:00); Inside: This Time November, Grenadier, This Day Will Tell (9:00) (R)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Amy Annelle (8:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Bret Graham (6:00)
- THE HIGHBALL** Republic of Texas Big Band (8:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Mike & the Moonpies (J), Jonathan Terrell (10:00)
- HOUSE WINE** Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Scott Andrews (8:00)
- HYDE PARK THEATRE** Eddy Hobizal (7:30)
- LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas
- LAMBERTS** Jay Brannan (10:30)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Joshua Jordan, Francis (10:00)
- MINGS CAFE** Sara Hickman (8:00)
- MOHAWK** Pink Sugar, Kadets (9:00)
- MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson (8:00)
- MUGSHOTS** Acoustic Open Mic (8:00)
- THE PARISH** Cold War Kids (8:00) (R)
- RED EYED FLY** Skylar Harpole, Nova Sister, Nude Beach (R)
- RED FEZ** DJ Cauze-One & DJ Taco (10:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Shawn Line
- SAXON PUB** Seela, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn, HalleyAnna
- THE SCOOT INN** Freshmillions, Mister Heavenly (9:00) (R)
- SOUTH FIRST FOOD COURT** Open Mic w/ Frankie Hernandez (7:00) (R)
- SPEAKEASY** She's Knott Grimey (10:00)
- III FORKS** Bruce James (6:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** R.C. Banks (6:00); Electric Mayhem (9:00)
- VICTORY GRILL** Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)
- VINO VINO** Blue Monday w/ Mike Flanigin (9:00)
- THE WATER-HOLE SALOON** Open Mic w/ Kenny Kasik

TUE 14

- ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Troubadillos (6:00)
- ANTONE'S** Eve & the Exiles (7:00), Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
- BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Suzanne Smith (7:00)
- BEERLAND** The Bubbles, Code Named Code, Manatee Tights
- BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR** Birdleg, Catfish & the Hushpuppies (8:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** A.J. Kline (9:00)
- BRACKEN SPOKE** Dickie Lee Erwin
- CACTUS CAFE** Ian Moore (8:30)
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Double Bogie, Mother Mery & the Black Dirt (7:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Midnight River Choir (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Dana Wheeler, Red Young & Brannen Temple (7:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Bipolaroid, Dax Riggs (10:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Driskill Bar: Grand Hotel (8:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Scotty B. (7:30)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Jon Blondell Quintet (9:30)
- ELYSIUM** Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
- EMO'S** The Midwestern, the Gay Blades (R)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Dennis Ludiker (7:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** The Conclusion Jumpers, James Hand (9:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Jordan Minor, Kent Finlay (6:00)
- HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burkland
- HOLE IN THE WALL** El Pan (10:00)
- HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL** Jimi Lee
- LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Dan Sir Dancer (9:00)
- MEAN-EYED CAT** The Memphis Strange (7:30)
- MOHAWK** Mike & the Moonpies (J) (5:00)
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Karl Morgan, Dahebebees (8:00)
- PARADISE CAFE** Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble (8:00)
- RED 7** The Household, Antero Sleeps, Procession of Aeons (R)
- RED EYED FLY** Whiskey Wise Tales, Slow Car Crash, Stephanie Saxon, James Moran (R)
- RED FEZ** Bruce Smith (9:00)
- RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
- SAXON PUB** Bruce Hughes, Kurt BoDean, Tessa
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Ember (9:00)
- III FORKS** Bruce James (6:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Bruce Curtis (6:00); Ashleigh Stone, Samantha Finlay, Debatron (9:00)
- VICTORY GRILL** East End Jazz Jam (8:00)
- VINO VINO** Son y No Son (9:00)
- WHIP** In Odd Tuesday Open Mic w/ DC Bloom (8:00)
- Z'TEJAS** Tameca Jones (6:00)

WED 15

- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz
- ANTONE'S** The Black & White Years (9:00)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30
ETHAN KENNEDY
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
JEFF LOFTON QUARTET
jazz

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1
NO MUSIC FEATURED
happy new year

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10
SON Y NO SON
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17
BRUCE JAMES SOULTTET
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
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Music Line-up

Thur 12/9 Suzanne Sherwin
Fri 12/10 Jon Burkland
Sat 12/11 Christy Hays Band
Tues 12/14 Sand & Sunnie
Wed 12/15 Victor Andrada
Thur 12/16 Slim Bawb

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CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny Britt, Jenny Reynolds, Butch Morgan (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Roy Heinrich & the Pickups (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brooke Avid (10:00)

BEAUTY BAR Los Moncheans

BROKEN SPOKE Sunset Valley Boys, Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Pynchon Dual (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Jonathan Horne (8:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB 1808 Bubbleface (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell; Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:30); In the Club: Hot Club of Cowtown (6:30); Ted Russell Camp, James McMurtry (10:00) ♪

CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Ian Moore

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Monster Big Band (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Hidden Ritual, Talmadge d'Amour, Pataphysics ♪

EVANGELINE CAFE Paul Glasse, Mitch Watkins (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Brown Santa, Capital Area Food Drive Benefit w/ Don Chani, Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00) ♪

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Matt the Electrician ♪, Southpaw Jones ♪ (8:00)

THE GHOST ROOM Lee Barber, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, the Biographers, Western Motto (9:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Michael Reaux & the Outriders ♪ (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Kevin Welch, Dustin Welch (6:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Subrosa Union, ManCarter ♪, Mouseabout (10:00)

JOVITA'S Tex Thomas & the Danglin' Wranglers (6:00)

LA PALOMA Acoustic w/ James

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE bMused Showcase (8:00), Bobby Bookout (11:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes (7:30)

MOHAWK Shitty Carwash, Watching the Moon, Sad Accordions, Coma in Algiers ♪ (9:00)

MY PLACE BAR & GRILL My Place Trio (7:30)

ND AT 501 STUDIOS DJ Digg, DJ Metronohm (8:00)

NEWORDELI Jeremy Burchard

ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; Dan K. (8:30)

QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Calico Jazz Trio (6:30)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED 7 Monarch Box, Sheboygan, the Dead Left

RED EYED FLY Possum Posse, Blind Puppies

RED FEZ Atash ♪ (10:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Josh Dodds

ROMEO'S Hilary York (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Amy Annelle (6:00); Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (9:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00); Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Casey Hubble ♪, Ghosts Along the Brazos (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN DJ Scorpio, Teenage News, Bang Bang Theodores, Elvis (9:00)

III FORKS Bruce James (6:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mashed Potato Johnson (6:00), Funkotron (10:00)

TROPHY'S No Parachute Music Showcase (6:00)

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY The Creamers

VICTORY GRILL Chitlin Circuit Soul Night w/ DJ Zimmy, the Harringtons (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Open Mic w/ Julie Nolan (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Jeff Plankenhorn, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: The Atomic Duo (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Aaron Allen (9:30)

EMO'S El Pathos, the Bulemics, Babydick, Rockbusters ♪

EVANGELINE CAFE Chrissy Flatt

FLAMINGO CANTINA Perfect Pants ♪, Manic Mongrel, Fatback Circus, Muchos Backflips! ♪ (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Susquehanna Hat Company (8:00)

G&S LOUNGE The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Chris Ruest (6:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Milezo, Monster Mountain (10:00)

HOUSE WINE George Macias (8:00)

JOE'S CRAB SHACK Burnevik Vega (7:00)

LAMBERTS Aaron Einhouse (10:30)

THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Dallas Seely, Josh Patton (10:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Textcellorators (8:00)

MOHAWK Brothers, Neon Cobra, the Baker Family, Whalers (9:00) ♪

ND AT 501 STUDIOS McMercy Family Band Christmas Show w/ Minor Mishap Marching Band (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Tucker Jameson & the Hot Mugs, the Hi-Defs (9:00)

THE PARISH Holy Wave, English Teeth ♪, Eric Brendo ♪, Silver Ships (9:00) ♪

RED 7 PBR Kitten, Chainbow, Woozyhelmet, Hug ♪, Christeene (9:00)

RED FEZ Soutloun ♪ (9:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Darren Hoff & the Hard Times

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Caribbean Steelpan Trio (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixed (6:00); the Trishas, BettySoo, Dustin Welch (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business ♪, Whiskey Shiver, the Black (9:00)

STAR BAR Allen Daniels (7:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Lisa Marshall (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

TRIPLE CROWN Peace Pipe Prophets (6:00), Grant Ewing (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Eagle Pritchard Murray

THU 16

ACES LOUNGE Bleu Edmondson (8:00) ♪

ANTONE'S Tab Benoit (7:00); Matt King, Reckless Kelly (9:00) ♪

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Frank Meyer (7:30)

BEAUTY BAR X-Mas Sweater Party w/ DJ Kon Karne, DJ Lee Roi, Magnifico!

BEERLAND Ryan Rooney, Ichi Ni San Shi, Beta Rhythm, Dead Space, Followed by Static ♪

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Upper Classman, Designer Genes, Liz Simmons, Rusty Vein ♪ (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Suede (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Dirty River Boys, Turnpike Troubadours

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Chris Beirne Trio (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (9:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Shannon McNally, Uncle Lucius (10:00) ♪

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

REWARD! (SEE PAGE 8 FOR DETAILS)

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RYAN DESIATO 9:30
J-DUB & THE TEASE 10:45
GABE HAYES BAND 12:15

FRIDAY DECEMBER DOORS 8 \$10

THESE MADDOGS OF GLORY 9
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 DOORS 8 \$12

TONY LUCCA, JAY NASH & MATT DUKE 7
THE SELFLESS SEASON CD RELEASE 9:30
EAGLE PRICHARD MURRAY BAND 10:40
BUS STOP STALLIONS 12

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12 \$5

GORILLA MUSIC BATTLE OF THE BANDS 12
PRIVATE EVENT 6:30

MONDAY DECEMBER 13 \$5

THE UPPER CLASSMEN NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
JOE MARSON 6:30
JENNY REYNOLDS 8
MIRANDA DAWN & THE LUCKY BREAK HORNS 9:15
COLE FRIED FISH 20:45
SAMANTHA FINLAY & THE LOVE LIBERATION ARMY 12

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14 \$7/\$5 W/STUDENT ID

NICOLAS FLINT NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
BAREBONES ORCHESTRA 6:30
WORLD MUSIC NIGHT
BENEFITS DISCOVER HOPE FUND
IVORY GHOST 7:45 ANCIENT FORWARD 9
AUSTIN PIAZZOLLA QUINTET 10:30
THE JEREMY MILLER BAND 12

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15 \$5

THE COWARDLY LEON NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
JEFF LOFTON & NOËLLE HAMPTON 8
CHARLIE FAYE 9:15
NAGA VALLI 10:30 THE SPOILED 12

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TOWN HALL DEVILS & FRIENDS 9-11PM

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HOLIDAY SHOWCASE
4PM-12AM \$10 COVER

MAIN STAGE		FOLK STAGE	
5PM THE WATTS	5PM BROTHERS BAND	5PM CHRISTY HAYS & HER SUNDAY BEST	6PM ANDY'S SCHOOL OF ROCK
6PM THE WAYWARDS	7PM CHUBBY KNUCKLES CHOIR	6PM STEPHANIE BRIGGS	8PM TYLER GUTHRIE
8PM MY PET POSSUM	9PM WHALERS	9PM WILL T. MASSEY	
10PM SLEEP GOOD			

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

THE INVINCIBLE CZARS
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2-3PM \$7 COVER

NO COVER! PAUL HELD 4:30-6PM
JITTERBUG VIPERS 6:30-8PM

MONDAY DECEMBER 13

CLOSED

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14

ADOPTION COALITION
OF TEXAS BENEFIT 6-10PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15

TEX THOMAS & THE DANGLING WRANGLERS 6-8PM
PASTOR CORY CROSS 8:30-10PM

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LEE BUCKNER AND THE RIVERBENDS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 * 10 PM * \$5

SLEEP GOOD
FOCUS GROUP
BECCA AND THE BLANCOS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 * 9 PM * \$5

OPPOSITE DAY
TORNADO
MEGAFUNA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 * 9 PM *

KARATE KIDS
TUMP
DAYTON DEAN AND THE RIVERKINGS
WHITE DRESS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 * 10 PM * \$2

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JONATHAN TERREL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 * 9PM *

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Sat - 12/11 - 9pm
Unome Presents
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Mon - 12/13 - 8pm
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Thu - 12/16 - 8:30pm
Holy Wave, English Teeth, Eric Brendo, Silver Ships

Fri - 12/17 - 8:30pm
Air Review, The Soldier Thread, The Canvas Waiting, Moon

Sat - 12/18 - 2pm til 2am
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Th 12/9 - East Cameron Folkcore, Salesman, Reverend Glasseye, Kelly Doyle - 9:30pm
F 12/10 - Refused Are F*cking Dead, Art vs Industry, Spanish Anchors (first show) -10pm (Toys for Tots - free entry with toy)
Sa 12/11 - Golden Bear - 10pm
Su 12/12 - EARLY: Anarchy Pro Wrestling - 5pm
LATE: Mission, Sunglasses, The Shears
M 12/13 - Kadets, Pink Sugar, The Attack - 10pm
Tu 12/14 - HAPPY HOUR: Mike and the Moonpies - 5pm
LATE: Unmothered, tba - 10pm
W 12/15 - Coma In Algiers, Sad Accordions, Watching the Moon, Shitty Carwash - 10pm
Th 12/16 - Whalers The Baker Family, Neon Cobra, Brothers - 10pm
F 12/17 - This Will Destroy You, The Eastern Sea, Pompeii, Tactics, For Hours and Ours, Searcher - 8:30pm
Sa 12/18 - EARLY: Arc Attack - 7pm
LATE: Doug Burr, Lost River/Old River, Whiskey Priest - 10pm
Su 12/19 - Private Party
Tu 12/21 - HAPPY HOUR: Mike and the Moonpies - 5pm
12/24-26 - Closed for Chismukkah
Tu 12/28 - HAPPY HOUR: Mike and the Moonpies - 5pm
LATE: Marabout Saints, tba - 10pm
W 12/29 - Magic Jewels, Mermaid Blonde, Slugbug - 10pm
F 12/31 - New Year's Eve: THE SWORD w/ Mammoth Grinder, Eagle Claw - 9pm // Smoke and Feathers, Tornhoad - 12am
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Th 12/9 - FREE: Blind Pets, Tanto, Cardiel, Descendents of Erick, Mostly Dead - 10pm
F 12/10 - Entropy, Black Forest Fire - 10pm // Fun Fun Fun Fest Appreciation Night w/ DJ Graham Williams and Transmission Event ticket giveaways all night
Sa 12/11 - FREE/EARLY: Night Siege, One Against Many, Exile, Asahara, Recide - 5pm
LATE: Riverboat Gamblers Homecoming show w/ Ignorance Park, The Chumps, A Giant Dog, The Cassingles - 10pm
Su 12/12 - Eyehategod, Phobia, Zoraster, Kill the Client, Pack of Wolves, HOD (presented by 101x No Control Radio) - 10pm // FREE: The Roller DJ set
Tu 12/14 - FREE: Procession of Aeons, Antero Sleeps, The Household - 10pm
W 12/15 - FREE: The Dead Left, Sheboygan, Monarch Box - 10pm
Th 12/16 - CHRISTEENE, HUG, Wozyzhelmit, Chainbow, PBR Kitten - 10pm
F 12/17 - Turbo Fruits, Pujol, Rayon Beach, Dikes of Holland - 10pm
Sa 12/18 - Christmas A Go Go w/ Johnny Hootrock, Hotrod Hillbillies, Carpet Creeps, Burlesque by Black Widow Jigglewatts - 10pm
Su 12/19 - FREE: Krum Bums BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT!
Tu 12/21 - FREE: The Coos, Coppola - 10pm
Th 12/23 - FREE: FESTIVUS celebration: Jawbreaker Sing-a-long, Punk Rock Karaoke and more!
12/24 & 25 - Closed for Festivus
Tu 12/28 - FREE: Blotter, 2 Buck Drunks, Burning Avalanche - 10pm

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This Isn't Christmas Vacation - 12/6
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Backdoor Entry - 12/7
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Party of One 4 - 12/8
Girl Trouble - 12/8
Mommy Has A Rack 2 - 12/9
Big Black Beast 15 - 12/13
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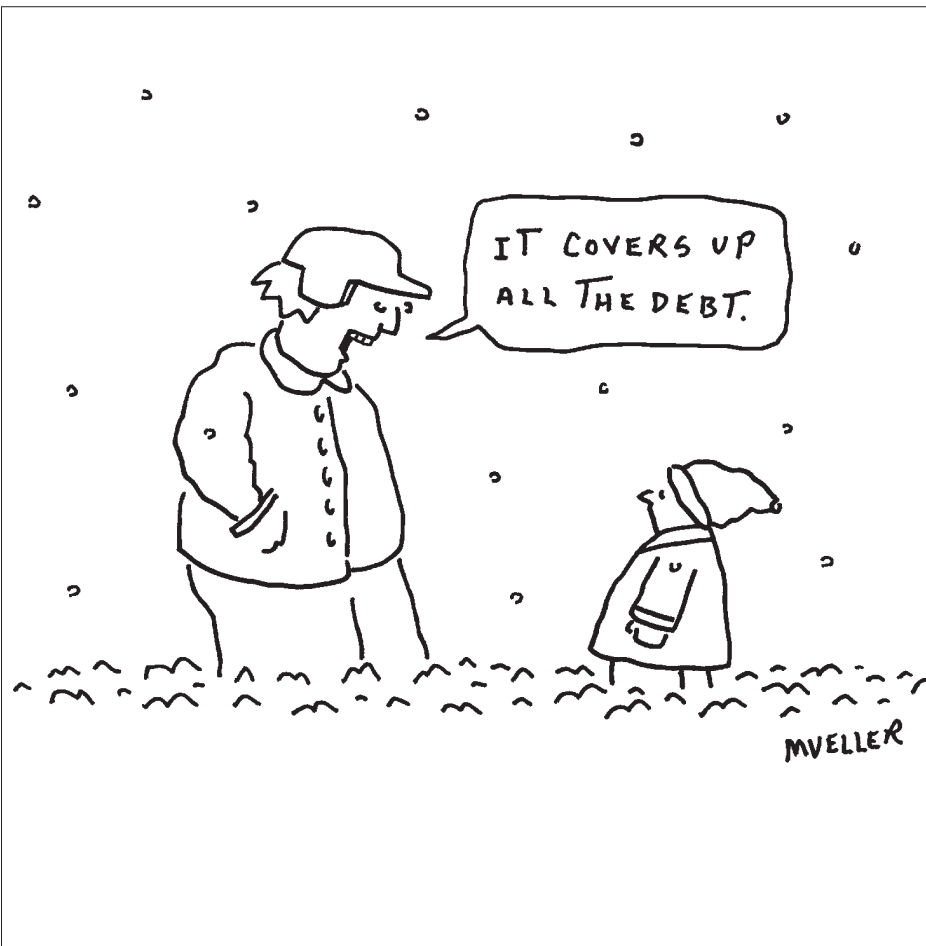
How to Be Happy

TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN by Shannon Wheeler



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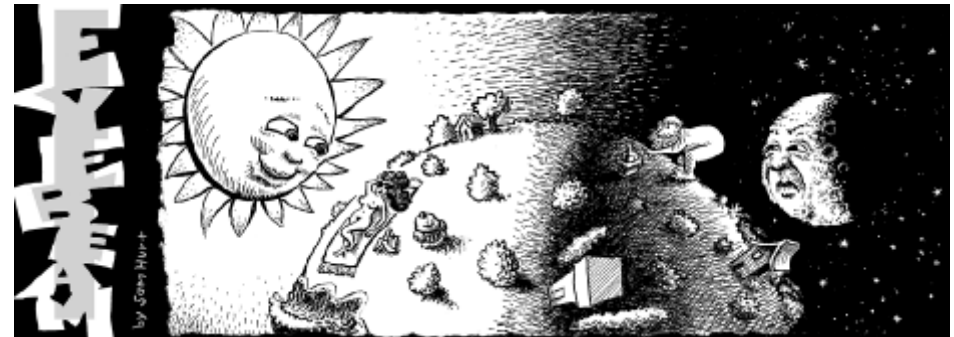
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TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE



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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



The world record for the most porta-potties assembled was 5,000 for the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama.

There are 689 species of trees in the United States.

As we all know, the movie *Citizen Kane* was based on the life of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. Rumor has it that "Rosebud" was the nickname Hearst gave to the private parts of his mistress, Marion Davies. Others say it was a nickname for Hearst's mother, Phoebe.

The members of U2 formed their band before they learned to play their instruments.

When the first photo studio opened in London in 1841, the catchphrase to get people to pose was "prunes." Photographers wanted subjects' mouths to look smaller. It wasn't until the 20th century when photos became less formal that people said "cheese."

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.

jobs

art/design

EXHIBITING ARTIST Call to artists / FIMA - Montreal (Canada)'s outdoor art festival Dear artists, The FIMA, Montreal's (Canada) unique outdoor art show, is recruiting exhibitors for its 12th edition, which will take place from June 29 to July 3, 2011. Over 300,000 visitors and 200 artists from around the globe will be united on the street. Make sales, make contacts and have fun in the cheerful atmosphere of Montreal! FIMA provides you a with a 10'x10' booth and lighting, as well as credit card services for your costumers. No commissions taken. Plus, have your own Web gallery page! Deadline to apply: February 21st, 2011. To find out more and to apply, please visit www.festivaldesarts.org/frame_inscription_presentation_eng.htm Welcome to our neighbors from the south! See you soon!

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COMMUNITY REP BioWare is currently searching for a Community Coordinator to support the upcoming MMO Star Wars™: The Old Republic™. The successful candidate will assist with the day-to-day operational activities surrounding the reporting and administering of the Star Wars: The Old Republic online community. While working in a cross functional team the Community Coordinator develops compelling yet subtle messaging strategies and community initiatives that provide customers with incentives. The content, tone and

uniformity of this messaging are instrumental in keeping the end user customer engaged and in maximizing BioWare revenues. In-depth knowledge of the massively multiplayer online gaming community and experience in dealing with online communities are key success factors for this position. NOTE: This is a contract/temporary position based in Austin, TX. Only local resumes will be considered, relocation assistance will not be available. **RESPONSIBILITIES** • Assist with a vibrant pre and post-ship website that features franchise content, community-generated content, forum discussions, downloads, and other interactions. • Promote a user-friendly environment on community message boards. • Enforcement of the official website Rules and Guidelines. • Maintain a neutral, unbiased presence on the official website while addressing user issues. • Document all customer interactions and issues. • Create and edit content for the product in the form of promotional, instructional, and background information assets, as required. • Helps conduct private and public tests to gather community feedback that will help improve final product quality. • Assist with drafting community reports including community reaction, metrics, and research. • Assists other members of the community team with community-related tasks. **QUALIFICATIONS** • 1+ years massively multiplayer community experience or social networking community experience required • Prior experience in the administration and/or moderation of an online message board • Knowledge of Internet message-board browsing, use, and etiquette • Technical knowledge of online community platforms, systems and software • Strong understanding of popular social networking trends • Ability to manage change and ambiguity in a rapidly changing environment without losing focus • Strong customer service ethic and demonstrated initiative and positive spirit • Must have the ability to work with a minimal supervision • Highly creative, resourceful and visionary • Scheduling flexibility including weekend and holiday hours To apply, please visit http://www.bioware.com/bioware_info/jobs/austin_jobs/.

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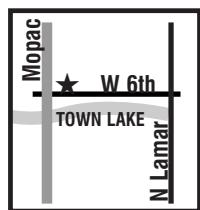
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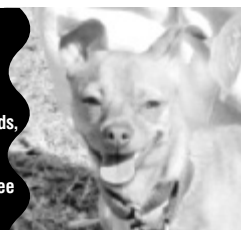
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events

FAIR TRADE EVENT Fair Trade Holiday Trunk Show December 11th&12th, Sat.3-5, Sun.11-4 Venue: Remedy Center for Healing Arts 4910 Burnet Rd, 78756. Items from Mayan villages of Guatemala, Peru, NGO's of: Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, USA, Aboriginal Australia, Africa and more. Eco toys,bags,baby gifts,home deco&more! Come get your holiday shopping done and feel good about what you buy! Elevation Imports works directly with artisans. We pay the artisans full asking price

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legal notices

Application has been made for a Mixed Beverage Permit/Mixed Beverage Late Hour Permit for The Flying Marlin Austin, LLC

Db a Wyland's Ocean Blue At 12921 Hill Country Blvd. Ste D130, Bee Cave, Travis County, Texas. Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

The Ocean Blue Restaurant, Inc. Peter McFarland, Pres/Sec

Application has been made for a Mixed Beverage Permit/Mixed Beverage Late Hour Permit For The Flying Marlin Austin, LLC Db a Guy Harvey's Island Grill At 12921 Hill Country Blvd., Ste D120, Bee Cave, Travis County, Texas Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code.

The Flying Tarpon, Inc. Peter McFarland, Pres/Sec

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-10-003778 TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LOUIS MEDINA Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 10, 2011, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on OCTOBER 25, 2010, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number D-1-GN-10-003776, in which JOSE MORENO Plaintiff(s), and UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LOUIS MEDINA Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON THE TITLE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 905 E. 13TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS. ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas. November 29, 2010. REQUESTED BY: PAT HAMMONDS
4311 S 1ST
AUSTIN, TX 78745
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 448-7774

FAX: (512) 443-8307
AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O.
Box679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
/s/ By: LAURA LANCASTER, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MILDRED ANN POLHILL Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001922 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.
AUGUSTUS JONES POLHILL, III The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on NOVEMBER 24, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship & for Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MILDRED ANN POLHILL, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 30, 2010.
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 ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LOIS K DONALDSON Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001956 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.
JAMES DONALDSON and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 02, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Dependent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LOIS K DONALDSON, 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 expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contest-

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsny for Dec. 10-16

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've arrived at a delicate yet boisterous turning point when one-of-a-kind opportunities are budding. I'm going to give you seven phrases that I think capture the essence of this pregnant moment: 1) wise innocence, 2) primal elegance, 3) raw holiness, 4) electrifying poise, 5) curative teasing, 6) rigorous play, 7) volcanic tenderness. To maximize your ability to capitalize on the transformations that are available, I suggest you seek out and cultivate these seemingly paradoxical states of being.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): For years I've had recurring dreams of finding treasure amid trash. I interpret this to mean that I should always be alert, in my waking life, to the possibility that I might come across beautiful or valuable stuff that's mixed in with what has been discarded or forgotten. Recently I heard about a literal embodiment of this theme. A sewage treatment plant in Japan announced that it has been culling huge amounts of gold from the scum and slop - so much so that their haul outstrips the yield of the country's top gold mine. I urge you to make this your metaphor of the week, Capricorn. What riches might you be able to pluck out of the dirt and shadows?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Should you store up your energy, postpone your gratification, and withhold your full intensity for a more opportune time? Hell no! Should you await further data before making a definitive conclusion, fantasize dreamily about some more perfect future, and retreat into a self-protective cocoon? Double hell no! And if thoughts like those have been poking up into your awareness, exorcise them immediately. It is high time for you to grab the best goodies, reveal the whole truth, and employ your ultimate schemes. You are primed to make a big play, call on all the help you've been promised, and transform the "what-ifs" into "no doubts."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In Taio Cruz's mega-hit pop song "Dynamite," he describes how excited he is to go dancing at his favorite nightclub. "I throw my hands up in the air," he exults. "I wanna celebrate and live my life ... I'm wearin' all my favorite brands." In advising you about the best ways to ride the current cosmic rhythms, Pisces, I'll use Cruz as both a role model and an anti-role model. You should be like him in the sense of being eager to throw your hands up in the air. Right now it's your sacred duty to intensify your commitment to revelry and find every possible excuse to celebrate your life. On the other hand, it's crucial that you don't wear all your favorite brands. To get the full benefits from this time of festive release, you will need, as much as humanly possible, to declare your independence from corporate brainwashing and escape the intelligence-sapping mindset of consumerism.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In the coming weeks, life will beguile you with secrets and riddles but probably not reveal as much as you'd like. I think this is an opportunity, not a problem. In my opinion, your task isn't to press for shiny clarity, but rather to revel in the luxuriant mysteries. Let them confer their blessings on you through the magic of teasing and tantalizing. And what is the nature of those blessings? To enlighten your irrational mind, stimulate your imagination, teach you patience, and nurture your connection with eternity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Butterflies recall at least some of what they've learned during their time as caterpillars. The metamorphosis they go through is dramatic, turning their bodies into a soupy goo before remaking them into winged gliders. And yet they retain the gist of the lessons they mastered while in their earlier form. I see something comparable ahead for you in 2011, Taurus. It's as if you will undergo a kind of reincarnation without having to endure the inconvenience of actually dying. Like a butterfly, the wisdom you've earned in your old self will accompany you into your new life. Are you ready? The process begins soon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What nourishes you emotionally and spiritually, Gemini? I'm not talking about what entertains you or flatters you or takes your mind off your problems. I'm referring to the influences that make you stronger and the people who see you for who you really are and the situations that teach you lifelong lessons. I mean the beauty that replenishes your psyche and the symbols that consistently restore your balance and the memories that keep feeding your ability to rise to each new challenge. Take inventory of these precious assets. And then make a special point of nurturing them back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Two-thirds of American elementary-school teachers spend their own money to buy food for their poor students. Meanwhile, there's a 50% chance that an American kid will, at some point in his or her young life, resort to using government aid in the form of food stamps. Those facts make me angry and motivate me to volunteer to distribute free food at the local food bank. I encourage you, my fellow Cancerian, to summon your own good reasons to get riled up on behalf of people who have less luck and goodness than you do. It's always therapeutic to stretch your generosity and spread your wealth, but doing so will especially redound to your advantage in the coming weeks. Unselfish acts will bring profound selfish benefits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to some sources, the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates practiced the art of sculpture as a young man. But he abandoned it early on, deciding that he wanted to "carve his soul rather than marble." Can I interest you in turning your attention to that noble, gritty task, Leo? It would be a fine time to do some intensive soul-carving. Soul-scouring, too, would be both fun and wise, as well as soul-etching and soul-emblazoning and soul-accessorizing. I highly recommend that you enjoy a prolonged phase of renovating and replenishing your most precious work of art.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In her haunting tune "One Blood," Virgo singer Lila Downs confesses that "the deepest fear [is] my desire." I personally know many Virgos who make a similar lament. How about you? Is there any way in which you are scared of the power of your longing? Do you ever find yourself reluctant to unleash the full force of your passion, worried that it could drive you out of control or lead you astray? If so, the coming weeks will be prime time to face down your misgivings. It's time to liberate your desires, at least a little.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Here are your words of power: hybrid, amalgamation, composite, aggregate, medley, alloy, ensemble. Now here are your words of disempowerment: welter, mishmash, jumble, hodgepodge, patchwork. Strive to accentuate the first category and avoid the second. Your task is to create a pleasing, synergetic arrangement from a multiplicity of factors, even as you avoid throwing together a hash of diverse influences into an unholly mess. Be calculating and strategic, not rash and random, as you do your blending.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): On my Facebook page, I posted this excerpt from a Pablo Neruda love poem (translated by Stephen Tapscott): "Our love is like a well in the wilderness where time watches over the wandering lightning. Our sleep is a secret tunnel that leads to the scent of apples carried on the wind." In response, a reader named John F. Gamboa said this: "I once found a well in the desert. There was a rope and a bucket. The bucket had a small hole in it. While pulling up the bucket of water, about half of it drained. But I suppose a decent bucket would have been stolen. So a bucket with a small hole was perfect; I got what I needed!" I'm here to tell you, Scorpio, that like Gamboa, you probably need a bucket with a small hole right now.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

the **COMMON LAW**
by Luke Ellis will return on the
FIRST THURSDAY of EVERY MONTH
Until then, here's an *uncommon law*
that you may need to be aware of:
In Kansas, it is illegal for chicken thieves to work during daylight hours.

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

'HELLO!' TO RALPH IN DAINA'S CADDY

Dear Tom and Ray:

My father is a huuuuge fan of your NPR radio show. Every Saturday, he is a devoted listener. At the weekend cottage up north, the reception is sketchy at best. When your show is scheduled to come on, my father disappears like clockwork. Finally we find him camped out in the driveway, in Mom's Cadillac, tuned in to your show, no less, on the car stereo. He argues the car stereo has a better receiver than a conventional radio. I tell him he's going to drain Mom's battery. I relayed this story to a co-worker, and we decided it was a great topic of conversation for Click and Clack. Is the car radio that much more superior than your standard FM stereo receiver? And how many shows can he listen to before he drains Mom's battery? Thanks, and say "hi" to Ralph sitting in Daina's Caddy!

— Linda

TOM: He probably doesn't even like our show, Linda. He's just hiding from the grandkids.

RAY: We don't know a lot about radios, other than how to drive people away from them when our show is on. But we do know that car radios tend to be better in quality, and higher in price, than tabletop radios.

TOM: Because they're constantly in motion, they have to be better in order to hold on to the broadcast signals. And often times, the more expensive cars, like Cadillacs, will have the best radios.

RAY: Plus, reception is influenced by several factors: radio quality, antenna quality, and location. And he may have found the perfect spot in the driveway to grab the signal he's looking for. So it's very likely that he's right about getting better reception in the car.

TOM: And the radio uses very little of the battery's power. It can run for hours without running the battery down.

RAY: And, of course, if he wants to keep sitting out there through *Weekend Edition*, *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* and *This American Life*, he can always just run the engine for 15 minutes. That will restore the small amount of energy he used. So I'd leave Ralph alone, Linda. Daina's Caddy will be fine.

In their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Tom and Ray break down the strategies for buying a car, so you can make the most of your money. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website, www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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Distributed by King Features Syndicate

continued legal notices

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 returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on December 02, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir
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 RODGER HOLLIS FIELDS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001123 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

HEATHER C COCHRAN and all the alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on July 09, 2010, an Application for Probate of Will, to Determine Heirship, and for Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed, and Original Petition for Declaratory Judgment in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RODGER HOLLIS FIELDS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interested in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 23, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ MONICA LIMON

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-10-002502 TO: NABERS SOLUTIONS LLC, AND ALLAN H. SEWELL Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 17, 2010, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JULY 20, 2010, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-10-002502, in which DSCH CAPITAL PARTNERS, L.L.C., D/B/A FAR WEST CAPITAL Plaintiff(s), and NABERS SOLUTIONS, L.L.C., AND ALLAN H. SEWELL Defendant(s), and the nature of which suit is as follows: BREACH OF CONTRACT, FRAUD, AND CLAIM FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

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, December 01, 2010.

/s/ AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
REQUESTED BY:
TERESA RUIZ SCHOBER
1611 NUENCES ST
AUSTIN, TX 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 474-7678
FAX: (512) 597-3510
tschober@bartlettschober.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARY L FUENTEZ aka MARY L TREVINO, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001896 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ALVINO FUENTEZ and all the alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 19, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MARY L FUENTEZ aka MARY L TREVINO, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 19, 2010.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
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 ROBERT WILTON FISHBECK Deceased, No. C-1-PB-10-001933 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

MICKEY FISHBECK alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 29, 2010, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ROBERT WILTON FISHBECK, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 30, 2010.

Dana DeBeauvoir
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. BOX 149325
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325
By Deputy: /s/ D. MENDEZ

**D-1-GV-08-001467
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of November, 2010 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-08-001467, wherein Eanes Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Service District #10, and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Travis R. Phillips, Trustee, American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc. (In Rem Only), American Express Centurion Bank (In Rem Only), Glenda Fuller & Associates (In Rem Only), and the United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$10,956.20 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 3, 2009.

I, on the 23rd day of November, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of January, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

1 acre out of the W. Sergeant Sur. 499 as desc. in Vol. 9158, Pg. 540 and Vol. 9158, Pg. 548 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas..

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$10,956.20 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of November, 2010.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THIS PROPERTY MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**D-1-GV-09-001644
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98TH District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of November, 2010 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-09-001644, wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Education District, Travis County,

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and ROBERT SUMMERS, JR. AND CAROLE M. SUMMERS are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$23,994.73 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 30, 2010.

I, on the 23rd day of November, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of January, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

LOT 9016, HIGHLAND LAKE ESTATE, SECTION NINE, PLAT VOL. 51, PAGE 78, AS DESC. IN VOL. 6993, PAGE 1073 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$23,994.73 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of November, 2010.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THIS PROPERTY MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**GV-403670
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 17th day of November, 2010 in a certain cause numbered GV-403670, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and The Unknown Heirs and/or Devisees of Willie B. Hardison, Deceased, Gloria Johnson, Independent Executor of the Estate of Oscar Hardison, Sr., Gloria Johnson (Life Estate), Julia Ann Allen (Remainderman), Oscar Hardison, Jr. (Remainderman), Cora Lee Jackson a/k/a Cory Lou Jackson (Remainderman), Esther Lee Ertie a/k/a Esther Hardison Urdy, (Remainderman), Eileen HUB (Remainderman), Gladys Williams (Remainderman), Jack Hardison (Remainderman), Jill Thomas (Remainderman), and James Moore Properties, LLC and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$25,628.30 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 1, 2010.

I, on the 23rd day of November, 2010, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 4th day of January, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe Street in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest

bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6, Block 8, McKinley Heights Addition (Oit. 26, Div. B), Plat No. 4/110, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 5154, Page 269 and Probate Cause No. 75,965 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$25,628.30 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of November, 2010.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**NO. C-1-PB-10-001633
ESTATE OF LINDA GUZZARDO, DECEASED**

IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LINDA GUZZARDO

Pursuant to Texas Probate Code 294, notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Linda Guzzardo were issued on the 2nd day of December, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001633 pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to:

Lee Glasier Jones, III
Claims to be presented should be addressed to Independent Executor, Estate of Linda Guzzardo at:
105 East 2nd Street, P.O. Box 690, Elgin, Texas 78621

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.

LEE JONES
By: /s/ Ernest F. Bogart,
Attorney
State Bar # 02556500
OWEN BOGART NISMILBAT
105 East 2nd Street
P.O. Box 690
Elgin, Texas 78621
(512) 281-3326
(512) 281-5094 FAX

NOTICE Wattering Company, Inc. is soliciting bids from all certified HUB subcontractors and suppliers for the following project: UT Liberal Arts Building PP No. 2 Building Package. Bid date is December 21, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. Our phone number is (512) 282-0616, fax is (512) 282-5405.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX. 78745.

1988 TOYOTA
JT3VW66W1J0014758
1997 DODGE PK

1B7HC16X5V125950
2004 DODGE
2B3HD46R94H663090

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON GREGG LANE AND HOWARD LANE IN PRECINCT TWO.** Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE K & S Towing give Notice of Foreclosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 02/11/2011, 1:00 PM at 11740-B Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX 78748. Tow authorized by Travis Co. Constables Office Pct#3 from 5805 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX as of 12/06/2010 the storage charges are \$37.25 @ \$20.00 + tax pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. K & S Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

3BTJC26Y7XMS68306 1999 DODGE RAM 1500 PK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE PS Oranoco, 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 22nd of December 2010 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

Wednesday December 22nd, 2010

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1021 - Cohen, Shelby Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1091 - Walker, Perry Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

2100 - Mayo, George Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

3081 - Prodouz, Daniel Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3164 - Schneider, Kevin Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

3171 - FREEMAN, JOSEPH Bedding / Clothing; Electronics / Computers

3184 - Smith, Cassandra Monique All Items in unit

4009 - fisher, Lionel Boxes / Bags / Totes

4131 - Clemenza, Robert Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

4154 - Daniels, Torie Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

5143 - Cromer, Matthew Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

9:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 10001 N. I-H 35 Austin, TX 78753

1002 - Plummer, Vacynual Bedding / Clothing; Furniture; Toys

1020 - Batts, Autumn Bedding / Clothing; Furniture; Tools

2069 - SALADINO, CARA Bedding/Clothing

3012 - Cosby, Orea Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3037 - Courson, Chelsea Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3039 - Herrera, Jason Bedding/Clothing; Boxes

3044 - Denmon, Deandrea Bedding / Clothing; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

3051 - Don Juan - Hernandez, Luis Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Toys
4006 - Jennings Jr, Columbus Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools
5036 - Pendergrass, Jonithan Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools
5067 - Odem, Joel Bedding / Clothing
8015 - Greenwell, Paul Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture
10:00 a.m. Public Storage@ 10100 North I-H 35 Austin, TX 78753

A013 - Walker, Clark Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture
B093 - CERQUEDA, GEORGINA Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

B123 - Foley, Gwen Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C020 - Odums-Ortiz, Monic Bedding / Clothing; Furniture; Tools

C023 - Williams, Merita Gardner Boxes / Bags / Totes

C048 - weru, simon Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C074 - Robinson, Karen Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C119 - Hill, Jerald Vashawn Furniture

D042 - Williams, Francis Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D090 - Zamora, Trevino Leticia Boxes / Bags / Totes

D133 - Reed, Samiria Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D142 - O'neal, Nathan Tools
10:30 a.m. Public Storage@ 937 Reini St. Austin, TX 78753

123 - Cabrera, Larry Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

137 - McClendon, Kristina Boxes / Bags / Totes; Clothing

152 - Borwell, Elizabeth Boxes/Bags/Totes

238 - Ramirez, Juan J. Boxes / Bags / Totes

255 - Reed, Shelly Lynne Bedding/Clothing; Boxes/Bags/Totes

307 - Grant, Shawanna Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

374 - Spencer, Latonya Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

423 - Gibson, John Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

461 - Martinez, Refugio Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

464 - Calhoun, Erick Boxes/Bags/Totes

537 - Nunn, Kristi Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

904 - Simmons, Austin Boxes / Bags / Totes
11:00 a.m. Public Storage@ 8101 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

1083 - GRANZOTTI, DAVID Bedding/Clothing

115 - Smirnoff, Natalie Books / Files / Cabinets

1207 - Otis, Jermaine Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

1303 - Perry, Michael Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

136 - Miller, Natalie Bedding / Clothing; Tools

1505 - Gatewood, Craig Electronics / Computers; Furniture

1601 - Smirnoff, Natalie Books/Files/Cabinets

207 - Gonzales, Valarie Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2110 - hayter, savanna Appliances; Furniture; Tools

231 - White, Jacqueline Books/Files/Cabinets

3109 - SALINAS, NORA Furniture

3160 - Sullivan, Patrick Furniture

3201 - Field, Amanda Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

325 - Perkins, Jessie Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

438 - rocha, juan Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Tools

447 - Lee, Rose Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

459 - Corbett, Jack Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

517 - George, Iris Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

551 - Lockhart, Reginald Boxes/Bags/Totes

595 - CORBETT, JACK Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

607 - Washington, Andrea Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

640 - PYLE, STEPHEN J Boxes/Bags/Totes

N1233 - griffis, iisha Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

N1304 - Rangel, Patricia Boxes/Bags/Totes

N1379 - King, Rachel Boxes/Bags/Totes

N3362 - Kremmer, Reagan Boxes/Bags/Totes

N3396 - Smirnoff, Natalie Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes

N3460 - Loya, Marissa Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

12:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 8525 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

B038 - Espy, Joyce

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D007 - Washington, Raymond Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E016 - McGowen, Josephine Bedding / Clothing

12:30 p.m. Public Storage@ 8128 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

B002 - Ware, Yvonne

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

C014 - Taylor, Yvonne

Boxes / Bags / Totes

C032 - Hutchinson, Deborah

Boxes / Bags / Totes

F047 - Harris, Ramona

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

F048 - Sorrels, Marquita

Electronics / Computers; Furniture

G002 - Walker, Audrae

Bedding / Clothing

G041 - Smith, Dawn

Boxes / Bags / Totes

1:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 9205 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78758

A028 - Runnells, Sue Tools

A246 - Calderon, Ernesto Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

C111-A - Melancon, Jean-Paul Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D109 - Hernandez, Vicente Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E047 - Weems, Regan Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E088 - James, Hagen Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1:30 p.m. Public Storage@ 12318 N. Mopac Expressway Austin, TX 78758

A001 - Slaughter, Bobby

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

B261 - Misner, Leanne

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

C332 - Homann, Crystal Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D509 - Sneed, Kathryn

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

D543 - GUYTON, CARITA Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D556 - Bouldin, Antjuan

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

A040 - Vandervort, Terry Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

2:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 10931 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759

2105 - Hubbard, Armand Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Books/Files/Cabinets; Tools

A05A - Young, Jascelynn Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

A05D - Jones, Stayus

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

A05H - MURRAY, BRENDA L Bedding / Clothing; Tools

C032 - Koger, Christopher Bedding / Clothing; Tools

G002 - Witte, Ronald Roy

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

2:30 p.m. Public Storage@ 12915 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78750

3009 - Hines, Denise Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

3066 - MUNDY, ROBERT Boxes / Bags / Totes

4085 - Gordon, Marcia Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes

5074 - Jackson, Paul Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools

D025 - Spinks, Jimi Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

3:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 13675 N. U.S. Hwy. 183 Austin, TX 78750

0214 - Bauer, Misty

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Toys

0219 - Stucco Man Inc

Tools

0427 - McCutchen, Gloria

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

0433 - Petteway, Shannon

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E016 - McGowen, Josephine

Bedding / Clothing

12:30 p.m. Public Storage@ 8128 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

B002 - Ware, Yvonne

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

C014 - Taylor, Yvonne

Boxes / Bags / Totes

C032 - Hutchinson, Deborah

Boxes / Bags / Totes

F047 - Harris, Ramona

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

F048 - Sorrels, Marquita

Electronics / Computers; Furniture

G002 - Walker, Audrae

Bedding / Clothing

G041 - Smith, Dawn

Boxes / Bags / Totes

1:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 9205 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78758

A028 - Runnells, Sue Tools

A246 - Calderon, Ernesto

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

C111-A - Melancon, Jean-Paul

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D109 - Hernandez, Vicente

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E047 - Weems, Regan

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E088 - James, Hagen

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1:30 p.m. Public Storage@ 12318 N. Mopac Expressway Austin, TX 78758

A001 - Slaughter, Bobby

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

B261 - Misner, Leanne

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

C332 - Homann, Crystal

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D509 - Sneed, Kathryn

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

D543 - GUYTON, CARITA

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D556 - Bouldin, Antjuan

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

A040 - Vandervort, Terry

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

2:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 10931 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759

2105 - Hubbard, Armand

Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Books/Files/Cabinets; Tools

A05A - Young, Jascelynn

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

A05D - Jones, Stayus

Elesia C. Rios-unit 2303 dolly, boxes, furniture

Shondra M Williams-unit 2319 boxes, pictures, chairs, furniture, plastic tubs, computer

Rachel Rivera-unit 2329 sofa, furniture, boxes, bags, mattress, dolly, misc. items

Sandra Martinez-unit 2440 boxes, golf clubs, door, ice chest, misc household items

Pedro Moreno unit 941-boxes, stands, misc

Ernest M Rodriguez-unit 1128 Toys, boxes, stereo, desk, lamp

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. HINES Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William A. Hines, Deceased, were issued on September 28, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001441, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to Jeremy Will Hines. 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. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney John C. Heal, Jr., 500 W. 13th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JESSE OGDEN YATES, Deceased, were issued on November 30, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001780, pending in the County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to: TRACI LYNN YATES STOLLE.

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.

TRACI LYNN YATES STOLLE
2417 Dunes Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660
DATED the 10th day of December, 2010.

WENDI LESTER & ASSOCIATES, PC
312 W. University Avenue
Georgetown, Texas 78626
Telephone: (512) 930-0529
Facsimile: (512) 930-0502
/s/ Wendi Lester
Attorney for TRACI LYNN STOLLE
State Bar No.: 24004401

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William L. Harris, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001830, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Katherine A. Campbell n/k/a Katherine A. Harris.

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.

700 Lavaca, Suite 607
Austin, Texas 78701
DATED the 2nd day of December, 2010.

MITCHELL & COLMENERO, LLP
700 Lavaca Street, Suite 607
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 322-0500
Facsimile: (512) 322-0900
By: Rudy R. Colmenero
State Bar No. 00789231
/s/ Jedd L. Segrist
State Bar No. 24041893
Attorneys for Katherine A. Harris

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William L. Harris, Deceased, were issued on December 2, 2010, in Cause No. C-1-PB-10-001830, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Katherine A. Campbell n/k/a Katherine A. Harris.

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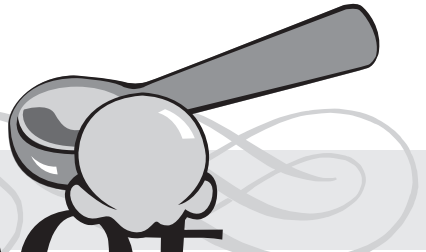
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
easy street




"TIGHT FIRM EXOTIC"

I'm 5'5" petite Chicana. Looking for a little late night fun. Love the outdoors and trying new things. Love to be adventurous and daring. **hotthcica**, 30,  #134242


LUSTFUL BAD GIRL

Hi! Fun loving sweet girl ready to play. Seeking a hot couple. Love to please and very submissive. Shy about putting up pic. Would love to meet for coffee and more! **sweet_submissive_cutie_pie**, 28,  #134199

SWEETANDCLASSY

Hello to all the gentlemen my names goldengoddest I'm a 33 year old submissive slave I'm looking for a very true dominate master please feel free to email me thanks. **goldengoddest**, 33,  #134002

FUN AND FLIRTY

I'm a very outgoing person I love going out and having fun. I have several tattoos. I'm looking for someone to have fun with and possibly more. **feffa82**, 28,  #133778


SWEET AM I

Just trying to get thru life as smoothly as possible, and be kind in the process. **kalka_wilder**, 26, #133687


GET POUNDED...

I'm cute, bisexual. Primarily looking for a good-looking guy to dominate me. Premium on a nice body. Hold me down, slap, call names, pull my hair, lead by collar. **CatGotYourTongue**, 30, #133407


TASTY PIECE

Tasty piece looking for her tasty piece match. Looking for a sexy white or Latin (wo)man that loves their women thick and sweet. 420 friendly. **phoenixphenom10**, 22,  #133164


DOMME SEEKS SUB

NEW DUNGEON set up and ready to PLAY!! Contact Me...Let's make a date!!! **MistressZann**, 50,  #130836


SWEET, FRIENDLY, PLUS-SIZE

I'm looking for friends and possibly friends with benefits. I am shy but open up really quickly. :) Send me a message. You won't regret it. **Willow1113**, 19,  #129849


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**, 32,  #128782

WANTS A GIRLFRIEND!

I am a 25 year old female. My bf is 27 and is willing to share me. I need a girl I can hang out with in/out of the bedroom! **BeautifulGirl713**, 25,  #134292


HIS FIRST THREESOME

We are an attractive couple seeking a feminine female for his first threesome. He is a singer in a band, therefore, we must be discreet. Email pics. **bibigirlie**, 40,  #134288


STUD FOR WIFE

we are looking for a well hung man to join us for a hot evening of play! **lynnum9**, 35,  #134201


SEXYKITTYKAT

Happy, secure, married couple seeking a woman or couple (man and woman) for discreet encounters. He enjoys watching, so let's give him a show he won't forget! **bcknrede4u**, 37,  #134194


LATIN COUPLE LOOKING

Hi everyone, we are a couple new to this and looking to play with another couple or single bi lady. We are both fit and ready to play. **austincouples**, 30,  #134167

COUPLE 4 PLAYMATE

Him 6'5, I'm 6'; both HWP. We are discreet, Caucasian ISO a woman comfortable in sexuality interested in joining us. Are you the right woman? We'd like to find out. **TallOnes**, 39,  #134085


COUPLE SEEKS SPICE

hey there, happily married couple seeks a new erotic adventure-add girl. Meet at a local bar if mutually attracted head to nice hotel. we are in good shape. Have FUN. **austinthreesome**, 39,  #134000


SWEET, NAUGHTY, ADVENTUROUS

We are a 35/36 year old couple looking for a woman to play with. I have never been with another woman. My boyfriend wants to watch and possibly join in. **naughtygirll**, 36,  #133960


10INCH SUPER-HEAD NYMPHOS

21f/22m couple. Looking for couple M/W/W/W to trade pictures and possibly meet for drinks. He's 100% straight. She's bi. wants freaky couple for anal, oral, cum swapping, choking, hardcore sex, dp. **wet-nswolecpl**, 22,  #133901


SATURDAY NIGHT SEXTACY

We're looking for sexy, smart no-drama couples and single females. Pictures don't lie. We like friendship and fun almost as much as the play. **Bodychemistry**, 27,  #133895

GORGEOUS COUPLE SEEKING

We are a deeply-in-love, playful married couple actively seeking a 3rd in the person of a young woman for fun and fantasy play. Sound like fun? Message us ... **hotatxcouple**, 31,  #133881


AUSTIN'S SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married black couple in search of Single ladies. We enjoy going out and looking for a well rounded woman to join us on our adventures. **BikAustinCpl**, 26,  #133842

LEGS, LEGS, LEGS

We are looking for a nice girl or couple...more than anything we are looking for a sweet girl..would love to meet downtown for drinks and go from there..). **cutiepie4u**, 37,  #133751


LETS SHARE CANDY

Sexy young couple seeks the same/young female. He loves a woman in high heels and would love having you while she watches. We'll share what you share. **ripples**, 23,  #133613


COUPLE SEEKING ADVENTURE

Married couple seeking new excitement in the bedroom. Interested in finding a woman or the right couple for some fun. Discretion a must. Safety required. STD Free. Non-smokers preferred. **sassyuncute**, 38,  #133462


SENSUOUS WITH CURVES

My man is so hot I want to share him. This would be his first threesome so let's make it special for him. NO DRAMA MAMA. **kbradford**, 40,  #133706


TONGUE PLAY

I am looking for a woman to help me relax. I prefer hispanic or white woman, average size and who are girly. **lovelyt**, 26,  #133370


CUTIEKAILS FWB

Married couple looking for a third. No pressure, get to know each other first and see where it leads. Looking for a thick lady between ages 21-38. Please no couples, men, or psychos! **kailsrocks**, 28,  #133277


FEM FEM FEM

I am a bisexual lipstick who is seeking casual female relationships to explore both on my own, and with my man. **welovefunatx**, 31,  #133020

FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? **femaleforme**, 35,  #131835

WILL TRY ANYTHING

I would like to try different things I haven't done before few limitations. I like to give and receive pleasure from different kinds of people. **newnopen**, 38,  #134152


NYMPHO

young intelligent sexpot looking to broaden my horizons. Looking for experienced couple to do what they want with me. **21stcenturysex**, 21, #133753


SWEETBABY PHATPHAT

Sexy, juicy, young and clean seeking a mature discreet playmate(s) for daddy/daughter, oral, wet/dry encounters, role playing etc...I just get freaky from time to time and want my desires fulfilled. **PrettiThicknBrownGurl**, 29, #133189

PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIANBEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man; couples considered. I'm very open-minded, feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STD-Free. **AsianOrchid**, 25,  #131487


YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know....ava 18. **pimp**, 20,  #129789

LOOK NICE BOOBS

wife loves to walk around topless outdoors. if you are discreet can you watch? nothing extra or kinky. size34d, older gentleman or couple to watch. lakes,parks.discreet. **mickey5252**, 49, #117158


NW BI MALE

Experienced in oral but hoping for more. Bi guy with hot girl. One or both. Let me know what you want. Want normal and hopefully regular. **Mark1225**, 38,  #134044


MIXED MASSUER M4M

Mixed guy, been a massuer for guys for over 7yrs. I have been trained and always get amazing compliments! Private studio to host in Highland Mall area. Thanks. **premieremasuer**, 24,  #134019


SUBMISSIVE SEEKING TOP

I am looking for dominant top, eager and willing to dominate me. He might have to put up with scheduling problems. I am in relationship. Daytime encounters might be necessary. **volcano**, 50,  #127424


BOTTOM 4 TOP

Hispanic Bottom, 45 years old...looking for discreet encounter with a Top guy. I am discreet open to new things, ages between 23 and 50 years old, preference black or mixed. **antonio_3638**, 46,  #118402


TEACH ME

I'm very curious and would like to meet with another one or two people who are also curious or wanting to teach. **newexperiences**, 29,  #134162

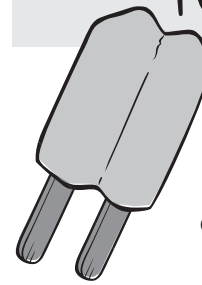
AUSTIN FUN GUY

I am seeking a sexually charged woman or straight couple that is seeking a bit of excitingly naughty fun every now and then; prefer ongoing if all agree. **blktexan512**, 36,  #133473

LET'S HAVE PLAYTIME

hi. i'm looking for some fun, safe, sexy playmates. i would prefer a lady to play with, or better yet two. i'm also interested in experimenting with a guy/girl couple. **horny_n_curious**, 37,  #133194

Flavor of the Week



080764 Age: 46

fun couple seeking the same

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.

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GET ON THE LIST & GET THE LUV DOC ALL UP IN YOUR INBOX EVERY WEEK

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Mental health is a bit of a sticky wicket – especially where musicians are concerned. It's no wonder. The constant vacillation between unbridled egomania and soul-crushing self-doubt is bound to leave a few frayed ends. It's difficult enough for the average person to cobble together a sense of identity and self-worth. Musicians tend to compound the difficulty by pressuring themselves to be much more interesting than they really are – to be larger than life. The type of wacky, harebrained behavior that would land the average person in the loony bin (if such bins still existed) is actually tolerated and even encouraged in musicians. After all, normal isn't very entertaining is it? The result is a whole slew of aberrant dress and bizarre behavior. Consider the questionably pedophilic, body-mutilating, androgynous insanity of Michael Jackson (arguably one of the greatest entertainers of all time), or the karate chopping, UFO-sighting, rhinestone jumpsuit-wearing (also questionably pedophilic) Elvis, who may or may not have been involved with the FBI, CIA, and extraterrestrials. Throw in a goat, a monkey, and a 50-gallon drum of Vaseline, and you have one seriously bizarre clusterfuck. Unfortunately, in the music world that's the kind of thing it takes to get noticed. Liberace was probably at one time a fairly unremarkable Polish kid from Wisconsin; Madonna was just a high school cheerleader from Pontiac, Mich.; the members of Kiss were just hardworking metal musicians from the boroughs; and GG Allin was just a boy from Vermont who was born with the name Jesus Christ Allin, cross-dressed for the last three years of high school, did a stint at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College, and made a career(?) out of urinating, defecating, flinging feces, bleeding, and vomiting onstage. OK, so maybe Jesus was crazier than a shit-house rat from start to finish, but he still managed to get gigs, and that's the point really. In the music business, there is always someone willing to encourage and reward insanity. Lady Gaga is a pretty good singer and all, but could she make it without the meat dress? Or the bubble dress? Or the Kermit the Frog dress? At some point her career will slow down and she'll end up paying Franc Fernandez to design her a dress out of dalmatian puppy hides, human placentas, or maybe circumcised foreskins. At some point you either decide to wear the hamster carcass earrings or end up doing matinee shows in Branson, Mo. In music, you're either on your way up or on your way down. In one night you can go from windmilling power chords in front of a club full of screaming fans to washing your underwear in a gas station restroom on the interstate. One month your album is at the top of the charts; the next month it's not even on the charts. One night you're on *Leno*, the next night you're on *Leno*. It's no surprise that many musicians try to even out the peaks and valleys with drugs and alcohol, which are always easily available. Often as not, they only amp up the insanity, and bartenders and drug dealers aren't necessarily predisposed or trained to deal with complex emotional and psychological issues – especially if they're not getting paid. Thankfully Austin has an organization that offers musicians opportunities to seek help from people who are trained to deal with psychological and substance abuse issues. It's called the SIMS Foundation, and this Saturday it's hosting the SIMS Benefit Bash at the Austin Music Hall, a fundraising concert featuring a who's who of Austin Musicians: Eliza Gilkyson, Ian McLagan, Will Sexton, David Garza, Graham Reynolds, Kat Edmonson, Don Harvey, Brownout, Lauren Larson, Ruby Jane Smith, Amy Cook, Mark Andes, and Scrappy Jud Newcomb, among others. For less than the price of a round of Jäger shots, you can show some musicians how much you appreciate them in a way that actually does them some good.

The Luv Doc

SIMS Benefit Bash • Sat., Dec. 11
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www.simsfoundation.org


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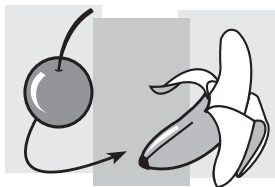
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Lovers Lane



VINTAGE ROMANCE

I am a student and I am looking for a smart man that can be in a long term relationship. Very interested in music, classic movies, and conspiracies theories. **vintage60**, 20, **LO**, #129658

SINGLE

It's so hard to describe myself as I am sure it's for most people. I guess the best way to put it's that I am genuine person with a huge heart.... **mybarbara01**, 33, **LO**, #134314

SMART, CONFIDENT, FUN

Really? 30-word limit to describe myself? Um, I can strike up conversation with anyone, I studied French for eight years for nothing, and do boxer-wearing guys worry about saggy balls? **lesoleil**, 38, **LO**, #134303

FUTURISTIC CHICK

I enjoy listening to bands, going out for coffee, or watching movies. I'm looking for an honest, hardworking guy that has been in the Austin area for a while. **geminigirl82**, 28, **LO**, #119250

LOVE+WAR=ME

Trying to find a true romance. really quirky and energetic. I talk in circles but make perfect sense. I want to be myself around someone thats original and cheesy. **classylikeboxwine**, 23, **LO**, #134238

GOOFY CUTE GIRL

Looking to meet new people and maybe even that special someone. I like to go to concerts, movies, swimming, kayaking, hiking, shopping, dancing, dining out, traveling, cuddling on the couch, laugh and goof around with good people. **MariaFria**, 24, **LO**, #134227

ACTIVE AND OUT-OF-CONTROL

Looking for someone that is as passionate for life as I am! Must enjoy outdoors and love dogs! Motivated and Inspired feel free to contact me! **mkissd9m**, 27, **LO**, #134221

ROBOT... BEEP!

I love shows, being successful, and biking. In a partner I fancy eyes, beards, intelligence, and opinions. I'm not into consumerism or big corporations. I like dominance, I seek my opposite. **Euphoria**, 21, **LO**, #134192

SHY, AWKWARD, BANGIN'!

I like being comfortable! I enjoy food- currently craving some seafood, & dessert. I love spontaneous events- I need them! I love a good movie, musicals, and Frank Sinatra! Mmmm! **brightsmile**, 20, **LO**, #134135

RAMBLING LITERARY FOOL

I'm a native midwesterner. More than anything I love a good book and I'm not a snob about the genre. I love a good wit. **beetpollen**, 26, **LO**, #134116

EVERYWHERE YOU TURN

unbelievably delightful looking for same. **mary99**, 37, **LO**, #134093

SASSY, OUTGOING, TRAVELER

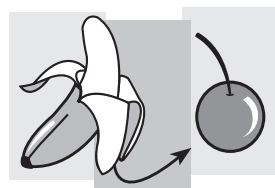
Been out of the dating scene for awhile and am ready to get back in. I try to live life to the fullest. Looking for someone who feels the same. **liz512**, 35, **LO**, #134081

LOOKING 4 LUV

am single n looking for the right man. **ladype2009**, 33, **LO**, #133518

FUN LOVING 23

Seeking new friends and open to dates! I love games, movies, camping, all kinds of music, beer, being near water, and I'm currently learning how to grill (help me learn!). **darthkellie**, 23, **LO**, #134016



SEEKS LAUGHING BUDDHES!

Wow, approaching 60 in February, and I feel like I've already crammed several lifetimes into this one already - seeking similar soul. **eclectic7**, 59, **LO**, #134369

LAID BACK, SARCASTIC

Flirting on Lover's Lane is way fun, so return the favor ya love-sick sucka. BONUS POINTS: smart/shrewd/witty, into cool music & movies, easy-going, redhead(?), chill. **DestinysChild**, 23, **LO**, #134353

FAR FROM AVERAGE

I am a cool guy, very laid back. Twisted, sarcastic sense of humor. Not a huge party person. 30 word limit for this is ridiculous. Ask me about me! **whateversclever**, 29, **LO**, #134351

NEW SMILE'N TOWN

New in town and need a buddy to show me around Austin. Call me, let's work it out! **Jackwagon42**, 41, **LO**, #134332

JAPANESE ITALIAN MAN

I am not much on talking about myself but I am very honest, giving, fun, loving, and I love playing pool. Can't wait to hear from you! **brucelee753**, 44, **LO**, #134333

HEY OVER HERE

Looking for a woman whose inner Morticia can get along with my inner Gomez. **kuxansum**, 37, **LO**, #134309

THREE WORD HEADLINE?

Not looking for a serious relationship, because I'm not looking for seriousness in anything at the moment. Gainfully employed, pursuing goals, but wanting a friend for fun: clean AND dirty. **Waken_baker**, 27, **LO**, #134297

ALWAYS A SMILE

I'm nice, honest, and open. Looking to find a sweet girl to share my adventures with. **straight_texas**, 20, **LO**, #134285

HOPELESS ROMANTIC...

Hopeless Romantic looking for crazy awesome chick to share in crazy awesome adventures. Anime, cooking, and general geekiness should abound. **Zoobezzaiger**, 21, **LO**, #134279

ON THE WHATEVER

I ain't lookin' to compete with you, Beat or cheat or mistreat you, Simplify you, classify you, Deny, defy or crucify you. All I really want to do is, babybefriendedwithyou. **wildman79**, 31, **LO**, #134261

OUTGOING AND ENERGETIC

My name is Micah and I moved to this great city in January of 2010. Looking to meet some individuals with similar interest. **opptimistic365**, 25, **LO**, #134258

HONEST, WITTY MUSICIAN

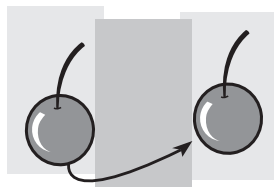
New to Austin and decided to stop poking fun at people who do this and awkwardly give it a shot. Feel free to be honest with a nice, funny guy. **Neuby**, 25, **LO**, #134254

SEMI-INTELLECTUAL COWBOY

Entrepreneur, economist, engineer Enjoy post-Keynesian economics, water-snow skiing, tennis, world travel, and quirky/foreign movies. I am looking for world/adventure travel mate, latin-country dance partner, and more. **Satchel51**, 59, **LO**, #134166

EASY GOING GUY

I like to relax and enjoy the rain. I love animals, art, music, and learning new things. I'm not in Austin often, but when I am, it feels like home. **graphitegraphics**, 30, **LO**, #134246



SHY, EASY GOING

pretty quiet at first but once the engines start im pretty easy going. looking for some convo and maybe more. want to start out slow. **istal-ilshy**, 28, **LO**, #134345

BOHEMIAN PARADISE

I have a big heart and dedicate a lot of my time helping others. I love learning and celebrating diverse cultures. I try to live a sustainable lifestyle. **sillywoman**, 18, **LO**, #134320

KIND HEARTED, SWEET, CARING

i'm a stay at home mommy...looking for someone mature and good head on her sholders.kids are okay. Come cuddle up with me. Even if your just looking for friends. **ShyMariposa**, 27, **LO**, #134222

LAUGH AT LIFE

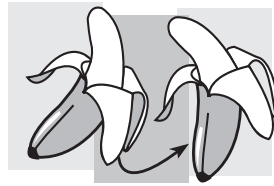
sooo ive never dated a woman, but want to. live for music, 420, and findin my bliss people tell me im honest and passionate and bourbon makes me grin. **katkins**, 22, **LO**, #134157

SHY, CREATIVE, OUT-GOING

I'm shy when i first meet someone but i warm up pretty fast, I'm openminded and always ready to try new things. **singingpoema**, 19, **LO**, #134146

SHY, CREATIVE, OUT-GOING

I'm shy when i first meet someone but i warm up pretty fast, I'm openminded and always ready to try new things. **singingpoema**, 19, **LO**, #134146



LOOKING FOR LOVE

am faithful,honest n single. **terrylarry75**, 55, **LO**, #133519

AM SUPA RAD

I am looking for a ganster/skaterish/emo type. DON'T LIKE FLAMERS. so please be down to earth. I am chill and party alot. No drama for me please! **mp3d3**, 18, **LO**, #133225

LONELY ROMANTIC

38yo,Hispanic male , 5'6",200,br/br,very easy going and affectionate ,romantic,spontaneous,ambitious, love the outdoors,travel,would like to find a guy i can spend time with and get to know and see what happens from there. **sthaustin78704**, 39, **LO**, #130019

NEED MASCULINE/ WITTY

I'm a professional who has great wit. I like romance, but not mush. Masculinity and cleanliness a must. Dieting/ exercising to make myself marketable. Will take awhile. **Michael2009**, 51, #129633

MAKE AN OFFER

Available: One late model white male, low mileage, well-maintained, single-owner, runs smooth, tune-ups performed regularly, firm but comfortable seating with tons of features. Some minor scratches/flaws, but hardly noticeable. **tkaustin**, 49, **LO**, #119526



TWO LEFT FEET

Help! Two left feet looking to learn how to dance with a patient compassionate instructor for fitness and fun! Very high energy, focused and passionate. **waterlootexas**, 41, **LO**, #134367



Flavor of the Week

SCORPIOWOMAN2008 Age: 41

Small Town Girl

I am originally from a small town...just moved to Austin 5 months ago. I am told that I wear my heart on my sleeve which means a lot of people have taken advantage of my generosity and kindness. I live by the Golden Rule: treat others as you want to be treated.

read the rest of **SCORPIOWOMAN2008's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**

SOUTHWEST OH YEAH!

Time for a vacation, in search of fun memories!! Looking for a friend/group that has fun. I'm deep into music, (guitar jammer myself)...texas choppers, great cuisine, and people with substance. **chopperboy75**, 35, #134177

TRUST ME, GNARLY!!

Hes the BOOGIE WOOGIE Pool Player from COMPANY B. **boeomob-soom**, 37, **LO**, #134189

ATHLETIC WOMAN INTHEMAKING

First&Foremost, I lost 114 lbs!Yay me!! love life,swimming,Dancing Like There's No Tomorrow,Nature, Jogging,Laughing, I'veAlwaysWantedToPlanElegantTeaParties, MaybeOtherLadiesLooking4TheSameInA TrueFriend? I'm not only turning a new leaf,I've replanted myself and grew on a grand new tree. **Q2G83**, 27, **LO**, #134160

a shot in the dark

KMART WITH KOOZIE?

We talked for a minute. You were drinking a beer wrapped in a koozie and said your friends called you KMart. Let's talk more. **When: Tuesday, November 16. Where: Bone Daddys. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905108**

HALF PRICE BOOKS

So.. Half price books..me glad to find cohen.. U are old and cand handle pong.. Do not even know if your available.. Thought u were lovely **When: Sunday, December 5. Where: Half price books s. Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905106**

STARBUCKS OAK HILL

You: Justin, Sbx @ the Y, am shift. Me: Venti iced coffee w/add shot in red car. Where did you go? **When: Sunday, November 14. Where: Starbucks. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905105**

TEXAS WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

You said you worked for TX Health Science Center. I commented on you using two phones. I was encumbered but spoke with you. Meet for coffee or soft drink. **When: Friday, December 3. Where: Texas Womens Volleyball game. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905104**

ELYSIUM 80'S NIGHT

I was dancing, heartbreak in my head. Out of nowhere you say "Let it go!" We kissed before your friends stole you away. Wanna know how you read my mind. **When: Sunday, November 21. Where: Elysium 80's Night. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905103**

TACOS DE PESCADO

You: Enjoying a fish taco and noticing the bump of the waitress offering cheer. Me: Across the table, enjoying those freshly cut bangs, that vibrant expression, and having you near. **When: Wednesday, November 24. Where: Eastside Beauty. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905102**

MANDOLIN ANGEL

Wow your comments struck me again. Is it Karma? You deserve better. Are you available for a unique, sparkling fine dining experience? **When: Tuesday, November 30. Where: health n wellness. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905101**

FALLINGOFF BENCH4 YOU

Me-girl who broke a bench at Fresh Choice. You - cute left-handed boy. Let's meet at Fresh Choice on 16th. I'll be sitting at a table with chairs this time. **When: Tuesday, November 30. Where: Fresh Choice. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905100**

GLITTERMASK @THE "BALL"

Met at the "Ball" at the ND on the 19th. You wore all black and was standing near the chocolate fondu table. I wore all black w/a glitter mask on. **When: Friday, November 19. Where: "Ball" at the ND. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905097**

SUN HARVEST CHECKOUT

Sun Harvest checkout Monday night. Spoke pasta dinner for a second before checking out. Should have asked you to join me. You are amazing. **When: Monday, November 29. Where: Sun Harvest. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905096**

SUNDAY THRIFT SHOPPER.

You: Short dark hair. Tall with confident, thoughtful eyes. Horses on your jacket. Me: The guy who should have introduced himself, green sweater. **When: Sunday, November 28. Where: Oltorf and Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905095**

AUSTIN JAVA SUNDAY

me - a (single) guy sitting inside with his best female friend. you - gorgeous blonde with wool cap sitting by herself on the deck. I think we should meet. **When: Sunday, November 28. Where: Barton Springs Drive. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905093**

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more than a list

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