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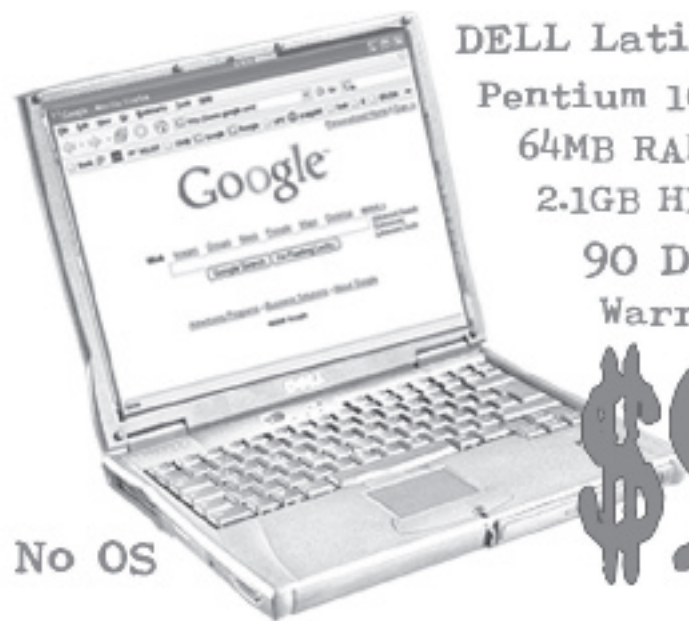
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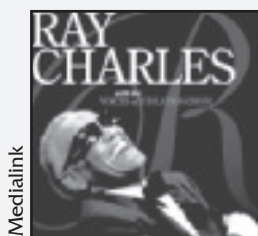
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Wells Dunbar, Katherine Gregor, Margaret Moser, Marc Savlov, Amy Smith, Jordan Smith

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TV EYE Belinda Acosta
TCB Christopher Gray
VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Benné Rocket
DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod
MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. Steinberg
LETTERS AT 3AM Michael Ventura
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Selling Short in the Marketplace of Ideas

'Consequences' wrought in the pursuit of silencing speech should be of deep concern to all

BY LOUIS BLACK

This is the last column for a long time that will address the issue of the Dixie Chicks and free speech, but it does so because I'm still perplexed by many of the responses to my two previous columns on the topic. Either I'm not making myself very clear or I'm missing something pretty basic.

Free speech: When I write about "free speech" in this column, it is almost never a reference to the First Amendment to the Constitution, which grants all citizens free speech. As with the other freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, this means that the government won't prevent speech. When I refer to free speech in this space, I am usually referring to the fact that a healthy, sane society thrives when there is a willingness and atmosphere that encourages the free exchange of ideas between all citizens (of, in this case, the constitutional republic of the United States). The more open the atmosphere, the healthier the societies; assaults on free speech are their most deadly cancers.

Opinion: This is my opinion and nothing more. I am the editor of this weekly, but I have no judicial, political, or legislative authority of any sort. Not only am I not advocating censorship or speech restrictions, but I would fight those restrictions, no matter who they were against, as well. What I present here are ideas; they are absolutely not a call for legislation, boycotts, or to shut up, in any way, those with whom I disagree. The contention here is that, in the Chicks' case, the response was more the result of a continued, malicious focus on the topic by some of country radio and right-wing talk radio than anything else. Rather than being an expression of individuals' disgust, this outrage was manipulation of the public by overt demagoguery.

One relatively harmless comment by the Dixie Chicks was wildly exploited in a massive media campaign (this is not suggesting

any conspiracy). The response was not a nationally spontaneous reaction by individuals but instead was driven by radio's obsessive focus on the comment. Participating stations not only stopped playing Dixie Chicks' music but encouraged people to destroy their CDs and not to attend the group's concerts, as well. This was clearly aimed at wrecking the Chicks' career, which both C&W deejays and right-wing talk-show radio hosts made explicitly clear, usually by stating it outright.

This campaign had the unavoidable subtext of attacking both the anti-war movement specifically and, more generally, anyone who questioned U.S. policy. Right-wing talk radio's position on the Dixie Chicks matter was very much in line with its main thesis: that most of this country's problems are really caused by other Americans (clueless Democrats/liberals/progressives/communist-Marxist traitors). Encouraging many Americans to hate many other Americans is obscene. Respecting, rather than demeaning, other Americans' opinions – even when disagreeing with them or encouraging others to do so – is healthy: Free speech doesn't just invite debate but is dependent on it.

"Free Speech" and Consequences: It does seem that some of the letters on recent columns are not disputing points that have been made but instead my right to respond. Evidently, if I believe in open dialogue and free speech, and in addition express ideas that are different from other people's, I am being a hypocrite.

One letter states that, although I acknowledge everyone's free speech rights, I then add that I "would prefer that right to be exercised without having to worry about censorship or retaliation. That does nothing but move the debate from the meaning of free speech to the meaning of retaliation, since 'censorship,'

properly defined, refers solely to governmental penalties. ... If an audience retaliates by not buying CDs or concert tickets, that is (or should be) perfectly acceptable in a free society ... but that seems to be what Louis' beef boils down to. Unfortunately for his position, saying whatever one likes and having immunity from the consequences is not free speech but irresponsible speech. Only dictators get to enjoy that one. [His] observation that 'Criticism is not censorship, expressing concerns is not demanding legislation, and disagreeing with people is not telling them to shut up' adds little light, as it could apply equally well to any side of the question – to the Chicks' criticism of Bush or to the resulting criticism of the Chicks or to Louis' criticism of the critics."

Actually, of course, that last sentence is not true. The Chicks were expressing an opinion with no implications of censorship or legislation. Yet criticism of the Chicks, hyped up by media, was very clearly aimed at telling them to shut up. If you feel this wasn't the result of media but a spontaneous protest by individuals, then we disagree, and there is no real issue here for you.

Yes, there can and sometimes should be consequences to what one says – but disagreeing with an opinion is not, in and of itself, suppression of that opinion. Unfortunately, the notion of consequences is waved as a battle flag under whose colors almost anything is justified.

In an open society with a free exchange of ideas, it shouldn't be the case that we hold our noses or are morally repulsed by what others say while begrudgingly acknowledging that they have the "right" to speak such vile lunacy. Instead, many different viewpoints and opinions, discussed and debated (even viciously), result in the most reasonable considerations. Free speech is not just a privilege granted in the Bill of Rights; it is fundamen-

Oops! In last week's story about the Supreme Court hearing arguments regarding the ban on "partial-birth" abortion, we incorrectly implied that Solicitor General Paul Clement told the justices that doctors who perform so-called "intact extraction" procedures have offered "cause-specific reasons" for choosing that procedure. In fact, Clement told the court that doctors have not offered specific reasons to explain why the procedure is ever necessary. As such, Clement argued, doctors use intact extraction only out of "preference." We regret the error.

tally necessary and healthy for a democratic constitutional republic. "Consequences" that are very clearly wrought in the pursuit of silencing speech should be of deep concern to all. One would think that, whether coming from the left or the right, most of us (even, if not especially, hardcore conservatives) would vehemently object to any such campaigns.

Outrage should be especially fierce when the campaign against particular speech is one that is artificially stoked and media-mounted. It comes as no surprise that letter-writers on this issue address their own motivation because, in any seriousness, would anyone really try to argue that Natalie Maines' statement was in any way potentially anti-American and/or traitorous? Come on, how upset can one get at "Just so you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas"?

If the Chicks (or any group) were from Arkansas and, an administration back, had said the same thing about Bill Clinton, what do you think would have been the hard right and talk radio's response?

Beating This Topic to Death: Yet Maines' comment resulted in an outrageous, scary, and uncalled-for reaction. Sadly, it was not very unique; under the headings of "consequences" and "patriotism," assaults on Americans' freedom to speak their minds have become commonplace. It is troubling to watch the free expression of ideas being met by economic boycott and speakers being personally attacked and demonized, accompanied

continued on p.8

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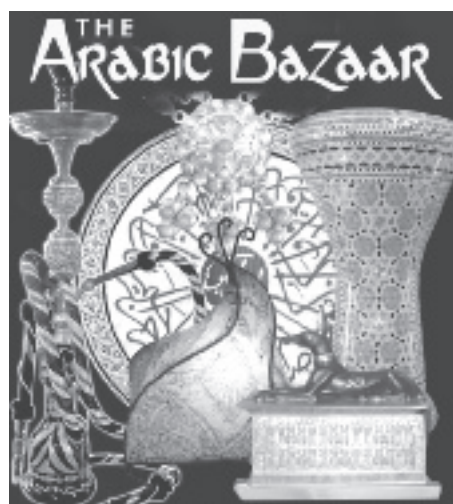
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by calls for censorship, repressive legislation, and even social ostracism. One would think true conservatives would be die-hard defenders of an open society. In the same ways, however, some of them swoon over the possibilities of one-party/one-ideology politics; they have participated in the administration and Republican right's sustained effort at suppressing and silencing dissident voices.

Elements of both the left and the right have come to regard dialogue, in general, as immoral and cowardly. Debate, especially when excited and partisan, is discouraged, as there is only one "truth." Compromise, one of the most crucial principles behind the kind of government laid out in the Constitution, is regarded as selling out.

My concern is that there is so little respect for ideas and opinions, many think that any disagreement is not just an expression of opinion. Instead, they assume, it has to be some kind of call for censorship, legislation, retaliation, or a denial of the right to speak for those who think differently. Clearly and again, this column participates in the ongoing dialogue among all Americans about ideas and philosophies. It does this by presenting my opinions. One thing I am very specifically not doing is asking for any active government, community, partisan, legal, or consistent response. Suppression, silence, acquiescence, or conformity epitomizes the antithesis of what is intended. My opinions are just more fodder for thought in an open, engaged society – and nothing more. ■

Actually, Ours Did

Dear Editor,

I was going to let pass the notice in the last *Chronicle's* letters section ["Postmarks," Nov. 17] that "'Page Two' is taking a break this week" when I read Thomas B. Edsall's column in Saturday's *New York Times*.

He recalled a late 1950s incident when Sen. Nancy Pelosi's father and old-school political boss, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. of Baltimore, was asked by a cub reporter about spending a large amount of taxpayer money to renovate his office. The reporter said to the mayor, "My desk wants me to ask you why you are spending so much money on your office." D'Alesandro put his ear close to his desk, then responded: "My desk tells you desk to [expletive]."

Anthropomorphizing nouns is common in English. Although chairs can talk, D'Alesandro perhaps thought that desks could not or at least should speak for themselves. And before now editorials haven't taken vacations.

Monnie Anderson

Battle Against Hep C Rages On

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the hep C reports ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24; "The Growing Chorus," Music, Aug. 21, 1998]. The word needs to get out truthfully. We think my HCV was contracted in a job-site accident where there was blood, and I CPR'd as first responder. In those days they trained CPR but did not give blood-borne pathogen training or have Ambu Bags on-site. But the Sixties were the Sixties, and drugs, tattoos, and transfusions as a source cannot be ruled out in my case. It

really doesn't matter how you get it, it's how to stop it that does matter! Maybe if we can get our leaders to stop warring for fun and profit, the medical community will have time and money for treatments besides hard-on pills and butt-bulging drugs. Getting tested and treatment is a must! I know of two others that responded well and got clear through treatment, but in my case, by the time it was detected, because of an artery from the liver to my heart blowing out creating internal bleeding and necessitating surgery, it may be too late. I have battled now four-plus years and did Peg-Intron treatments for two years with many sidecar pills and knocked it down but not out, then with continuing sidecars and finally another three months of daily Inergen shots (not FDA approved yet) and sidecars has not given it the boot. The side effects and depression are living hell, and I couldn't take it anymore for a while and have stopped the shots but continue the pills, eating right, and taking herbs and vitamins. No drugs or alcohol. The viral infection has also attacked my heart now giving me an irregular heartbeat that we also are treating. So it definitely is the *dragon*, and it is hard to slay, and it is definitely taking lives, not only by itself but also with affordability and the lack of a real program and push effort on behalf of our powers that be. Thank you again for your help in bringing this terrible disease to the public's attention. The battle rages on!

Robin Johns

Jumps to Conclusions

Dear Editor,

Re: Michael Ventura's opposition to Barack Obama ["Letters at 3am," Nov. 24]: Ventura might want to check more than the one Obama speech referred to in his article (which was not that different from Harry Reid's assurance of his interest in working with the administration or Nancy Pelosi's comment, "partnership not partisanship") in asserting that he is the same as Joe Lieberman. In October 2002, while a state senator, Obama gave a strong speech in opposition to the war in Iraq and has consistently opposed the war, unlike Lieberman and Hillary Clinton. And, except for the war in Iraq issue, most liberals would probably agree with Lieberman on other issues. Ventura needs to do a better job of research before jumping to conclusions.

Russell Harding

Remember Those East of I-35

Dear Editor,

There have been recent articles in both the *Chronicle* ["The Town Lake Variance Shuffle," News, Nov. 24] and the *Austin American-Statesman* regarding proposed development along Town Lake and developer requests for variances regarding setbacks, threats to continue or not continue the Town Lake hike-and-bike trail depending upon variances being granted, and petitions to trade public access for variances.

continued on p.10

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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- 4) URL
- 5) phone contact (name and number) for fact-checking (not to be published)
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These articles have focused on the shoreline west of I-35. We, the stakeholders east of I-35 in the East Riverside/Oltorf Neighborhood Planning Area have been fighting these same battles. In dealings with the Constellation Property Group concerning redevelopment at 1001 S. I-35, with AMLI Residential concerning redevelopment at 1708, 1712, and 1720 S. Lakeshore and with Cypress Real Estate advisers concerning redevelopment at 2217, 2227, and 2336 S. Lakeshore, we have been asked to approve height and impervious cover variances to both the South Lakeshore and East Riverside Subdistrict regulations of the Waterfront Overlay. In discussions with developers, compliance with the Waterfront Overlay has been used as a bargaining chip as a trade-off for requests for increased density and FAR. We believe that the regulations developed to protect Town Lake are sacrosanct and were created so that all of the citizens of Austin could enjoy its beauty; they were not created so that a chosen few could modify them for short-term profit. We sincerely believe that Town Lake should not be for sale to the highest bidder.

Janice Long
East Riverside/Oltorf Neighborhood Planning
Contact Team

What About Wal-Mart Story?

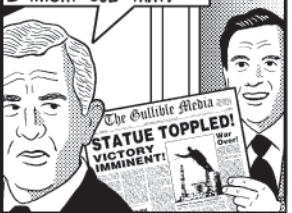
Dear Editor,
I'm curious (and upset) about why there has not been any reporting on the proposed Wal-Mart coming into the Northcross Center? There is a huge opposition group, and I keep expecting the *Chronicle* to pick up on the story.

Meredith Thomas
[Editor's note: Please see the Nov. 24 "Naked City" and "Point Austin" for more on this.]

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

BALLAD OF A NEO CON

FEATURING THE GENERIC CONSERVATIVE GUY!



FROM THE TIME HE WAS A SMALL BOY, HE HAD BUT ONE AMBITION IN LIFE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, MOTHER-- BUT I'VE ALWAYS FELT A SPECIAL KINSHIP WITH THE PLUCKY PEOPLE OF IRAQ!

WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD LIBERATE THEM SOMEDAY?

INDEED IT WOULD, DEAR!

THE YEARS PASSED...AND EVENTUALLY, THROUGH A COMBINATION OF HARD WORK AND SHEER GOOD LUCK, HE SAW HIS LIFELONG DREAM REALIZED.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO BE SAID, SIR--"MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

HEH, HEH! THAT'S GOOD! I MIGHT USE THAT!

BUT ODDLY, THE LIBERATED IRAQI PEOPLE DID NOT BEHAVE AS HE HAD IMAGINED THEY MIGHT.

CHAOS--VIOLENCE--TORTURE--KIDNAPPINGS--BEHEADINGS--

DON'T THEY UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE LIBERTY?

AND NOW, WITH HIS DREAMS (AND INCIDENTALLY, THE NATION OF IRAQ) IN SHAMBLES, THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO--FIND SOMEBODY TO BLAME!

RUMSFELD REALLY SCREWED THIS UP! NOT TO MENTION CONDI!

AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON CHALABI!

AM I ALONE IN MY COMPETENCE?!

NEXT: HIS LIFELONG AFFINITY FOR THE PLUCKY PEOPLE OF IRAN!

What About Personal Responsibility and Anal Sex?

Dear Editor,
Margaret Moser writes "Between 1979 and 1984, I had a nasty speed and cocaine habit going. It was not as bad as some, but it was worse than others" ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24]. Let me guess, Moser's habit was not as bad as those junkies who are now dead. Is that correct? I've been reading a lot in the local media about people with bad livers, their health com-

plications, problems with health insurance, and the difficulty of getting a liver transplant. The *American-Statesman* recently had a massive front-page article about this.

This past year, *The Austin Chronicle* ran a cover about a nice punk rock clown whose liver, ravaged with hepatitis C, basically exploded, and he died ["Making Biscuit," Music, Aug. 19, 2005].

Hey, when is *The Austin Chronicle* going to write an article about personal responsibility that goes on for pages and pages and pages? When is *The Austin Chronicle* going to write an article about the health evils of drug use and anal sex, especially homo anal sex that rambles endlessly for pages? When is *The Austin Chronicle* going to write an article about not killing your liver with alcohol, drug use, and risky, unnaturally dangerous anal sex?

Robert Morrow

Shame on Hyde Park Church

Dear Editor,

Kudos to you, Emily Pyle and to *The Austin Chronicle*. I have been an avid reader of your publication for the past 18 years and have always found it to be one of the most honest and poignant delivery systems of local and national news. "When the Bough Breaks," in your Nov. 17 issue [News], hit particularly close to home for me, not only as a mother of young children, but also as a new director of a child-development center. I had chills reading this story and couldn't believe the attempted cover-up and passé attitude of the three directors of Hyde Park Baptist Church. I also found the Department of Family and Protective Services' investigation quite unbelievable. I have been submitted to many reviews by this particular department, and you wouldn't believe the attitude that I have encountered regarding something as simple as a

continued on p.12

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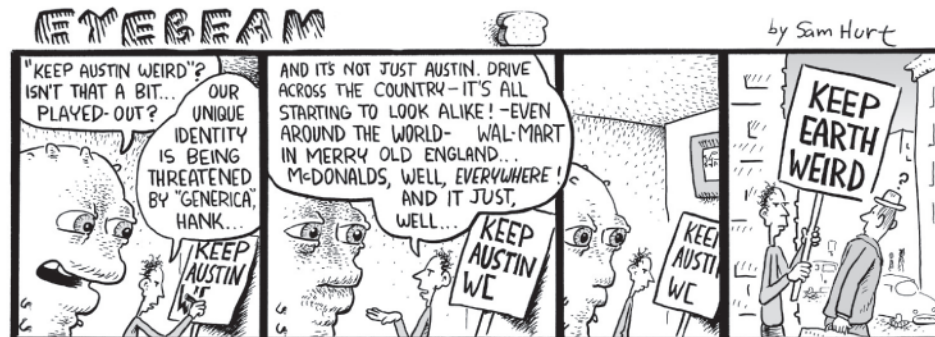
bleach solution! In my short stint as a preschool director (less than 24 months with summers off!), I have seen five different licensing representatives come through my child-development center. I wonder if the high turn-over rate isn't something to be concerned about. I know they are in place to protect our children, and rightly so, but I get the feeling that this isn't going to happen in this situation. I am applauding Tara Turner for not letting the *big* guys get away with alleged inappropriate and indirect child abuse. Shame on you, Hyde Park Baptist Church!

Kym Borman

Black Confused on Free Speech

Dear Editor,

Surprisingly for a publication that's in the business, there seems to be a confusion at the *Chronicle* about what the right to free speech is and is not. Louis Black is laudably clear that he recognizes everyone's right to say (and do!) what they want, but then adds that he would prefer that right to be exercised without having to worry about censorship or retaliation ["Page Two," Nov. 24]. That does nothing but move the debate from the meaning of free speech to the meaning of retaliation, since "censorship," properly defined, refers solely to governmental penalties, which no one claims happened (or should happen) with the Dixie Chicks. If the government were to retaliate with fines and/or imprisonment for what one says, that too would be censorship and an unacceptable denial of the right to free speech. However, if an audience retaliates by not buying



CDs or concert tickets, that is (or should be) perfectly acceptable in a free society (although perhaps unpleasant to the target) – but that seems to be what Louis' beef boils down to. Unfortunately for his position, saying whatever one likes and having immunity from the consequences is not free speech but irresponsible speech. Only dictators get to enjoy that one.

Louis' observation that "Criticism is not censorship, expressing concerns is not demanding legislation, and disagreeing with people is not telling them to shut up" adds little light, as it could apply equally well to any side of the question – to the Chicks' criticism of Bush or to the resulting criticism of the Chicks or to Louis' criticism of the critics. Perhaps he could review that paragraph for comfort if the talk radio on the subject gets too irritating.

Meanwhile, across the aisle, in her review of *Shut Up & Sing* [Film Listings, Nov. 17], Marjorie Baumgarten considers us lucky that the Chicks chose not to surrender "their freedom of speech." Marjorie, in America it's impossible to surrender one's freedom of speech – but not to evade the free-market consequences of its exercise.

Sincerely,
Alan McKendree

Characterization Unfair

Dear Editor,

I was glad to see Charles Baird win the election to replace Jon Wisser as criminal district judge in the past election. I felt he was the most qualified candidate and voted for him. But it was inaccurate and unfair for the *Chronicle* to characterize Madeleine Connor as "the GOP's token candidate" ["Election 2006," News, Nov. 10]. Ms. Connor's decision to run against Judge Baird was a personal one, not driven by partisan politics but by her sincere belief that Judge Baird was not the best person to sit as district judge in Travis County. She sought, and obtained, support for her campaign on both sides of the aisle – both Democratic and Republican, both prosecution and defense. While Ms. Connor may not yet have tried a criminal case, her background as a clerk for the Court of Criminal Appeals will someday serve her well when she does enter the judiciary, at whatever level. Travis County has a history of being well-served by Republican trial court judges (even if their tenures are short), and I hope that Ms. Connor will become part of that tradition in the future.

Michael Simpson

The Wrong Path for Hep C

Hi guys,

Enjoyed Margaret Moser's update article on hep C ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24]; I did the treatment, too, back in the Nineties. Not fun, but it works. Her update still fails to spell out the facts on the herbal treatment. From my own experience and that of the medical community, it just doesn't work. You'll just feel better while your liver fails. I'm sure most of the people mentioned in the article already know this, but you'll be doing those just starting treatment a favor by not pointing them down the wrong path.

Thanks,
Doug Hanners

Nutrition Instead of Drugs

Dear Editor,

Your recent articles on hepatitis C were great ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24; "The Growing Chorus," Music, Aug. 21, 1998]. As a registered nurse, I see many people who suffer with illnesses for which the pharmaceutical companies act as if only *they* have the solution. That is *not* true. When given the right nutrients, the human body is capable of miracles. I know hundreds of people who have taken a patented nutritional product, and their bodies healed themselves. One friend who had hep C, took this product and after one year was off the liver transplant list and now is free of the virus. I became a nurse to help people and am able to do so because of *nutrition*, not drugs. Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine said, "Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food."

Connie Gray, RN

continued on p.14

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Lemens Building Austin Icon

Dear Editor,

A most obvious Austin (self-made) icon sits at 1509 Guadalupe nestled in a corner of an imposing 15-story square city-block building ["Icon or Eyesore?," News, Nov. 24]. I drive by the small two-story Lemens Finance Building/Eagle Bank several times a week and fondly remember the exasperation of the greedy, corrupt developer in his attempts to coerce the small, longtime owner into selling his corner business so he could complete his prodigy with millions of dollars. Unable to comprehend the owner's answer that he would not sell because his customers had been so loyal throughout the years and that he did not want to forsake them, the developer built his building around the Eagle Bank, went bankrupt, and disappeared from view ... all the while the little building sits on the corner in the shadows of the tall behemoth with its light shining brightly in the window.

Julio Maldonado

McMansions Impact Neighbors

Dear Editor,

Over the last couple of years, the McMansion debate has taken its course through Austin politics, culminating in the much-justified decision to limit the size of these gigantic monstrosities. However, what is still overlooked in debates is the actual plight of the neighbor during the construction process. My mother is a 10-year resident of the Zilker neighborhood. Over the past two years, she has had to deal with early-morning work crews seven days a week (yes, Sundays included), building debris on her property, and the loss of a business (due to the noise pollution). She and her neighbors are left with an oversized "house"

that eclipses the others, and, even worse, a new set of neighbors with whom they are already at odds. As Austin continues a tradition of responsible development, we must not forget that social responsibility is also very important to maintain a successful and happy community. Building ethically and respecting your neighbors should be a priority for every builder in the Austin area. After all, Austin isn't great on its own; it takes a common respect among all of its residents to create the quality of life we pride ourselves on.

Alex Hubbard

Spreading the Word

Dear Editor,

I want to tell you that I appreciated your article "Reefer Madness" [News, Nov. 24]. We (as in people who believe the beautiful plant marijuana should be legalized) need more journalists like you who aren't afraid to go against the grain and speak the truth about our corrupt laws and government.

Keep on spreading the word. Peace.

Shawn Dickinson
Reading, Mass.

Corruption in Government

Dear Editor,

I am a student at Northwest Vista, and I am doing a class project in my government class. I recently read an article about Dan Morales and the tobacco lawsuit entitled "Dumb and Dapper: Dan Morales Spends His Way Behind Bars" [News, July 4, 2003] and was very intrigued by it. It really caught my attention. I just wanted to thank you for writing this and putting it in the *Chronicle* for everyone to read and be informed about. I wanted to know what you thought about this issue and other issues similar to it. Do you think that there is a lot of corruption and fraud in our government? Why do you think that these government officials

cause such problems and break the trust that they have instilled in our society? As you can see by reading about Dan Morales, this has caused me to want to find out more about what goes on in the government that is being hidden. I believe that these problems of corruption and fraud in our government could be solved if there was more effective communication occurring. There have to be several ways that these problems can be improved and eliminated. This has got to stop. Once again thank you for writing this article, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Brooke Lester
San Antonio

S. Moser's Oversized Ego

Dear Editor,

Stephen Moser's oversized ego may actually surpass his overblown girth. I wonder if he is so full of hot air that he would pop like a balloon if stuck with a pin.

Judy Richardson
Lillian Bloom Designs

Walls Separate

Dear Editor,

Hundreds of years ago, the Chinese built their famous Great Wall to keep outsiders out. Hundreds of years later, after the fall of Nazi Germany in 1945, the Soviet's built a wall, but it was to keep insiders in. Today we are building a wall in Israel and a wall in the southern United States, both having the objective of keeping outsiders out. We profess as a country, since our very beginning, to welcome all who seek democracy and freedom, and we applauded when the Berlin Wall fell, as it symbolized what had become known as the Iron Curtain.

To save democracy, must we build walls around it to protect it? If democracy is to survive, must we sacrifice freedom for security? These are the questions of today, and they cannot be answered through xenophobia and building more walls. By their very nature, walls do not unite; they separate.

Respectfully,
Len Eagleburger
Springfield, Mo.

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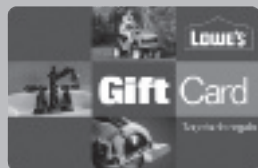
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OH, THE SHAME.

CURIOUSLY STRONG



ROXANNE JO MITCHELL

news

29 THE HIGHTOWER REPORT
30 CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

A group of about 20 Austinites gathered at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in East Austin Tuesday night to discuss proposals for a statue of the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan on the University of Texas campus, including this statue mock-up by sculptor Eddie Dixon. A previous proposal, also depicting Jordan sitting on a bench, was rejected this summer because committee members said it “didn’t capture the essence of Barbara Jordan,” reports *The Daily Texan*. Jordan was Texas’ first black state senator since Reconstruction and the first black female elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and played a prominent role in the Watergate hearings. For more on the statue initiative, go to deanofstudents.utexas.edu/barbarajordan.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I think his goal is to try to confuse folks about what emergency contraceptives are and aren’t. This is an ideological definition of what [emergency contraception] is, that is not backed by science or by the FDA.”

— **Sarah Wheat** of Austin Planned Parenthood, on GOP legislator Frank Corte’s bill to define emergency contraception, see p.24



State Rep. Frank Corte,
R-San Antonio

HEADLINES

- ▶ On Monday, former **Austin Community Television** Executive Director **John Villarreal** was sentenced to seven years in jail for embezzling \$354,000 from the public access station. See p.28.
- ▶ Former state Sen. **Frank Madla** of San Antonio died in a house fire this weekend that also claimed his mother-in-law and granddaughter; and last week, Gov. Rick Perry set a special election for Dec. 19 to fill the House seat of Rep. **Glenda Dawson** of Pearland, who won re-election earlier this month despite having died in September. See “Beyond City Limits,” p.19.
- ▶ Testimony (and weirdness) continued in the preliminary hearings for the rape charges against Mormon fundamentalist leader **Warren Jeffs**. See p.28.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ The **AISD** board of trustees approved 11 **priorities for the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature**. The top priority is pushing for more funding from the state, including an increase that takes enrollment and inflation into account, and the large number of non-English-speaking and poor students in Austin schools. AISD would also like the state to further decrease reliance on local property taxes. District chief legal counsel Mel Waxler says that the school finance legislation passed during the last special session has helped Austin, but not enough. “It increased compensation for teachers and gave us property-tax relief. But it did not fully and effectively create adequacy of funding for Texas districts. The only way for us to meet state mandates — on curriculum and accountability — is with more support from the state,” Waxler says. AISD officials hope to influence legislation at the Capitol by communicating directly with the Central Texas delegates, as well as through interest groups like the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas School Alliance. The district also hires legislative consulting firm Moak, Casey and Associates to help with school finance issues. — *Michael May*
- ▶ In other education news, UT-Austin has released its annual survey of community-college students around the country, the **Community College Survey of Student Engagement**. UT researchers surveyed some 250,000 students and found that it’s often factors outside of class that determine

whether students succeed or fail. The results show that full-time students are more likely to be successful and engaged than part-time students. For instance, students reported that academic advising is the most important service they get at college, but 29% of part-time students said they never received any advising. Part-time students are also less likely to get career advice on campus or discuss grades or assignments with faculty. The survey shows that students are often holding down jobs, caring for dependents, or commuting long distances to school, and often don’t have time to collaborate with students outside of class. It highlights schools, like Santa Fe Community College, that have built facilities to make it easier for students to collaborate and have instituted research-based approaches that encourage faculty to partner with students on projects. — *M.M.*

- ▶ Holy hot cross buns. **Schlotzsky’s**, the Austin-based sandwich deli chain, is now part of a national food group that feasts on cinnamon buns, coffee, ice cream ... and now dill pickles. The homegrown sandwich concern last week changed ownership for the second time in less than two years. Roark Capital Group, an Atlanta-based private-equity firm, bought Schlotzsky’s from Bobby Cox Cos. Inc., of Fort Worth, for an undisclosed amount. Cox had picked up the company for \$28.5 million in a bankruptcy sale, closing on the deal in early 2005. The one-time publicly traded darling had fallen into a deep financial hole, which ultimately led to the August 2004 firing of John and Jeff Wooley, who ran the company for two decades. Schlotzsky’s spent about three months in bankruptcy court before Cox acquired the now-private chain and closed a number of failing stores. Roark controls 1,400 food franchises under its Focus Brands Inc. portfolio, including Cinnabon, Seattle’s Best Coffee International, and Carvel Ice Cream. — *Amy Smith*
- ▶ Anyone interested in the rebuilding of New Orleans should head Saturday, Dec. 2, to the Carver Branch Library (1161 Angelina), one of a number of community sites throughout the country hosting, via TV link, a **Unified New Orleans Plan Community Congress** about putting the city back together. Nonprofit AmericaSpeaks organized the interactive meeting, which will run from 9am to 3:30pm. According to a UNOP press release, UNOP plans to finish its rebuilding plan in January and present it “to the Louisiana Recovery Authority, which is overseeing the state’s recovery efforts, as well as to federal officials and other funders.” To learn more about UNOP, see www.unifiedneworleansplan.com/home2. — *Cheryl Smith*

continued on p.19

POINT AUSTIN

Invisible No More

Houston janitors strike a mighty blow for the value and dignity of labor

BY MICHAEL KING

Judging by the omens, Capital Metro’s Houston-based, union-busting lawyer, Jeff Londa, will soon need to spend more time at home. Thanks to the heroic efforts of Houston janitors organized by the Service Employees International Union, culminating in a four-week strike that ended Nov. 21, corporate lawyers specializing in what they like to call “union avoidance” are anticipating a wave of new business. One told the *Houston Chronicle* forebodingly a few days before the janitors’ victory, “They get the foot in the door, get a decent contract, and [SEIU can] use that as a marketing tool to show workers in other cities how successful they were.” There aren’t too many professions for which “a decent contract” for employees provides an occasion for dire warnings to future clients. If there’s any justice, Houston contractors and corporations will soon have persistent need of the services of just such bottom-feeders, as the SEIU organizing drive spreads beyond the 5,300 janitors in major Houston office buildings to many thousands more service employees throughout the city and — who knows? — elsewhere in Texas and the South.

For the record, the new contract won by the Houston janitors is decent only by the dismal standards of their prestrike employment. The mostly Latina workers earned an average of \$5.25 an hour, or 10 cents more than the federal minimum (often after many years); they had no health insurance, paid vacation days, or other benefits; and since they were largely limited to four-hour shifts, a standard paycheck was \$20 a day, or \$100 a week. Those who could worked two or three jobs to try to make ends meet. Under the new contract, wages will rise to a still-miserly \$7.75 over three years, and workers will eventually be able to buy health insurance for themselves and their families. They will have a grievance procedure and, in a cruel irony of the new, part-time economy, the right to work *longer* hours.

Just as importantly, the workers have won a representative voice in their working conditions and a hard-won sense of dignity. As janitor Mercedes Herrera told the *Los Angeles Times*, before the union she was “an invisible person.” Now, she says, “I’m so happy; I’m so excited. We got justice. This will change my life for my family. ... We worked hard, and janitors won big.”

Taking the Chance

The janitors indeed won big, but only after a risky monthlong strike and a series of public

continued on p.18

protests and civil-disobedience actions (my personal favorite being an afternoon human blockade in the middle of upscale Galleria traffic) involving both local strikers, solidarity “freedom flyers” from other SEIU locals, and volunteers. Because office janitorial work is generally subcontracted, the janitors are employed not directly by building owners but by national subcontractors. By the same token, those subcontractors also have SEIU janitorial contracts (paying much higher wages) in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, and the union thereby has the capacity to spread the pressure nationwide. There were some complaints in Houston business circles about SEIU “outsiders” messing with the local (presumably docile) work force. How is it that capital is presumed to be free to move at light speed, anywhere across the nation and world, but labor is supposed to stay put, keep quiet, and accept whatever the local padrones condescend to pay?

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, I spoke at length with Tom Balanoff (a longtime friend), head of the Illinois-based SEIU Local 1, which took the lead in the Houston organizing effort. SEIU, anchored in the service economy, is now the largest U.S. union and one of the few with a growing membership and economic strength. Balanoff is passionate about the need for the U.S. labor movement to give much more than lip service to national organizing, in the South and elsewhere, and he sees the Houston effort as a potential watershed moment in the fight. “For too long, union leaders have been content to manage their power,” he told me, “instead of trying to build that power. It’s safer and easier that way. But meanwhile, we’ve watched our membership decline and our strength decline.”

By definition, organizing is risky. Balanoff and the SEIU first won recognition for the Houston janitors in 2005 by making it clear to the national contractors that their ongoing employee relationships depended on that recognition. Nevertheless the contractors – and the building owners and their investors, who pay the bills – didn’t believe that the Houston workers, weak in resources and subject to heavy turnover, could effectively be organized. The SEIU provided money, strategy, their best organizing teams, and political and activist solidarity. The Houston workers responded with their own determination to risk their precarious livelihoods for the prospect of a better future. “This is the most exciting effort I’ve ever been involved in,” said Balanoff. “We can’t let it end here – we have to build upon it and carry it on.”

Respect and Dignity

UT law professor and labor historian Jack Getman told the *L.A. Times*, “It’s obviously a major victory. Low-wage workers will hear the message that in solidarity lies strength. ... It’s not going to immediately usher in the unionization of the South, but I think it’s a significant step.” What is most striking about the Houston victory is that it was won not simply by work stoppages but by reaching out beyond the work force and the workplace, to make the janitors’ predicament a broadly public issue. At Chevron headquarters and a Greater

Houston Partnership luncheon, the strikers bluntly compared the billions in current oil profits to the pittance paid to the janitors; others visited J.P. Morgan offices to ask how to plan for a family’s future on \$20 a day.

As the public support for the janitors grew, cops on horseback attacked demonstrators, putting elderly women in the hospital. The Harris County district attorney tried intimidatingly high bails on arrested protesters. Public support for the janitors continued to grow.

When the strike ended, Mayor Bill White criticized some of the strikers’ tactics, but said, “I don’t think people understood how low the wages were and that some people were only working four hours a day.” He called the settlement “a milestone in the history of the city of Houston and, more importantly, something uplifting the lives of Houston residents who are just trying to get by every single day.” A few days later, the *Houston Chronicle*, not exactly legendary as a

The Houston victory was won not simply by work stoppages, but by reaching out to make the janitors’ predicament a broadly public issue.

friend of the workingman, editorialized, “Living in Houston can, and should, be a guarantee that hard work will be rewarded with dignified treatment and a living wage. Janitors, their employers and labor organizers all deserve thanks for making Houston a more fair, more functional community.”

That’s a sentiment bearing wide repetition, in a state better known for enforcing dirty work at low wages than for fairly rewarding honest labor. A few days ago in Austin, Cap Metro proudly announced it will provide wireless computer networks on its bus routes for suburban commuters; meanwhile the agency continues outsourcing routes to nonunion contractors and finding quasi-legal ways to block union workers from its planned commuter rail lines. There could hardly be a better illustration of subsidizing privilege at the expense of those who make those privileges possible.

Let us hope that the SEIU victory in Houston sparks a wildfire in Texas and the South, and perhaps even a nascent reversal of a decadeslong, successful effort by highly centralized, organized capital to undermine the value of labor. It would be something to read a Cox newspaper – for example, the *Austin American-Statesman* – applauding “a guarantee that hard work will be rewarded with dignified treatment and a living wage.” Even better would be to hear many, many more voices like that of 63-year-old Austraberta Rodriguez, a janitor for 27 years, who told the Associated Press as she walked a Houston picket line: “The union has opened our eyes and our minds. We want more hours, better pay, but we also want more respect and more dignity.” ■

For more labor commentary, see “The Hightower Report,” p.29.

BESIDE THE POINT Post-Turkey Lethargy

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Memo to council: You are grossly underpaid. Please, give yourselves another raise. Failing that, y’all look a wee peaked – too much bad stuffing, probably. Maybe more time at the **Crossings** is in order?

Hey, have you heard about the big box slated for **Northcross Mall**? Know what would make everyone, angry neighbors included, feel better? A resolution! “I, Mayor Will Wynn, do hereby proclaim today, Thursday, November 30, as Wal-Mart Day! Always!”

All right, you got me. I’m desperate. I’m not used to the civic engine’s pistons pumping so efficiently, so effortlessly, so ... silently. No, to further belabor this somewhat-tortured metaphor, if City Council served meals-on-wheels, this week would be the congealed Thanksgiving leftovers. Yup, it’s *another* quiet one at West Second this week. We’re beginning to sense a pattern.

What heat there is arises from the day’s zoning agenda. Up on second and third is the **Redeemer Presbyterian Church** debacle (the church wants to set up shop in the city’s MLK Transit Oriented Development Zone, with a proposed site plan that is anything but transit-oriented), another effortless notch in attorney **Richard Suttle**’s long-accumulating asshole bona fides. (For those of you keeping track, aside from advising the megachurch that could, Suttle is also representing Wal-Mart, Town Lake setback scofflaws CWS Capital Partners, and Las Manitas displacers White Lodging Services. Where’s the Austin answer to Nancy Grace when you need her?) Also up is expanded zoning for **St. David’s Hospital**, on 32nd, between I-35 and Red River. The Planned Unit Development approval requested by St. D’s doesn’t come recommended by staff, as it would “allow incompatible height abutting residences to the north of the hospital.” Whether council goes with the carrot or the stick (or simply goes to sleep), look to it as a possible harbinger of the debate over the forthcoming Concordia campus conversion along the freeway.

Another development-related development is Item 20, \$750,000 to URS Corp. for decommission and deconstruction of Downtown’s **Green Water Treatment Plant**. With funding for a Green-sited central library approved at the polls, the 82-year-old plant’s fate was sealed. The structure should be razed by November 2008.

So give it a plaque, already. The only intriguing initiative from council is Item 38, allowing for the creation of **10 memorial plaques** to abut the forthcoming **Long Center for the Performing Arts**. The res from Betty Dunkerley and Sheryl Cole directs City Manager Toby Futrell to work with the music commission in creating a selection process to name the 10 honorees. Honestly, let’s just call it Stevie Ray and nine others, OK?



Richard Suttle

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► With Democrats back in power in Congress, the well-funded liberal action group **MoveOn** is trying to reassert itself as the chosen grassroots group for change. On Thursday, Nov. 30, MoveOn is launching its **Mandate for Change** campaign event at locations around the nation. Mandate for Change is intended to push Congress to move forward on tougher issues such as getting out of Iraq, fixing the health care system, and addressing global warming. In Austin, the campaign kickoff is at 7pm at the Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster Dr. It's open to the public.
— Kimberly Reeves

► Instead of giving dear Aunt Francie yet another book or CD this holiday season, why not give that same book or CD – in her honor – to the whole city of Austin? Through the Austin Public Library's **Novel Gifts** program, Austinites can make a donation of \$15 or more for the library to acquire a needed book; the honoree will be recognized on a special bookplate. If Aunt Francie loves mysteries or cookbooks, designate an honorary gift in that genre or topic of interest. You also can give other kinds of library materials, designate a particular library collection or branch, or even name a specific title (subject to APL needs). The library is particularly interested in adding materials in Spanish and other languages, as well as materials on world cultures. Gifts can be made in any amount: \$15-20 buys a children's book or a music CD; \$25 funds a hardcover bestseller; \$50 buys a book-on-tape, a video, or a magazine subscription. Participate at any library branch, or download the APL Gift Donation Form at www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/lbgift.htm.
— Katherine Gregor

► Got ovaries, \$1,000, and a philanthropic heart of gold? **Impact Austin's "giving circle"** provides Austin women with a way to collectively make powerful philanthropic gifts that have a real impact on the community. Now 324 women strong, Impact Austin (www.impact-austin.org) hopes to have 400 members by Dec. 31, yielding a \$400,000 pot of giving gold for 2007. On Nov. 20, Impact Austin was featured on the *CBS Evening News* along with its first recipient, LifeWorks, which has a local Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Partnership. The giving circle pools member donations to give "extraordinary" annual grants of \$100,000 and more each year to local nonprofits, selected by its members. In 2006, \$108,000 grants went to three organizations: The Children's Wellness Center, EmanciPet, and Literacy Austin. Impact Austin members can just write a check, or actively serve on committees that review grant requests in five areas: culture, environment, family, education, and health and wellness. To learn more, hear founder and President Rebecca Powers share the Impact Austin Story at 6:30pm Thursday, Nov. 30, at Grape Vine Market, or call 335-5540. See the CBS story at www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/11/20/eveningnews/main2201582.shtml?CMP=ILC-SearchStories.
— K.G.

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

► Burial services for former state Sen. **Frank Madla** will be at 1pm Friday at Texas State Cemetery. Madla, 69, died in a fire at his San Antonio home over the Thanksgiving weekend. Candles from a holiday display are believed to have caused the blaze, which also claimed the lives of Madla's mother-in-law, Mary Cruz, and 5-year-old granddaughter, Aleena Jimenez. Madla's wife, Helen, remains hospitalized with injuries suffered in the early-morning Nov. 24 fire. A rosary Mass for the 33-year lawmaker was held this morning (Thursday) in Helotes. The conservative Democrat and old-school gentleman represented San Antonio for 20 years in the state House and 13 years in the Senate. He resigned from the Senate in May, two months after losing a brutal primary race to Rep. Carlos Uresti, also of San Antonio. During the campaign, Uresti hammered Madla's record of siding with Republicans on critical votes, including cuts to the Children's Health Insurance Program and a constitutional ban on gay marriage. After his defeat, Madla reportedly invited Uresti to his office where the two made peace during transition talks. Madla was expected to begin a new career as a lobbyist when the next Lege opens Jan. 9. In a statement, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a Republican who campaigned for Madla during the primary, called him "a courageous lawmaker who always did what he believed was best for his district and for Texas, even if it was politically unpopular."
— A.S.

► Gov. Rick Perry has set Dec. 19 for a **special election** to determine a replacement for Rep. **Glenda Dawson**, R-Pearland, who died in September. Dawson's name remained on the November ballot and her fightin' spirit went on to win the election in House District 29, thanks in part to a slick mailer that her campaign sent out just before E-Day. The mailer, which featured a photo of a smiling Dawson with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, urged voters to turn out for Dawson but neglected to mention that she was dead. Dawson beat Democrat Anthony DiNovo, a physician, with 60.4% of the vote. DiNovo is the only Democrat running in this red Brazoria Co. district, while three Republicans have jumped into the race, with businessman Mike O'Day considered the party establishment's top choice over Randy Weber and John Gorman. O'Day serves on the Brazoria Co. Groundwater Conservation District and has the blessings of Dawson's daughter and son-in-law, and a number of elected officials, including House Speaker Tom Craddick. Weber, a former



This 16-foot float depicts Gov. Rick Perry lovingly embracing the shaft of a big, old smokestack, preparing to give it a nice smooch. The float – owned by Downwinders at Risk, a DFW community group formed in the 1990s to fight hazardous-waste-burning cement kilns there – followed the gov to several campaign stops and even to the debate in Dallas, no doubt to his delight. The smokestack is adorned with the logos of various polluting industries, including Dallas-based TXU, who threatened to sue for trademark infringement. Downwinders ignored the ultimatum; they say the float is targeted less toward TXU and more toward Perry's favoritism of DFW's oldest and dirtiest polluters. For related pollution news, see p.20.
— D.M.

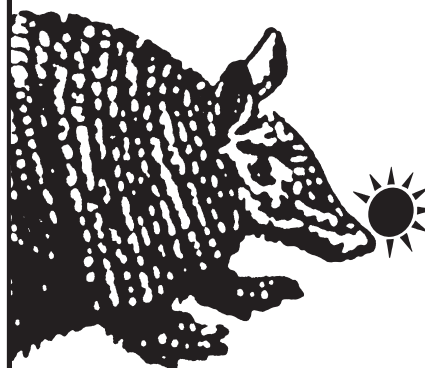
Pearland City Council member, already has three strikes against him: endorsements from lame duck U.S. Rep. Shelley Sekula Gibbs, Texas Eagle Forum head Cathie Adams, and angry homophobe state Rep. Robert Talton. Early voting will start Dec. 11.
— A.S.

► With Texas the No. 1 wind-power producing state in the country, it's dumb-founding that no **windmill turbines** were being produced in-state until now. That situation was remedied Monday when Round Rock-based **TECO-Westinghouse Motor Company** announced it would partner with **Composite Technology Corp.** of California to begin producing wind turbines next year. According to TECO-Westinghouse spokeswoman Lana DeLeon, the turbines (known as DeWind D8.2) will begin blowing out their doors by June of next year, once some modifications are made to their facility. About 52 turbines will be built in 2007, DeLeon said, but that production will balloon to more than 200 in 2008. TECO-Westinghouse also expects to add up to 150 jobs at the Round Rock facility, she said.
— Daniel Mottola

► *Woo hoo!* Six states – Arizona, Montana, Nevada, Missouri, Colorado, and Ohio – voted in November to raise their **minimum wages** above the federal level, stuck at a pathetic \$5.15 an hour since 1997. Twenty-nine states – the likes of which, believe it or not, do not include progressive Texas – have now gone over our ineffective, inefficient Congress' head to move forward. Has their disobedience paid off? Hell yes – at least according to a study released Nov. 27 by labor-focused think tank the Economic Policy Institute (www.epi.org/content.cfm/bp176). In *State Minimum Wages: A Policy That Works*, economist Paul Wolfson concludes that in states with minimum wages above the federal level, "wages are higher and employment is no lower" than in states with wages at the federal level. The median minimum wage in the 17 states on which he focused – those who had raised their hourly wage above the federal minimum by 1995 – was "more than 25 percent higher than the federal value," according to an EPI briefing. For more in the *Chronicle* on this issue, see "Minimum Wage Murmurs," Oct. 20, 2006.
— C.S.

► Believe it or not, the EPA recognized the **Port of Houston** recently for renewing its commitment to the Performance Track program, which challenges companies and organizations to implement environmentally beneficial practices focused on measurable, beyond-regulatory-compliance results. Flanked by petrochemical facilities, with visibly funky water, the Port of Houston doesn't appear the picture of environmental utopia on the surface, but since becoming the first U.S. port to join Performance Track three years ago, POH has committed to reduce total water use by 5%, nonhazardous waste by 15%, emissions of volatile organic compounds by 15%, and energy use by 10%. It also plans to build about 70 acres of wetland from recycled construction material. Performance Track, since its inception in 2000, has grown to 417 members in 46 states who have collectively reduced their water use by 3.5 billion gallons, cut the equivalent of 88,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and conserved more than 14,000 acres of land, according to the EPA. Here in Austin, a Performance Track members include 3M, Applied Materials, and Freescale Semiconductor. For more, see www.epa.gov/region6.
— D.M.

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Tues 12	8:00 PM ...Hayes Carll
Wed 13	8:00 PM ...South Austin Jug Band
Thur 14	8:00 PM ...Toni Price
Fri 15	8:00 PM ...Jimmy LaFave
Sat 16	12:30 PM ...The Resentments 3:30 PM ...Terri Hendrix 8:00 PM ...Van Wilks
Sun 17	12:30 PM ...Cyril Neville 3:30 PM ...Marcia Ball-Pianorama 6:30 PM ...Mary Hattersley's Blazing Bows
Mon 18	8:00 PM ...The Mother Truckers 8:00 PM ...Austin Lounge Lizards
Tues 19	8:00 PM ...The Eggmen
Wed 20	8:00 PM ...Ray Wylie Hubbard
Thur 21	4:30 PM ...Wendy Colonna 8:00 PM ...Elana & the Continental Two
Fri 22	4:30 PM ...Shelley King 8:00 PM ...Ponty Bone
Sat 23	12:30 PM ...Sarah Elizabeth Campbell 3:30 PM ...Redd Volkaert 8:00 PM ...Albert & Gage
Sun 24	12:30 PM ...Django's Moustache 3:30 PM ...Hot Greezy Gonzo Reunion 8:00 PM ...Texana Dames

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It's the Carbon, Stupid!

Though plans by various Texas utilities to build 19 new **coal-fired power plants** have drawn widespread criticism for increases in smog, ozone, fine particle, and mercury pollution they'll pump into the air, most acrimonious is the plants' contribution to **climate change** – the impending catastrophe caused by fossil-fuel combustion gasses (namely carbon dioxide) building up atmospherically and keeping heat from radiating into space. Texas is the nation's foremost CO₂ emitter (If we were a country, we'd rank seventh globally, according to an Environmental Defense study), and the new plants would double our output. The good news is that there are viable alternatives to meet the state's growing energy needs. The bad news is that our state honchos, awash in utility cash, lack the leadership to pursue them.

Worse still, as hearings on the coal plants' environmental permits begin this week, many people are shocked to learn that the state environmental agency has outright refused to consider CO₂ emissions in permitting decisions. **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** spokeswoman **Andrea Morrow** said, "CO₂ is not a regulated pollutant," explaining that if the federal government determines otherwise, "we'll look at it at that point." Meanwhile, other states and countries – including the 165 Kyoto agreement member nations, 5,000 delegates at a recent United Nations Climate Change Conference, 30 U.S. states that have addressed climate change, and 14 with specific coal-based greenhouse gas reduction initiatives – are acting on stark warnings from scientists that some 60-80% of global CO₂ emissions must be cut in order to avert climate change's near-term predicted effects: devastating flooding, intensifying catastrophic storms, drought, crop die-offs, insect plagues, and species extinction. Observers fear utilities are rushing to have their plants permitted – with the help of Gov. **Rick Perry's permit fast-tracking** executive order last October – before an anticipated federal **carbon-capping legislation** is passed, saddling utility customers with a higher cost of coal-generated power.

The justification for the Texas "coal rush" is an estimate by the **Electric Reliability Council of Texas** (which oversees 85% of Texas' deregulated energy markets) that electricity supplies will dip below the 12.5% mandated reserve margin by 2008 due to growing populations. The ERCOT estimate was cited both by Perry in a September *Dallas Morning News* op-ed, and repeatedly by the massive PR blitz of Dallas utility giant **TXU**, which is proposing 11 of the 19 plants. According to campaign finance watchdogs **Texans for Public Justice**, Perry received \$242,150 from TXU between January of 2003 and November of 2006 – including money from TXU's PACs, former TXU executive **Earle Nye**, and employees who gave money directly.

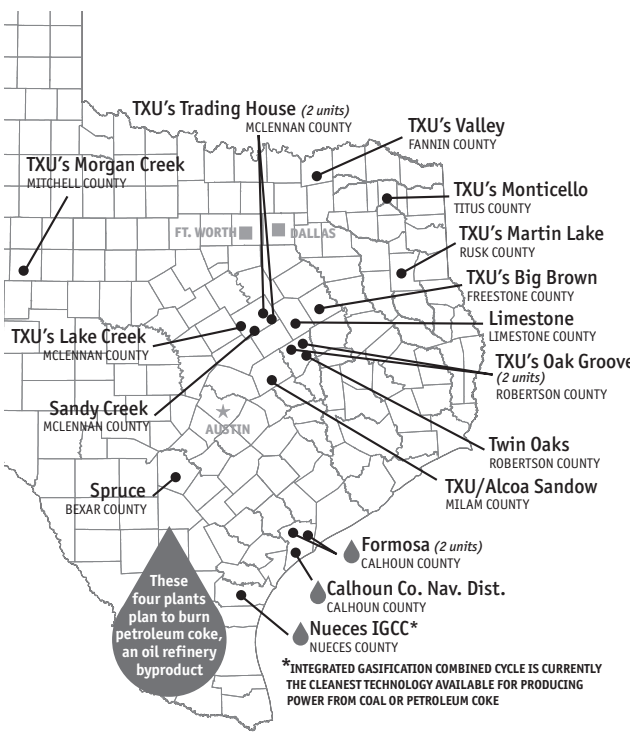
Carol Biedrzycki, director of the nonprofit **Texas Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy**, points out that TXU has a representative on all of ERCOT's boards. "The generating companies go to ERCOT and get them to say that Texas badly needs new capacity," Biedrzycki said. "Then they go to TCEQ and say, 'We'd love to help you reduce emissions, but we can't

because ERCOT is telling us we need to keep these dirty old plants running and build some new ones because ERCOT is worried about having enough electricity to meet demand.'" She faulted Perry's fast-tracking orders for putting TCEQ staffers, employed to expertly evaluate the coal permits, in the position of disagreeing with the governor if they find a discrepancy. She also wondered why Perry's executive orders didn't include energy efficiency measures, and she ultimately blamed today's woes on the legislature's 1999 decision to deregulate much of the state's electricity market, which simultaneously eliminated long-term state energy planning and the **Public Utility Commission** of Texas' practice of **certifying** power plants (prior to permitting) based on whether they were the best technology, if their added capacity could be met with efficiency measures, and their public health and environmental costs. Today, "there's no one at the state whose job it is to lay out a long-term strategic energy plan, said **Colin Rowan**, communication director for the Austin office of **Environmental Defense**. "Gov. Perry and the state's primary source of information is TXU."

A study released last week by ED turns the coal-rush argument on its head, while illuminating a clean, economical path to maintaining energy reserves through 2010. "Assuming the most aggressive building schedule, none of these [coal] plants would be built until 2009 at the earliest," the study reads. "The proposed coal plants will give Texas more power than we need, two years after we need it, and more pollution than we can afford."

Meeting energy needs with efficiency tactics costs less than half as much as the coal plants, according to the study. ED calls for a fivefold increase to the state energy efficiency standards, which now require utilities to offset 10% of their new electricity demand with efficiency programs (such as incentives to replace old ACs and appliances and to better insulate homes). ED also calls for a doubling of so-called **interruptible load programs** that give utilities the ability to cycle off customers' air conditioners for 10-minute spans during peak demand (some 50,000 **Austin Energy** business and residential customers already participate). In this scenario, Texas would have to add only 700 megawatts (about one power plant worth) of new generating capacity a year in 2010 and 2011 to maintain reserve margins, according to the study. And if that capacity isn't achieved through a combination of solar, wind, biomass, or geothermal **renewable energy** (all with vast statewide potential), it could come from ultraefficient **combined heating and power natural gas plants** (like the one at Austin's new **Dell Children's Hospital**) or through **coal gasification** or **integrated gasification combined cycle** aka clean coal plants, which are up to 90% cleaner and are capable of capturing CO₂.

TXU has indicated that it plans to proceed with its plant applications as proposed. But in a recent statement responding to mounting criticism, the company said it's addressing the issue by making new coal plants more efficient, investing up to \$2 billion in IGCC or related research, and though "there is currently no economical technology to capture and sequester CO₂, TXU is investing today to make its [proposed] plants carbon capture-ready." None of TXU's proposed plants use IGCC technology, though one other utility's proposed plant will.



Of 19 proposed coal plants seeking permit approval, only one would use the newer, cleaner integrated gasification combined cycle technology. Energy giant TXU wants to build 11 of the 19 plants.

Perry's op-ed speciously repeated TXU's promise to offset new plant emissions while reducing its plants' statewide pollution by 20% – reductions critics point out would be mandated by federal law regardless. He also characterized those advocating something other than building new coal plants as an "extreme element of the environmental community that opposes additional energy capacity no matter what," adding that "they want to return us to the era of horse and buggy – except they would probably complain about the methane gas from horse manure, too."

"It's bad, it's getting worse fast, we're running out of time, and it's primarily caused by burning fossil fuels," said U.S. Department of Energy scientist **Chuck Kutschner** of global warming at a recent conference. He insisted that the U.S. must lead other nations by example and "factor carbon reduction into every energy decision," and coined the phrase, "it's the carbon, stupid," an adaptation of the Clinton-campaign saying, "it's the economy, stupid." If only Perry and other leaders could get that through their heads.

– Daniel Mottola

For more on this, as well as dates and times for hearings on the public permitting process, see: www.trela.org, www.stoptxu.com, www.stopthecoalplant.org, www.txu.com, and www.tceq.org. For a list of Austin Energy's rebates, see www.austinenenergy.com.

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Coal's Body Count

At least 240 premature deaths per year – roughly 12,000 over the next 50 years – will be caused by toxic pollution from the 19 coal-fired power plants proposed for construction statewide, according to a report released last week. Tom “Smitty” Smith, director of Public Citizen’s Texas office, which commissioned the report along with the Austin-based Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition, called the report’s predicted death toll “an unacceptable price to pay for power” and said “there are cheaper, cleaner, and cooler alternatives that could be used to meet Texas’ needs for electrical energy.”

The analysis for the report, titled *Premature Mortality From Proposed New Coal-Fired Power Plants in Texas*, was conducted by Wisconsin-based MSB Energy Associates Inc. using an EPA model and emissions figures from individual permit applications filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The actual killers, says the report, are fine particles or particulate matter: soot, acid droplets, or metals originating from combustion sources such as power plants or diesel trucks. Particulates can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and absorbed into the bloodstream, evading the body’s natural defenses and causing respiratory and cardiac damage and possibly cancer. The report said researchers have demonstrated particulate-related mortality at low concentrations and that victims lose an average of 14 years of life. Based on the EPA-established \$6 million economic cost per premature death, the report found the total cost to be more than \$1.4 billion per year and nearly \$72 billion over the plants’ life spans.

Singled out by the report was Dallas mega-utility TXU, planning 11 of the 19 total pulverized coal plants statewide (the other, proposed by another utility, is an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, aka “clean coal plant,” technology TXU claims is too advanced to build). The report says pollution from TXU’s plants is expected to cause 177 premature mortalities per year and 8,869 over the lifetimes of its plants – equaling 73% of the premature deaths from all the plants.

TXU spokeswoman Kimberley Morgan, in an e-mailed response said, “Our families live near these plants, and we care about the health and safety of our employees and communities. We operate in a way consistent with all environmental rules and regulations to protect human health. TXU is actually reducing key emissions.” TCEQ

spokeswoman Lisa Wheeler reiterated TXU’s claim that it will cut sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (smog and ozone causers, which include particulates, or “PM”) by 20% if its new plants are permitted. Under those circumstances, “we don’t expect an increase in PM, and we don’t expect an increase in premature mortality,” she said, adding that “Texas is currently in compliance with PM standards.” Asked how the agency would ensure that TXU makes its promised reductions, TCEQ Spokesman Terry Clawson said he was unsure. TXU’s Morgan asserted that “there is no link between current power plant emissions and human health impacts.”

“There are cheaper, cleaner, and cooler alternatives that could be used to meet Texas’ needs for electrical energy.”

– Tom “Smitty” Smith

Contrarily, Dr. Lisa Doggett, director of Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility said, “Already, we are seeing more deaths from pollution than from drunk driving or murder. In Texas, as a result of global warming and pollution from coal plants, we can expect more frequent and severe asthma attacks, more strokes, and worsening of heart and lung problems. Patients with asthma and chronic lung disease already crowd the waiting room of my clinic, and emergency rooms across our state.” In Austin, she said, the new plants would translate to more ozone-related asthma and breathing ailments, especially in kids. Rancher Paul Rolke, who lives between Waco and College Station, about 12 miles from the existing Twin Oaks coal plant, founded Robertson County Our Land Our Lives (www.ourlandourlives.net) to fight the massive TXU Oak Grove plant, which would be six miles from his home. “We knew all along that there was a body count from these plants. Now we have the data to quantify it,” he said. “I hope this will wake up our neighbors, many of whom have been persuaded that the plants are a good thing based on the promise of jobs and economic development, and by TXU’s relentless PR campaign, which spins the facts faster than the steam turbines they are building.”

–Daniel Mottola

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Austin-SA Commuter Rail: Kyle looking on board

The **city of Kyle** is likely to be among the first jurisdictions to support the **Austin-San Antonio commuter rail** proposal, if only because it's most familiar with the types of financing vehicles that could support the line.

The Austin-San Antonio commuter rail proposal – not to be confused with **Capital Metro's Leander-to-Downtown rail line** – has been under discussion since 2003. The difference is not only in its route but in its financing vehicle. Despite some fits and starts, Capital Metro has managed to fund its starter rail line under one referendum to one group of

At a recent presentation of the rail district's proposal at Kyle City Hall, City Manager Tom Mattis and members of the City Council and Planning Commission were fairly receptive to the plan, despite the annual \$1 million to \$2 million price tag, which would be Kyle's portion of the bill.

and passenger fares, plus state rail relocation funds, plus annual operating funds already offered up by Capital Metro and **VIA**, San Antonio's transit authority. That's a lot of moving parts for the rail district to manage.

Months of meetings have discussed the viability of the rail project – projected costs and trip estimates – plus the best way to require the jurisdictions along the route to participate, either through the number of stations, the number of passengers, or the size of the jurisdiction. Austin and San

voters for authorization of one bond issue. (A second bond referendum on a circulator system – actually about four times the cost of the starter line – will follow.)

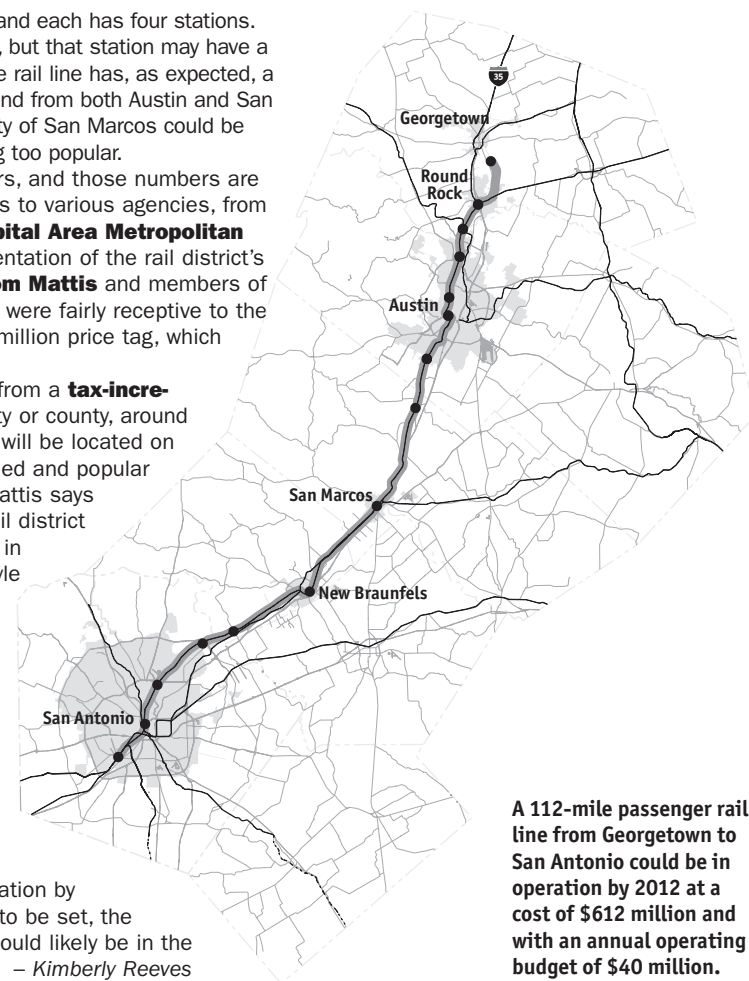
The **Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District**, on the other hand, is at the mercy of both the state and numerous local jurisdictions. Financing this 112-mile commuter rail line with 15 stations between Georgetown and San Antonio – which will run on a \$40 million a year operating budget – will require \$612 million bonds leveraged off local contributions

Antonio, for instance, are the largest cities, and each has four stations. **San Marcos** may have only a single station, but that station may have a preponderance of passenger boardings if the rail line has, as expected, a broad appeal for college students going to and from both Austin and San Antonio. As one board member put it, the city of San Marcos could be penalized under such a plan for simply being too popular.

The rail district finally landed on numbers, and those numbers are being rolled out over the next three months to various agencies, from city councils to **Capital Metro to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**. At a recent presentation of the rail district's proposal at Kyle City Hall, City Manager **Tom Mattis** and members of the City Council and Planning Commission were fairly receptive to the plan, despite the annual \$1 million to \$2 million price tag, which would be Kyle's portion of the bill.

That's because the money would come from a **tax-increment financing district**, set up by the city or county, around the proposed station. In Kyle, that station will be located on a greenfield site just outside the established and popular **Plum Creek subdivision** on FM 1626. Mattis says the area around the station – which the rail district predicts could bring in about \$400 million in new tax base – is ripe for development. Kyle looks at the site and doesn't just see the rail station; it also sees the neighborhood retail and new tax base that will spring up around it. Despite its size, Kyle is no stranger to tax-increment finance districts, Mattis said. Much of the recent city infrastructure in Kyle, including enhanced gateway bridges and the new City Hall, was paid for through a TIF zone.

If the rail district gets significant buy-in from the jurisdictions along the line, the Georgetown-to-Austin line could be in operation by 2012. While no passenger fares have yet to be set, the one-way fare from Austin to San Antonio would likely be in the range of \$12.



A 112-mile passenger rail line from Georgetown to San Antonio could be in operation by 2012 at a cost of \$612 million and with an annual operating budget of \$40 million.

– Kimberly Reeves

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Frank ‘the Fetus’ Strikes Again

Seemingly undaunted by his failure to push through legislation in 2005 that sought to protect “**pharmacists of conscience**” (that is, pro-life pill counters) from having to fill scrips for emergency contraceptives – or by the larger defeat inherent in the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s** decision to approve over-the-counter sales status for the EC **Plan B** – Rep. **Frank “the Fetus” Corte**, R-San Antonio, is gearing up his 2007 this-is-where-life-begins agenda with several pieces of prefiled legislation, including a bill that again attempts to complicate access to emergency contraceptives.

After more than three years of wrangling and delays, the FDA on Aug. 24 approved a bid to make Plan B (the so-called “morning-after pill”) available for OTC sales to women 18 and older. Plan B contains a higher than normal dose of the hormones contained in regular birth control pills and is used to prevent unwanted pregnancy when taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex. But Corte’s **House Bill 23** seeks to codify an incomplete definition of EC, requires pharmacists to counsel Plan B buyers based on the incomplete information and to post an obscenely large sign near cash registers that contains info about conception, and, finally, requires pharmacies to collect personal information on customers to be kept on file for at least two years.

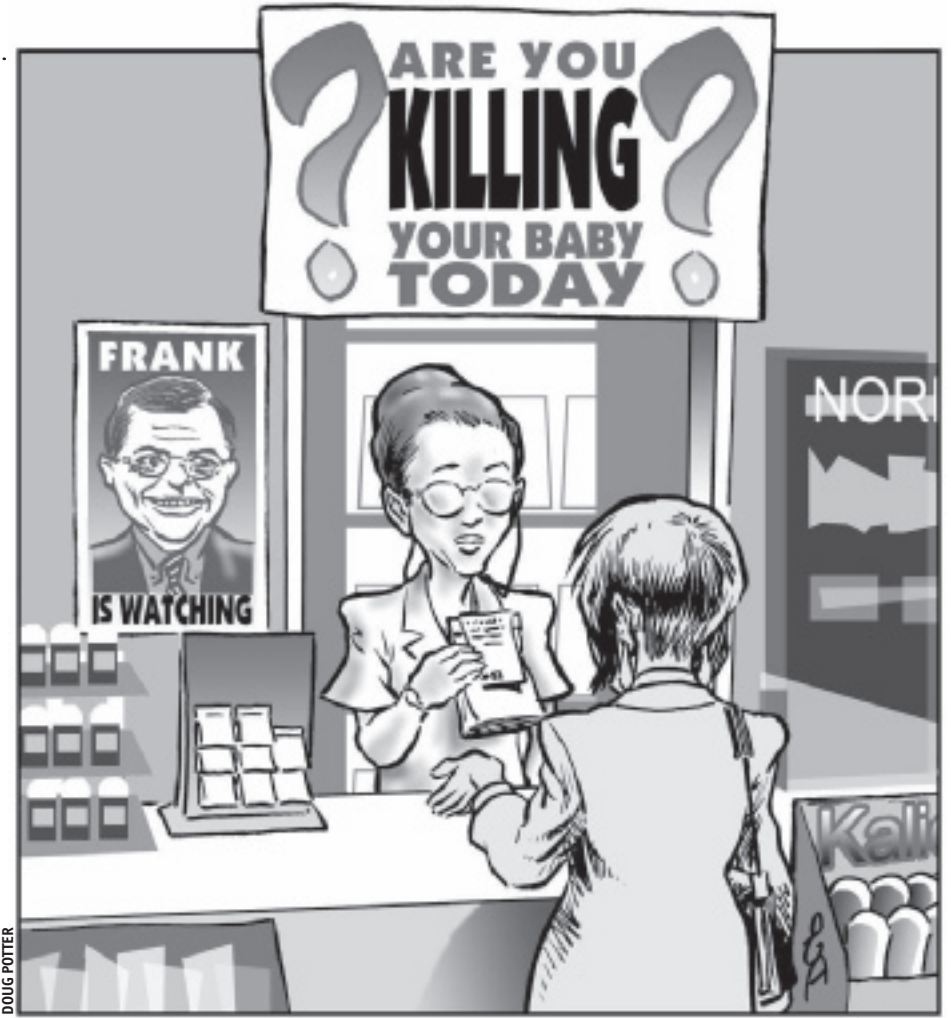
Specifically, Corte’s front-running legislative stinker would define emergency contraceptives as drugs that “prevent pregnancy by preventing fertilization of an egg or preventing implantation of an egg in a uterus,” conveniently leaving out the third way EC can work, by preventing ovulation altogether. It also requires pharmacists to “inform” Plan B customers – “orally and in writing” – that the drug “may prevent” fertilization or implantation, and requires all businesses that sell Plan B to post signs “in clear view of each cash register” that are “at least” 1½ feet tall and 2 feet wide, reading (in “block letters”): “If you believe that life begins at fertilization – the point where the sperm and egg unite – then you need to know that emergency contraception may either function as a contraceptive to prevent the egg and sperm from uniting or

prevent the implantation of your already fertilized egg in your womb.” And finally, in addition to requiring that customers present valid photo identification – Plan B is only approved for OTC sales to adults 18 and older – HB 23 requires customers to sign for the drug and requires pharmacists to keep records of customer names and dates of sale for at least two years – a provision destined to raise privacy issues.

To hear Corte staffer and spokeswoman **Kathi Seay** tell it, however, Corte’s bill in no way seeks to constrict access to Plan B. Rather, she says, it’s merely a way to ensure “**informed consent**,” a way to make sure that women know exactly what they’re getting into – it would protect pharmacists from “women, some day, down the line” coming back to complain they weren’t aware the pill might “prevent fertilization” or egg implantation. And, she says, there is no intention to mislead by omitting the fact that Plan B could prevent ovulation – that, she says, is implied in the fact that the pill can prevent fertilization. (Specific language regarding ovulation could be added to the text, she said.)

As innocent as Seay’s explanation may sound, **Sarah Wheat**, former executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and now public affairs director for **Austin Planned Parenthood**, ain’t buying it: “I think [Corte’s] goal is to try to confuse folks about what emergency contraceptives are and aren’t.” The decision to include medically inaccurate information – specifically, she says, by omitting the fact that Plan B may function to prevent ovulation altogether, distinct from preventing fertilization – belies Corte’s real agenda, Wheat suggests, which is (as it has appeared to be in nearly every legislative session) to find a backdoor way to legally define fertilization as the point at which life begins. “This is an ideological definition of what EC is that is not backed by science or by the FDA,” Wheat says.

Although the **House State Affairs** Committee, where Corte’s various pro-life bills typically land, is no bastion of liberal (or even moderate) thinking, it is entirely unclear what lawmakers would do with HB 23. To date, Corte’s contraceptive-related offerings haven’t



wooded the committee members – and HB 23 is unlikely to break the ice, in large part because in approving Plan B for OTC sales, the FDA incorporated into its ruling all of the guidelines for sale, including pertinent drug-fact information. In other words, the feds have got it covered and aren’t likely in need of Corte’s after-the-fact revisions – including his assertion that egg-meets-sperm equals life. In short, “If the FDA doesn’t require [these provisions], I don’t understand why Frank Corte is requiring them,” Wheat says. “He is trying to make the pharmacy and pharmacist an agent for promoting his pro-life agenda.”

Seay disagrees. She says that while the FDA has included relevant drug facts – ones that she says are similar to those contained

in HB 23 – the information, inserted into drug packaging, is often lengthy – and, as such, people simply don’t read it. “People don’t read [package inserts],” she said, “and they can be particularly long.” In other words, HB 23 is designed as something of a *CliffsNotes* for the drug-fact-information-challenged set. Indeed, Seay suggests, there’s nothing about the signage proposed under HB 23, for example, that is different from other required postings, like restricting gun-toting in stores or selling tobacco to minors – some products just “warrant” efforts to provide “extra information,” she says. “If you know, up front, that [Plan B] is preventing the implantation of an egg, and you’re fine with it, [then] go for it.”

– Jordan Smith

Fam-Planning Uproar

Twenty-four organizations – including Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the National Organization for Women, and the Union of Concerned Scientists – signed on to a letter sent Nov. 21 to **Health and Human Services** Secretary **Michael Leavitt**, urging him to reconsider the appointment of pro-life, anti-contraceptive doctor **Eric Keroack** to be **deputy assistant secretary for population affairs**, charged with oversight and administration of the nation’s family-planning program funds.

The federal fam-planning program provides **reproductive health care** – often the most comprehensive preventative care available to low-income, uninsured women – administered with **Title X welfare funding**, which provides services to more than 5 million women a year, on average. Instead of appointing a more mainstream health care expert to oversee the 35-plus-year-old program, President **George W. Bush** last week tapped Keroack – a proponent of abstinence-only education who is the medical director for the group **A Woman’s Concern**, which operates several **crisis pregnancy centers** in the Boston area, which, under Keroack’s supervision, do not

provide access to **birth control** or referrals for women seeking birth control.

“The crass commercialization and distribution of birth control is demeaning to women, degrading of human sexuality, and adverse to human health and happiness,” reads the group’s policy on birth control. “AWC also accepts evidence demonstrating that distribution of birth control, especially among adolescents, actually increases ... out-of-wedlock pregnancy and abortion.” Better than birth control, according to AWC, is the pursuit of “sexual purity” – or, in AWC speak, “attaining **self-mastery through sexual self-restraint**.”

How exactly that righteous-sounding philosophy makes Keroack the best choice to head up a program dedicated to providing broad access to health care, contraception, and, more generally, medically accurate information is a real mystery. “Given that much of Dr. Keroack’s career appears to have been dedicated to dissuading women from availing themselves of family planning services, we believe that Dr. Keroack would neither be inclined nor should he be trusted to carry out and enforce the goals of Title X,” reads the letter, signed by a variety of health and family-planning advocates. “We strongly believe that ... Keroack’s views are out of step with scientific evidence, the mandates of the Title X program,

and the 98% of American women who will use birth control during their reproductive lives. Clients seeking contraception, STD testing, information, and counseling have a right to expect health services that reflect sound public health goals rather than a political agenda.”

Congressional Democrats – including several likely to head up committees that oversee HHS funding and operations – also voiced concerns about Keroack’s appointment in two letters sent to Leavitt, echoing the content of the one penned by the family-planning groups. Nonetheless, it appears that, so far, HHS is standing firm. HHS spokeswoman Christina Pearson told reporters this week that Keroack isn’t opposed to birth control – he actually prescribed contraceptives while working in private practice – and “did family planning with patients at their request as part of his private physician role,” statements that, nicely yet obviously, skim right past Keroack’s more recent involvement with the AWC. Further, Pearson told the *Washington Post*, Keroack was a certified ob-gyn for 10 whole years – though he recently “inadvertently missed” his recertification deadline. Never fear, though. Pearson says Keroack “plans to seek” recertification soon.

What a relief!

– J.S.

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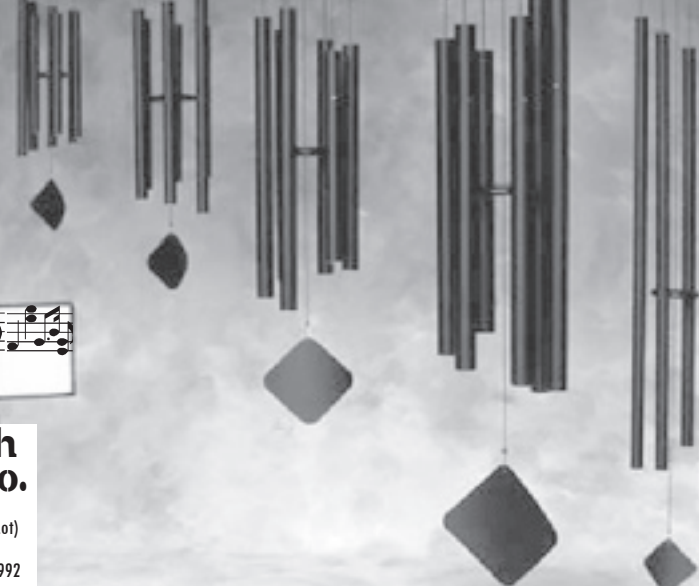


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Shining Light on Campus Discrimination

The **University of Texas** administration has publicly condemned acts of racism on campus when they've occurred, such as at the recent Ghetto Fabulous party that featured UT law students in black face. But according to a new report by the **UT Queer Students Alliance**, the administration has not done enough to discourage homophobic behavior, and gay students are paying the price.

Ryan Miller, co-director of the QSA, says he experiences regular verbal harassment. "It seems like it's been getting worse," Miller says. "About every week or so, I'll be walking along campus with my friends, and people will start yelling at us out of car windows. It's clear that they feel safe harassing us. They're not worried about facing any consequences."

The QSA board of directors decided that issuing a report would be more effective than taking on individual issues one at a time. So they surveyed the UT LGBT community to get

a sense of how gay and transgendered students felt on campus. A majority reported having a positive experience overall, but Miller says some have had horrible experiences. "Many did not feel comfortable being affectionate with their partners on campus," he says. "Some had even been discriminated against in classes, by professors."

The QSA's report is almost 200 pages and has around 70 recommendations about what UT administrators should do to make LGBT students feel more comfortable. Miller says the most important step is for the top UT administrators to make it clear that homophobic behavior will not be tolerated. "There should be a message of inclusiveness that comes from the top," Miller says. "I want to end the silence of LGBT issues on campus. This has to come from the president of the university, and he can direct other departments to make changes."

The report recommends everything from creating LGBT fraternities to providing benefits for domestic partners of faculty and staff. A few of the recommendations are simple and could be easily implemented, Miller says. "The lack of individual, **gender-neutral restrooms on campus** is a huge issue for the transgendered

"It's clear that they feel safe harassing us. They're not worried about facing any consequences."

– Ryan Miller co-director of UT Queer Students Alliance

students," he says. "There are already many single-stall restrooms that could easily become gender-neutral and have a lock on the door."

The university appears to be listening. Miller and other QSA members have met with

UT President **William Powers Jr.** and other top administrators. **Gregory Vincent**, the recently hired vice-president of diversity, says the university is still considering which recommendations can be adopted. "We've been meeting regularly to figure out the best approach," Vincent says. "One important structural change is that the **Gender and Sexuality Center** will be reporting directly to my office, which will help us work together." The Gender and Sexuality Center is funded by student fees and provides workshops for gay and transgendered students, as well as a safe space to hang out.

Vincent sees these concerns as part of a bigger challenge. "We are planning to create a **diversity institute** that would offer workshops and classes on diversity," he says. "I would like to partner with the Greek organizations and see if they would make diversity training part of their orientation. I don't want to mandate classes for student groups, but I can provide opportunities and try and partner with them."

– Michael May

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Polygamous Prophet Update

The child bride known in court records as **Jane Doe No. 4**, the alleged victim of a “spiritual marriage” arranged and presided over by polygamist prophet **Warren Jeffs** – leader of the breakaway Mormon sect the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** – testified in a Utah court Nov. 22 that her forced marriage in 2001 to her first cousin was the “darkest time in my entire life.” Her often tearful testimony came on the first day of a preliminary hearing in state court that will determine whether the state has sufficient evidence to try 50-year-old Jeffs on charges of rape-as-accomplice for his role in arranging the marriage between Doe, then 14, and her 19-year-old cousin.

Jeffs was arrested this year after being on the lam for well more than a year, dodging the Utah charges, lesser state charges in Arizona also related to arranging polygamist unions, and finally, a federal charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. Jeffs was added to the **FBI’s Most Wanted list** in May and eventually had a \$100K bounty attached to his head. Until his arrest in August by a Nevada state trooper, the prophet hadn’t been seen in public since January 2004, when he was spotted at the gated FLDS compound just outside the West Texas town of **Eldorado**, consecrating the site where the FLDS’ first-ever temple now stands. If convicted of the rape charges, Jeffs, leader of a 10,000-member flock of fundamentalist Mormons, could face up to life in prison.

To win a conviction, Utah prosecutors will have to prove – beyond reasonable doubt – that Jeffs ordered Doe not only to marry her cousin, but also to submit to sex with him. Under Utah law (which, in part, defines rape as sex between a minor – 14 to 18 years old – and someone more than three years older), a third party can be charged with rape if they solicit, entice, or coerce the action. In court documents, Jeffs’ attorney, **Walter Bugden**, reportedly asserts that

Warren Jeffs



Jeffs did not play that role: “merely by acting as the [FLDS’] religious leader, [Jeffs] did not affirmatively act to request, command, encourage or intentionally aid ... in enticing or coercing” Doe, Bugden wrote. Jeffs claims he didn’t know Doe had consummated her spiritual marriage – not a legal union, yet nonetheless formal under church doctrine. (For more on the FLDS, see “Meet the New Neighbors,” July 29, 2005.) Furthermore, Jeffs and followers consider the state’s actions nothing more than religious persecution – a defense unlikely to fly in court since the Utah Supremes earlier this year ruled that religious freedom is no defense to statutory rape.

Persecution fantasies aside, Doe was adamant in court that she did appeal to Jeffs and his father, Rulon, who in 2001 was still officially head of the FLDS – although Warren had already assumed many of the prophet duties – and other FLDS officials to block the marriage. It didn’t work. “I said, ‘I’m not willing to marry my cousin.’ Everything is telling me not to do this. Every part of my soul,” Doe reportedly testified. But Jeffs told her the marriage “was a revelation from God,” she continued, “and this was an honor, (and) if you do not do this, your future will be in jeopardy.” Doe said she was threatened with banishment and told she would be barred from entering the “celestial kingdom” if she didn’t submit to the union. She wept while being fitted with her gown, she testified, and refused to say “I do” during the ceremony, held in room No. 15 at the **Caliente Hot Springs Motel** in Caliente, Nev. – roughly 150 miles from the FLDS stronghold historically known as **Short Creek**, made up of the twin towns of **Hildale, Utah**, and **Colorado City, Ariz.**, just north of the Grand Canyon – a site reportedly chosen in order to duck Utah laws banning polygamist unions involving teen girls. “I felt totally powerless, trapped,” Doe testified. “I was scared. I didn’t have anywhere to go. My salvation was in jeopardy. I knew nothing else but what was in [FLDS] society. ... I honestly wanted to die. I was so scared.”

Jeffs’ preliminary hearing is in St. George, Utah; state court will resume Dec. 14. Until then, he’ll remain in the Purgatory Correctional Facility in Hurricane, Utah. – *Jordan Smith*

FORMER ACTV HEAD GETS SEVEN YEARS

Former Austin Community Television Executive Director **John Villarreal** (r) was sentenced Monday to seven years in jail for embezzling \$354,000 from the public access station, bringing a nearly two-year cycle of accusation and investigation to an abrupt end. Villarreal was suspended for nonperformance of duties on Dec. 21, 2004. Unbeknownst to ACTV’s board, however, he had drafted a letter of resignation the day before, a cryptic, two-sentence note saying he was unable to perform his duties. His fast departure fueled speculation around the station that he pocketed operating funds from ACTV’s bank account.

Following investigation by the city auditor’s office and the district attorney, Villarreal was indicted in March of 2006 for aggregated theft over \$200,000, a felony. (Meanwhile, ACTV was reborn under new management as Public Access Community Television, or PACT, in September of 2005.) At sentencing Monday, several details of Villarreal’s embezzlement were established. The largest portion, \$193,000, was taken as straight cash, while \$47,000 went to the purchase and lease of used cars. Villarreal also bought season tickets for Longhorn football and paid off a student loan.

Villarreal’s attorney, Janet Stockard, citing the nonviolent nature of the crime, asked for probation for her client, while assistant DA Patty Robertson wanted 10 years. Judge Mike Lynch hewed closer to Robertson’s request, noting the public trust Villarreal’s former job required. Villarreal will begin his sentence next month. – *Wells Dunbar*



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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

NEIL BUSH MILKS COWS

George W.'s No Child Left Behind program is being perverted into No Bush Left Behind.

You might recall brother Neil Bush from his "Hi Yo Silverado" days, when he headed a Colorado S&L that went broke, costing us taxpayers a billion bucks to bail it out. Now Neil is in the education game.

As honcho of an outfit called Ignite! Learning, he goes around to school districts hustling a computerized learning center dubbed COW, for Curriculum on Wheels. Made up to look like a purple cow, it's wheeled into classrooms where it uses jingles and cartoon videos to "teach" students. Each COW costs \$3,800, and at least 13 school districts have used No Child Left Behind money to purchase them. That money is primarily intended to help disadvantaged kids learn reading and math – yet, Neil's COWs don't teach either of these subjects. Curious.

Additional money to place COWs in various schools has come from such Republican stalwarts as the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and such longtime Bush benefactors as the Saudi Arabian oil company. Also, Neil's investors come from afar – including millionaire businessmen from Kuwait, China, and Russia. Odd.

Both Daddy and Momma Bush are investors as well. Barbara is so committed to the enterprise that when she made a donation to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees who had moved to Houston, she required that all of the money be spent buying Neil's COWs. How charitable.

Ignite!'s ethics are also on display in a company video on its Web site. A Texas teacher named Lori gives a glowing testimonial about how COW did wonders for a young student named India. Only, Lori is really not India's teacher. She's Ignite!'s marketing director. Ignite! says Lori was not lying ... just role playing.

So is Neil. He's pretending that Ignite! would be getting these federal dollars, investors, donations, and sales even if his name was, say, Neil Jones.

RESPONDING TO LABOR

At last, the national government is responding to the widening income gap and the severe economic side effects of greed-fueled globalization by extending real power to labor unions and cracking down on sweatshop goods.

Unfortunately ... this national government is not our own. It's China's. Yes, the Chinese rulers, who have a brutal record of repressing labor, have suddenly embraced a new doctrine of protecting worker rights. This is not altruism at work but self-preservation – the ruling elites are in a sweat over massive social unrest there. So, they've proposed a new law to empower formerly toothless labor unions to negotiate on wages, safety protections, and workplace rules.

Now guess who is howling in protest? Dell, Ford, GE, Microsoft, Nike, and other brand-name corporate giants that have been abandoning U.S. workers and communities for Chinese sweatshops. They have profited for years on the backs of China's impoverished workers, hiding behind the doctrinaire hokum that globalized sweatshops will somehow, sometime raise the living standards of those workers. As the surge of Chinese social unrest indicates, however, workers are no longer swallowing the hokum, and the time for push-back is now.

Expatriate U.S. corporations are lobbying ferociously to get China's government to drop its labor reforms, wailing that the new law amounts to socialism. Socialism in a communist country? Imagine! Well, say the Dells and Nikes, these rules would make it more difficult for them to fire workers. Well, duh ... yes! The corporations might ask their former American workers if that seems unfair.

What must the Chinese people think? Just as they might get a small break, here comes the U.S. of A. – represented by these greed-headed corporations – stomping on their dreams. Who elected Dell, Nike, and the rest to do this in our name?

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

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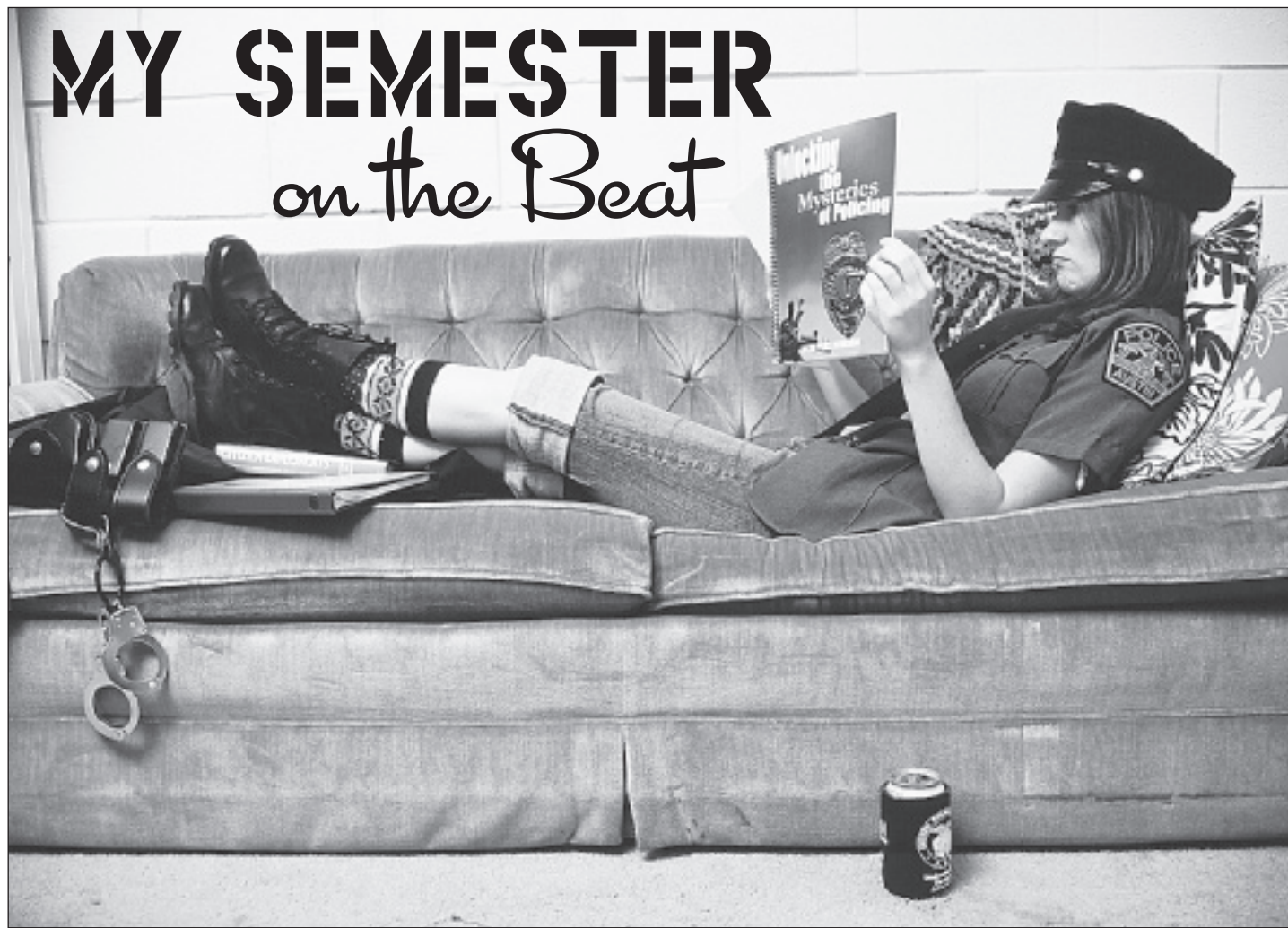
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MY SEMESTER on the Beat



CELESTIA DANGER

In one day, she saw a dead cow in a median, a security guard who'd shot himself in the butt, and a young Target shoplifter who, having been handcuffed, kept asking, "Can y'all pull my shorts down so my underwear will show?"

Know Your Neighborhood

Every week our instructor, Senior Officer Joe Muñoz, would give us a new piece of cryptic advice, like, "If your officer gets in trouble, it's your choice whether you want to get out and help." He followed this tip with the story of a man who'd stayed in the car while his officer got pummeled (and whose classmates wouldn't let him live it down), and a woman who'd done the opposite (and had gotten arrested in the ensuing confusion). We were advised not to bring anything along that couldn't be tied down, giving me visions of being impaled by a water bottle. Muñoz warned us not to be chatty, smelly, or intoxicated. More than once, he reminded us: "You might be too busy to eat."

We returned to class after our ride-alongs giddy with stories. Matt got to bust up a party. Thomas was hailed by a man whose girlfriend was puking in his new Lexus. Charlene told the class that she was called to a disturbance in Acting Chief Cathy Ellison's apartment complex, to which Muñoz responded, "Chief Ellison lives in an apartment?" Carolyn by far had the best time. In one day, she saw a dead cow in a median, a security guard who'd shot himself in the butt, and a young Target shoplifter who, having been handcuffed, kept asking, "Can y'all pull my shorts down so my underwear will show?"

continued on p.32

Wherein our reporter pursues the bad guys, abhors Problem People, studies community policing, and earns a perfect-attendance Koozie in the APD's Citizen Police Academy **BY NORA ANKRUM**

When you imagine a 10-hour ride-along with a cop, there's a lot of stuff you expect – sirens, squealing tires, tense confrontations, handcuffs ... mine began with a dead battery.

I was scheduled to tag along on a 3pm-1am Saturday patrol shift with Officer George Silvio, a friendly, mild-mannered guy in his mid-30s. He jumped the car while I waited in the break room reading the bulletin board. I probably read everything half a dozen times – a Cops for Christ flier, a fatal-shootings stat sheet, a workers' compensation notice, a memo regarding civil-service proceedings appealing Officer Julie Schroeder's indefinite suspension – before Officer Silvio returned. He had us on the road around 4pm; by five, hot on the case of an abandoned Camry in a turn lane, we had a flat tire.

We'd pulled into a parking lot nearby, where two different people helpfully pointed out the flat, and it was there – as a city maintenance truck was arriving to change our tire; a tow truck sat idle, having popped a cable while attempting to fetch the Camry; a second tow truck was backing into the turn lane to try again; and Silvio was directing traffic in his yellow reflective vest, which he'd retrieved, neatly folded, from somewhere behind his seat – that I realized my turn on the mean streets of Austin wouldn't remotely resemble an episode of *Cops* or even *The Wire*.

Instead, my day-in-the-life-of-a-lawman would be more like one of those illustrated pages from a Richard Scarry book. Just like Farmer Alfalfa and Grocer Cat, Officer Silvio and his fellow municipal workers were each performing a modest but indispensable service in the intricately connected web of life that is Busytown.

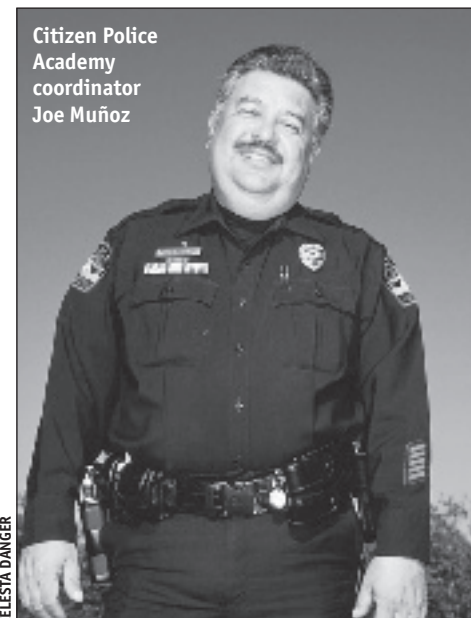
Citizen Ambassadors

It turns out there are people riding around with Austin Police Department cops all the time, from cadets in training to Victim Services Division volunteers to psychology students. There are so many, in fact,

that had I not ridden this particular weekend, I'd have had to wait a couple of months before the schedule opened again – the fate of one of my classmates. We were all supposed to ride with an officer the weekend of Aug. 11-12 as part of the Citizen Police Academy, a free course designed by the APD to show regular people what it's like to be a cop. Though few people really know about citizen police academies (or understand them – "Does that mean you can make citizen's arrests?" everyone always asks), they're increasingly popular. About 45% of U.S. police departments offer some kind of CPA, and most of them, like the one APD offers, are structured as once-a-week classes stretching over about 11 weeks.

Some CPAs target specific groups, like senior citizens, teenagers, businesses, or minority communities, but the basic goal is always the same: to create diplomats. CPA graduates go out into the world and tell their friends that the police are really just big cuddly teddy bears – or at least not some species of unthinking blue ogre ready to pounce on the guilty and innocent alike. An added bonus is that graduates tend to advocate for things like better police pay, and some even join alumni societies, which help police departments in all kinds of tangible, cost-saving ways. In Austin, CPA grads volunteer to process crime-scene photos, role-play during training exercises, or drink on APD's dime so that cadets can practice field sobriety testing. They also raise funds for things that don't quite make it into the APD budget. If Forensics needs a new microwave for the kitchen, they call the alumni society.

Most police departments try to spice up the typical lecture-based CPA curriculum with a lot of hands-on activities, which vary from jail tours, CPR certification, and mock trials to driving squad cars, dusting for fingerprints, and even shooting guns. But the one thing every decent CPA seems to have is the momentous, all-roads-lead-here ride-along. Ours fell toward the end of the course, leaving plenty of time for the suspense to build.



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The lightheartedness of a lot of my classmates' stories testifies to how safe Austin really is. We're the fourth safest city in the U.S., based on FBI statistics for violent crime, and according to Assistant Chief Charlie Ortiz, we in large part have APD's community policing program to thank for it. "Community policing" – like "new urbanism" or "attachment parenting" – is the kind of catchphrase that gets thrown around a lot in conversations about reform. It reflects a shift away from reactionary policing (an unfortunate byproduct of the 911 system) and toward addressing the root causes of crime. Community policing requires police to have working relationships with the people living in a neighborhood rather than just driving through it with the windows rolled up. Programs that reflect this philosophy (like the Citizen Police Academy) became popular recipients of federal money in the Nineties thanks to the creation of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services Office, but APD was an early adopter of the philosophy. Our CPA began in January 1987, placing it among the oldest in the country, and to this day it's been fully funded from within the department.

The People Business

Until I joined the academy, I had never heard of community policing. We didn't actually hear the phrase in class all that often,



Kari Terrell, our class president, plans to apply for this May's (real) Police Academy.



CELESTA DANGER

either. (The most notable exception came from a police academy instructor who said, "We work hard to get away from the military model of policing. Community policing is the antithesis of that – it's about problem-solving, and you can't do that if you need someone to tell you what to do.") Our class manual, however, provides a detailed history of the philosophy, from its origins in a 1979 article written by Herman Goldstein (which was expanded into the 1990 book *Problem-Oriented Policing*) to its bumpy implementation in Austin, which required sweeping and controversial organizational changes, including the elimination of the highest promotable rank, a move meant to force more independent decision-making down through the lower levels.

This history helps explain the emphasis in our lectures on "problem solving" and "discretionary decision-making." It seemed to be on everyone's mind, from the 21-year-old police officer fresh off his first shift – who told us, "I might handle a situation differently than another officer, but it'll still be right. I don't know if I could be a cop if somebody just told me, 'Okay, write this guy a ticket'" – to lecturer Sgt. Keith Stoddard, who pointed out that a person speeding down the road could turn out to have a kid in the back seat having an asthma attack. "No one wants an officer not to consider the circumstance," he said. Even Charlie Ortiz's explanation of the department's pursuit policy reflects this shift in thinking: "Pursuits [used to be] undisciplined relative to today," he said. Now, the stakes have to be pretty high to warrant the risks of a high-speed chase.

Before, Ortiz said, "We would chase people for the most minor traffic violation. We'd chase 'em till the wheels fell off."

This notion of discretionary thinking relies heavily on the other pillar of community policing, which is community involvement. In order to use discretion in determining, for instance, how loud a party has to be before it surpasses the acceptable norm for a particular neighbor-

hood, an officer has to be familiar with that neighborhood. A community-based, preventative approach to policing also highlights how reliant the police are on citizens just doing the simplest things like reporting suspicious behavior. The lesson that has stuck with me from our Sex Crimes lecture was the importance of reporting flashers, something I'd never have done before – nakedness seems harmless enough, right? But if investigators can pull a DNA sample from the scene, they can enter it into the CODIS (the Combined DNA Index System) and potentially pull up a match for a rape or other serious offense. I suppose it's because of this reliance on the community that our lectures were filled with phrases like "waiting tables is the single best job for preparing to be a police officer."

Our lectures were filled with phrases like "waiting tables is the single best job for preparing to be a police officer."

While undeniably image-conscious, this attitude still helped chip away at the bully image that cops have; our instructor, Officer Muñoz, with his gentle demeanor and slight Santa belly, didn't hurt either. He embodied that mix of humor, sweetness, and sternness you learn to expect from the police as a child – and quickly forget as a teenager, the first time a cop speaks to you like you're a criminal apparently because you've gone through puberty. A 29-year law-enforcement veteran who's received

Officer of the Year accolades from three different organizations, Muñoz was clearly excited to watch us learn the ins and outs of policing. He'd stand at the back of the classroom grinning and prodding the speakers: "Have someone put on the vest," or "Tell 'em about what happened last week." He was often fussing with his computer so he could play videos for the class – he liked making us laugh with scenes from *Cops* or *Reno 911!*

Problem People

Every member of our class had passed a background check to get into the academy, and we were required to wear name-tags at all times, lest we wander unsolicited into other parts of the building – not that we could, as we needed an escort each week to enter the building at all and to allow us, with a special security card at the elevator, up to the fourth floor. This weekly ritual

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started us off with a strong sense of our privileged status but also our boundaries: We were civilians; they were police. Muñoz's enthusiasm counterbalanced this rigidity and offset his own school-marm tendencies, clearly honed during the 10 years he's spent fine-tuning the academy. He kept us in line with a meticulously arranged classroom that included assigned seating and nameplates printed with the CPA logo. He charged our class president, Kari Terrell, with the honor of alphabetizing the nameplates every week after class.

His sensibility was most embodied in the "Types of Problem People" handout he reviewed on our first day, which listed all the possible ways we, as students, could annoy him. From the Loudmouth to the Latecomer, the Broken Record ("they keep bringing up the same point over and over again") to the Interpreter ("always speaks for other people") to my favorite, the Headshaker (who "nonverbally disagrees in a dramatic and disruptive manner"), Officer Muñoz left little room for schoolroom mischief.

Of course, we weren't a group particularly inclined to be rowdy or disagreeable. I wasn't sure exactly what type of person would attend a CPA, spending four hours every Tuesday evening learning about police procedure, but it turned out not to be a bunch of crazies obsessed with putting lawbreakers behind bars. Instead it was a mix, with ages ranging from late teens to mid-60s, of police officers' family members, criminal-justice students or people planning to go into law enforcement, people who deal with the police in their occupations (such as Anita, a facility investigator with the state Department of Family and Protective Services, and Sam, a college student considering a career in politics), and, yes, a few curious citizens, like Carolyn, a bubbly redhead who joked that she'd heard APD officers were cute – to which Muñoz responded, "There *have* been some weddings out of this. I don't wanna lie." Also included in our ranks were members of the Citizen Review Panel, for whom the class is required.

The CRP is one of the bodies that review citizen complaints against APD or its employees; it shows up in the press whenever there's a high-profile case like last year's shooting of Daniel Rocha by Officer Julie Schroeder. Initially, complaints are investigated by the Office of the Police Monitor, but if the chief of police doesn't sustain the complaint at that point, then either the OPM or the complainant can refer it to the CRP. One of our CRP members was Dick Neavel, a retired scientific adviser from ExxonMobil, who stood out as a tougher sell than most. He maintained a skeptical presence and diligently took notes with one of the green pens we'd all been given on the first day – having lost mine early on, I couldn't help noticing that he was still using his during our last lecture. He asked devil's advocate questions in a class more often characterized by the empathetic or the purely curious. I heard him give a stern "thank you, sir" a couple of times to speakers whose lectures he particularly appreciated. The only student tougher than Dick was Anita Overton.

One of two African-Americans in the class, Anita asked the most vigilant questions, always with an eye toward the underdog. Assistant Police Chief Charlie Ortiz was a last-minute replacement speaker for Chief Ellison one evening, and without a prepared lecture he opened

Student Anita Overton wasn't afraid to ask challenging questions.



CELESTIA DANGER

up the floor for general questioning. Topics ranged from what kinds of engines squad cars have to how patrol officers remember the hundreds of city ordinances they're expected to enforce. Then Anita raised her hand. "In the wake of the Sophia King, Jesse Lee Owens, and Daniel Rocha shootings," she said, "it appears that tensions within the African-American and Hispanic communities have increased. What is APD currently doing, and what is the long-term plan to specifically address and perhaps reduce some of those tensions?" (You can

probably guess that Ortiz chose an answer straight from the community-policing playbook; the incidents called for a "renewed relationship" with the communities where the shootings happened, he said.)

Anita also spoke up when she disagreed with a speaker, as when Sgt. Stoddard argued against the idea that the Rodney King beating was "punitive." The officers were using the "weakest strike" police are trained to use, he explained, and it's meant to subdue a person. But when King kept trying to get up, they just kept hitting him rather than switching tactics – an example of what happens when police aren't trained to use discretionary thinking. It was a particularly long and complicated explanation, and when he finished, the room was silent for a moment before Anita raised her hand and said what was probably rattling around in most people's minds: "I'm already having trouble with this session. ... I don't see how it could take 81 strikes to subdue him."

Anita has said since then that she was happy with how the speakers took on our questions. "I was impressed and pleasantly surprised by the fact that each appeared sincere and genuine in their responses," she wrote to me in an e-mail. "I never got the feeling ... anyone was trying to be evasive or cover up any wrongdoing or misdeeds." Despite her biggest reservation about the CPA – the fact that there were no African-Americans represented among the many people who spoke to our class (that's not the case every semester) – she says that overall

continued on p.34

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it was a wonderful experience. She feels that it rekindled her respect and admiration for the police – an endorsement that represents precisely the kind of attitude CPAs are designed to promote.

Commencement

At graduation, we wore our “Sunday best,” and we stood for our class picture with the tallest person standing in the middle of the back row, and the rest of us cascading down- and outward from there. Cathy Ellison and City Manager Toby Futrell were scheduled for the program, but an emergency called them both away, leaving us once again with kindly Assistant Chief Charlie Ortiz, who once again opened up the floor for questions. No one had any, not even the few significant others who came to watch the proceedings. The CPA alumni were there with punch and cake and a merch table full of CPA T-shirts, jackets, and teddy bears. Our class president gave a speech, and we each had our picture taken as we received our graduation certificates, commemorative police patches, and navy blue CPA mugs. Those of us with perfect attendance were rewarded with CPA Koozies.

Taking the class, I’ve realized, really was like being a kid again. It was a return to the days when policemen smiled at you, eager to let you pet the K9, and firemen wanted to give you rides in their truck. It’s not hard to imagine why people go on to join the alumni society, where they can take once-a-month ride-alongs and see real-life autopsies and attend conventions where they hobnob with fancy FBI investigators. I’ve simply returned to the name-tagless anonymity of the civilian world, where the only police I’m likely to rub elbows with are the kind who want to see my license and registration. But even this workaday place has been painted in bright new Richard Scarry colors, because regardless of what I think about cops, I have a much better idea of what it means to be a citizen – and I have a Koozie to prove it. ■

For more on the CPA, go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/cpa.htm.

SCHOOL DAYS

Our class met on Tuesdays from 5:30-9:30pm at the downtown police headquarters on Eighth Street. We’d generally hear two presentations per week from speakers representing various departments within APD. Topics covered everything from use-of-force to forensic science to the bomb squad. Some highlights:

RECRUITMENT & TRAINING: White-collar pastel blues

Austin Police Academy instructor Sgt. Fred Fletcher was wiry and energetic with dark eyes and high cheekbones. He spoke really fast and walked around the room so that he could look straight at you when he said things like, “The badge belongs to the community; it’s just on loan to [us].” He and APD recruiter Henry Moreno explained that while recruiting in Austin is easy – as of the last contract period in 2005, APD officers are arguably the highest-paid in the state and among the highest-paid in the region – becoming a cop here is anything but. We have one of the top academies in the Southwest, with one of the longest training periods – up to 8½ months of eight-hour days, each followed by working out and studying to pass exams that leave little room for error. The professionalization of policing and the academic rigors that come with it are relatively new phenomena, said Fletcher, brought on like so many things by 1960s-era demands for change. Policing used to be considered blue-collar, he said, but those days are long gone. Other notable unpleasanties of law-enforcement training: a background check with a finance review (“If you’ve got a police officer in debt up to here,” said Moreno, “what’s he gonna be tempted to do?”), an 800-word psychology exam, a vocabulary-and-reading comprehension test that “people with master’s [degrees] have failed,” a polygraph test, and an oral board so intimidating they had to paint the room “pastel blue.” And somewhere in there you get Tased in the back and pepper-sprayed in the face.

THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM: One step forward

“How many of you know your district rep?” asked Sgt. Gina Curtis, our first speaker for week three. One person raised her hand, and it wasn’t me. I’d never even heard of a district rep, which is too bad because they’re awfully handy. There are nine districts in Austin, with a DR assigned to each one, and what he or she does is help people with problems they can’t resolve themselves – like squabbles between neighbors (chronic false house alarms, parking disputes) or larger issues such as too much neighborhood traffic or crime (DRs can get speed limits changed and start Neighborhood Watch programs). Your district rep is your go-to person for just about any neighborhood nuisance, which is especially helpful if the problem requires coordinating with other city departments like waste disposal or the fire marshal. Just remember: Before you go tattling on your neighbors’ barking dog, you should really try talking to them, because that’s the first thing your DR is going to suggest. (To find your district rep, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/drcity.htm.)

FINANCIAL CRIMES: Two steps back

Until this class, I was happily coasting along thinking that victims of identity theft were pop-up-clicking grandparents. Then Financial Crimes Detective Shane Lee came along and said, “I can guarantee: Everybody in this room will be or will know someone who’s a victim of financial crime.” Apparently Internet commerce and plastic money make us all easy targets no matter how savvy we are, and while financial crimes have shot up 200% in the last two years, resources devoted to solving them have not kept pace. In 2005, APD had four detectives to deal with 6,000 cases (though they’re now up to five), which means that most financial crimes don’t get dealt with at all. If someone applies for a credit card in your name or starts bouncing your checks, you probably won’t get your good credit or your money back without doing the investigating yourself. To avoid this fate, which averages 600 hours of legwork, Lee recommended a preventative strategy: Check your accounts daily, and get a credit report three times a year. A classmate asked why APD doesn’t hire more financial-crimes detectives; Lee responded, “What’s more important: a homicide or someone who’s got a forged check written on their account? The assets that we have have to go to that. If I lose \$1,800, I’ll get over that. If I lose my wife, I’ll never get over that.”

GANG UNIT: APD’s rock stars

Top three reasons why the gang unit is the coolest: 1) They taught us all about the different types of gangs (turf-oriented vs. gain-oriented; ethnic vs. hate vs. prison gangs); the symbols, colors, hand signs, tags, crimes, and drug preferences of each; and which ones are prevalent in Central Texas – one is actually called Tango Blast, which I love because it sounds so much more like a new flavor of Starburst than a gang.

2) Their slide show (grainy crime-scene photos from APD cases – a car with bullet holes in the windows, a pile of cash, a dead body – punctuated by tough-sounding title cards saying stuff like “Dead Is Dead”) was set to Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Run Through the Jungle.”

3) They arrived late because they “had to arrest a few people on the way over.”

ROBBERY: A victim is a victim

Robbery Detective Andy Perkel began the class with a question: “Has anyone in here ever been robbed?” I said yes: My car had been broken into two months earlier, and my cell phone had been stolen. As it turns out, I was not in fact “robbed” but “burgled” – which is great because it’s not only more fun to say, but it means I wasn’t attacked, as robbery’s not a robbery unless it involves assault. In Austin, we have a much higher rate for solving robbery cases than the national average, but we still have serious problems, the main one being that robberies here are disproportionately victimizing Hispanics. Making them a target is the fact that undocumented immigrants – and therefore anyone who looks like they might be one – are assumed both to carry a lot of cash around (they don’t use banks) and to be reticent about reporting crimes against them. APD has been a leader in initiating programs to counteract this trend. Their Banco Facile program – the first of its kind in the country – partners with area banks in allowing immigrants to use their Mexican IDs (*matriculas*) to deposit money into accounts. APD has also developed an Immigrant Protection Team designed to overcome cultural barriers that prevent immigrants from asking for help. IPT Community Liaison Manuel Renteria spoke to us so passionately about the program that tears came to his eyes. “I am the son of an illegal alien,” he said. “I remember the fear that my dad had, a fear of systems.” Under former Chief Stan Knee, he explained, APD changed its attitude toward immigrants. The conversation used to be: “‘You were raped? What’s your immigrant status? Illegal? You’re deported.’ The rape was never reported,” said Renteria, “and the rapist was out there free.” Now, a victim is a victim, no matter who they are.

HOMICIDE: Like it sounds ... and smells

“I’ve never worked so hard in my entire career as in this unit,” said Homicide Detective Lisa Morrill. “Your personal life suffers.” Morrill was a petite woman with peachy skin tones and dark, curly hair. A 20-year APD veteran, she looked pretty and tough and tired all at the same time, and she said emotional things in the unceremonious, un-self-conscious way only man aged by people completely absorbed in their work. Of the three years she’s spent in homicide, she said, “You learn a lot about people’s relationships, the most intimate things about them. You go into people’s homes, look in their toilet bowls, their trash.” She showed us a slide show: photos of decomposing bodies (“decomps”); a corpse of a teenager in a car, still seat-belted; a mangled body that had been run over by a train; the bloated, purplish-black bodies of a double suicide. “You’re watching it on a slide,” she said, “but there’s nothing like smelling it. That smell just rapes your nose.”

SWAT: America – fuck yeah!

Three SWAT officers equal three superhero jawlines; three sets of gleaming white teeth; three tight, black T-shirts with SWAT emblazoned across the chest; and an unknown quantity of canned energy drinks and sunglasses. Speakers from other APD units looked substantially less Army-commercial and a lot more Little League coach-ish, a contrast apparently explained by SWAT’s weekly schedule, which includes training four days out of five. On call 24/7, SWAT officers drive city vehicles everywhere so that they can be off to the rescue at a moment’s notice. To drink, they have to get off call; to go out to dinner with their families, they have to take separate cars. They wowed the class with video footage of real house raids, showing us how the team stands in formation, busts down the door, throws a “flash bang” inside to stun its occupants, and barrels into the house all in a matter of seconds. It was Anita who thought to ask: “Who’s responsible for repairs?”

– N.A.



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This past weekend marked the opening of the National Basketball Association Development League's 2006-2007 season, the league's sixth and the second for Austin representatives the Toros.

The NBDL, or D-League, is the NBA's minor league, a system of 12 teams (all affiliated with different NBA squads) where potential NBA players who weren't drafted or who were drafted but not signed or who were drafted and signed but need a little extra work can improve their skills under the watchful eye of professional coaches and play for NBA scouts, all with the aim of one day making it to the big stage.

Last week I had the privilege of sitting in on Toros training camp, 12 grueling days of drills, plays, and scrimmages designed to separate the wheat from the chaff and dwindle the team's existing roster of 16 down to 10 before the start of the D-League season. Under the watchful eye and soft-spoken management of head coach Dennis Johnson – an NBA legend who helped lead two different teams to league championships during his time as a player – and his assistant, Dale Osbourne, these 16 players fought, scrapped, and ran with one another for two weeks in an attempt to get themselves one step closer to their dream of playing in the NBA.

Here are a few of my modest observations from those long, hard days at camp.

Day One: Learning the "Poughkeepsie"

Dennis Johnson has had enough. For the last 15 minutes, he's been watching his team run the "Poughkeepsie" play, and so far, he's unimpressed. He walked them through it earlier, making everyone's role clear, but at full speed, the wheels are starting to come off. The passes from the point guard should be crisper, hitting teammates right as they come around a screen; the picks should be stronger, allowing the small forward a chance to free himself from the nagging presence of his defender. None of this is happening, however.

Basketball plays are like grandfather clocks: a delicate balance of springs, gears, and motors whose movements are dependent on the movements of each surrounding piece. If one element is off-line or out of sync, the timing of the whole is thrown off, and you're either left with a basketball team that can't score a basket or a clock that tells you it's 5:30 when it's actually 8:15, meaning you're late for work.

The problem, Johnson realizes, is that his players aren't talking to one another: Each player is acting like an individual, rather than a cog in a great wheel.

He blows his whistle. "You gotta talk out there," he says, rising from the bench and

For more *Chronicle* sports coverage see our sports blog at austinchronicle.com/sports.



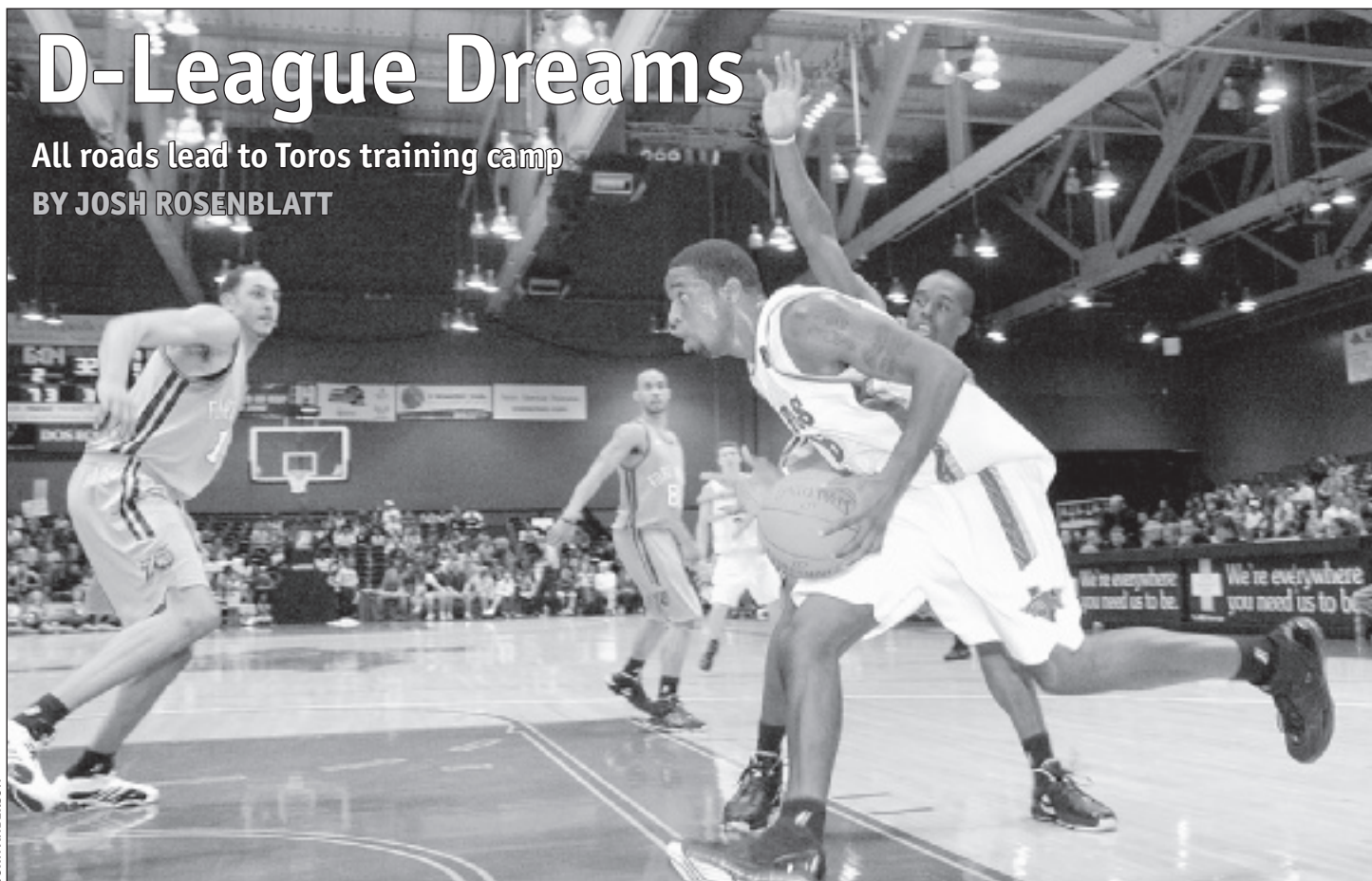
The Toros host the Anaheim Arsenal this Friday (7:30pm) and Saturday (7pm) at the Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. Tickets available at Waterloo Records, RunTex, or from the Toros at www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

D-League Dreams

All roads lead to Toros training camp

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

JOHN ANDERSON



Jamar Smith drives the baseline in the Austin Toros' 111-96 loss to the Fort Worth Flyers on Saturday night.

walking out onto the parquet. "Off the court, you don't have to talk to anybody if you don't want to. But on the court you have to build trust and communicate with each other. You gotta call their names, tell them where you are." Small problem there. Most of these guys have never met before, or just met earlier that day. They can't call out their teammates' names because they don't know their teammates' names. Realizing this, Johnson calls for the simplest drill they'll run all day.

"Introduce yourselves," he says.

And now 16 guys are shaking hands and exchanging names, like they're at a church social. Or what I imagine a church social would be like. Introductions and pleasantries

"If you want to get seen and get a shot, there's no better place than the NBDL. There are NBA scouts at D-League games all the time. In Europe, the only scouts that come to games are looking at European players." – Kris Clack

behind them, Johnson's team gets back to drilling, though this time the gym echoes with the sound of players calling to one another as they tighten up the play.

For Johnson, a truly great basketball player is one who mentally sees the game unfolding, who slows it down, as they say, and controls every aspect of it – not just someone who can run fast or jump high. The best players are the ones who have a couple dozen set plays stored in their heads and know just what their role and the role of their teammates are in every one and who can improvise within those plays when the situation demands it. That's why

Johnson starts teaching from his book of plays on the first day of training camp: He wants to see which players have the mental capacity to learn the plays, understand their subtleties, and execute them to perfection – in the shortest time possible.

Take, for example the "Poughkeepsie" play (not its real name, but I don't want to give away any team secrets here; not before I get my season press pass, anyway): The point guard brings the ball up the court while the shooting guard and the small forward cross paths underneath the basket, racing behind the center and the power forward, hopefully crossing close enough to throw their defenders crashing into each other. The shooting guard then comes back up

ideally, will have rotated away from the ball and found themselves wide open following the mass confusion of the defending team. Two points.

Got that? Well, me neither. I had to write down the play in my notebook and watch it unfold at least a dozen times before it began to make sense. The players at Toros training camp were shown it maybe twice before they had to start running it. Granted, these guys are professionals, but they're also learning the play from one of their heroes in an unfamiliar gym in an unfamiliar city at a high-stakes tryout where everyone on the floor is fighting to learn the same play faster and better than everyone else. Plus it's 10:30am, a time when any reasonable man would still be at home in bed.

Which is exactly the kind of situation coach Johnson wants to engender. "That's why you put plays in early on," he says, "to see who can grasp them, see who grabs a hold of your offense. And to see who's lost out there." Great players, regardless of the severity of the circumstances, can learn and recall a "Poughkeepsie" (and its several variations), an "Austin" (ditto), and a "Horns" (see above) and be ready to run them all during a high-speed scrimmage midway through the first day of training camp.

And those are the players Dennis Johnson is out here looking for.

□

Every year, a small group of D-League executives pools its collective basketball knowledge, scouting reports, and agent sales pitches and chooses 120 to 130 of the best-known prospects in the country who either didn't make it in the NBA Draft or didn't go to play overseas and then puts those names into the league's Draft Pool. Each team then chooses 10 play-

ers out of the draft and takes those players with them to training camp. Along with four returning players from the previous season and two "allocated players" (whom we'll get to in a minute), these 10 guys make up the potential roster names for each team.

Which makes the presence of Jonathan Burris at Toros training camp all the more impressive. Burris, a 23-year-old forward from Ann Arbor, Mich., made his way to this year's roster through the most circuitous yet democratic of all routes: the open tryout. According to league regulations, every NBDL team is required to take one player from open tryouts to training camp. Back in October, 100 unknown aspirants gathered at the Delco Activity Center in East Austin to try their luck with the Toros and to see if their skills could stand up under the scrutiny of an NBA legend and afford them the opportunity to move one step closer to their dream. All for the low, low price of \$175.

At the end of that weekend, the last man standing was Burris, a lanky swingman out of little-known University of Mary in North Dakota, whose quest for the NBA had taken him to three different colleges and to a new home in Dallas before landing him here in Austin. "I told my agent to focus on getting me to the NBA, rather than looking overseas," he says, "either through the NBDL or by getting me a tryout with an NBA team. Then I read about the tryout and decided this was my shot."

Now he's here, a Cinderella story, going up against some of the best players in the country and fighting for a spot on a professional roster. "Basketball is always basketball," he says. "This is just a higher level. Now I have to perform with more speed, more strength. In college, you get a good core of guys; maybe one or two guys are exceptional. But here everyone's good; everyone can play. There's no weak link at all out there."

On the other end of the D-League spectrum is Jamar Smith, a serious, soft-spoken 26-year-old forward who was one of the stars of last year's team. Along with 2005-2006 league MVP Marcus Fizer (who's since gone to play in Spain) and Andre Emmett (currently in Lithuania), Smith led the Toros to a .500 record in their first season and for his efforts was invited to take

part in San Antonio Spurs training camp before the start of this year's NBA season. In San Antonio, Smith averaged three points a night, playing limited minutes, and impressed coach Gregg Popovich. Unfortunately, there were six guys fighting for one spot, and the Spurs were flush with forwards, so Smith was released. Though he's back in Austin, his thoughts are never far from the NBA.

"I'm just going to grind it out here," he says, "and hopefully I'll get back up to the NBA. Coach Johnson is a great coach, and he believes in me. I talked to him while I was in San Antonio, and he couldn't even see me getting cut. So coming back here, I know he's gonna put me in a position where I can get called back up."

Day Four: Media Day

I hate media day. For the past four days I've been the only representative of the fourth estate at this damn camp, pulling myself out of bed at ungodly hours to watch people I don't even know run up and down a basketball court, all out of a deep and abiding love for the game and a dedication to the highest journalistic principles. Now all of a sudden, the gym is crowded with a bunch of Johnny-come-latelies with their fancy cameras and microphones and their so-called "years of professional reporting experience," and they're trying to take my story from me. I should physically remove them all from the gym or try to sabotage their interviews somehow. My mind bubbles with sinister possibilities.

In the end, though, I decide the best course of action is to mope quietly in the bleachers until they leave. I call this "taking the high ground."

Most of the reporters and cameramen are here to talk to Kris Clack and Brad Buckman, two former University of Texas stars and Austin natives who have come to the Toros as "allocated players." Before training camp, each D-League team is assigned two players with strong local ties who will hopefully help win new fans to the league in whatever city the team is representing.

Buckman, out of Westlake High School, graduated from UT last year, after a successful

continued on p.40



Coach Dennis Johnson draws up a play in the huddle.

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career that included trips to the NCAA’s Sweet 16, Elite Eight, and Final Four. After graduation, Buckman went to Greece, where he signed a contract with Olympia Larissa. Then, in a truly odd turn of events, the 6-foot-8-inch power forward was suspended from the league for two years after traces of the doctor-prescribed attention-deficit-disorder drug Adderall were found in his system during a routine drug test. Two years seems a harsh penalty for so ridiculous an infraction, but the Greeks, apparently, are stern masters when it comes to basketball. So now the prodigal son has returned, gunning for the NBA.

Clack will tell Buckman he’s doing the right thing, that Europe is no place for a young player looking to make his way to the NBA. Clack, a UT hero and a former second-round draft pick of the Boston Celtics, spent the last five years playing in Italy and believes that, despite the higher pay scale across the Atlantic, success in Europe doesn’t necessarily translate into opportunities here in the states. “If you want to get seen and get a shot,” he says, “there’s no better place than the NBDL. There are NBA scouts at D-League games all the time. In Europe, the only scouts that come to games are looking at European players.”

Which is why Clack, a former McDonald’s All-American at Anderson High School, is back in Austin. After five years of wandering from team to team in the promotional desert of European basketball, a call from the D-League to play with his hometown team was like manna to the Israelites. “It would mean a lot to me to play in Austin,” he says. “It’ll show the people who know me and the people who look up to me around Austin that I’m a person who continues to fight and continues to try to do something with his life.”

At 29 – an age when most professional basketball players are either peaking or beginning their long descent – Clack is far and away the oldest guy at training camp, running the court with guys five, six, seven years his junior. “To be able to run up and down and compete with these guys at my age shows me that I’m still able to play basketball at a high level,” he says. “So why not play, if my body is well and my mind is right? I might as well try now while I’m still semiyoung.”

There are, however, physical limitations and necessary adaptations that come with advanced age. Watching him during scrimmages, I notice that Clack isn’t the strongest or the quickest player on the court. Instead he has to think his way to baskets, using the array of clever jab steps, pump fakes, and crossover moves he’s accumulated over his years as a professional to get over on his more athletically able, younger, but less experienced opponents. “I can’t jump as high as these guys anymore,” he admits. “These days, I have to outsmart people.” I remember the first thing Clack ever said to me, before we had even met. I was sitting in the stands watching drills on the second day of camp, and he came limping over, an enormous ice pack wrapped around his knee. Sitting down with a groan, he turned to me and laughed. “Old age,” he said. I laughed too, until I remembered that Clack is a year younger than I am. So much for my late-blooming basketball career.



Day Five: Lights Out

As the days have rolled by, the mood around the gym has gotten considerably more serious, the air thicker. It spreads even to the usually laid-back Johnson, who has grown less and less patient with mistakes in execution and lapses in judgment as camp has gone on. About 30 minutes into practice, while players are deep into a scrimmage, trying unsuccessfully to remember all the subtleties of their set plays, the lights over half the court start to flicker and die. Probably a short somewhere, but a frustrated Johnson sees it as a sign. “You all are playing so bad,” he says, “the lights went out.” I get the sense he’s only half-joking.

Before they’re students and before they’re potential future Toros, these players are born competitors: men who hate – above all else – to lose. And as the scrimmages roll on and as one team gets closer to the seven points required for a victory, the desire to impress the coaches and earn a spot on the roster gets superseded by the far more primal instinct to win, an instinct all 16 of these guys have cultivated their entire lives. You can’t simply shut off this instinct just because you’re in training camp. So as the scores get tighter, the scrimmages become less professional and more playground.

B.J. Elder, the Toros’ second-round draft pick out of Georgia Tech, shows off an array of spectacular dunks; Toros veteran Anthony Fuqua and sixth-round draft pick Rod Benson slam into each other below the basket, wrestling for every rebound; rookie point guard Brock Gillespie grabs loose balls and throws full-court passes to teammates streaming up-court on a fast break. Suddenly players are arguing over possession, over the score, over fouls, over perceived failures in execution and placement.

We’ve got a game here! Set plays and drills be damned; we’ve got a game!

Coach Johnson, it turns out, is less impressed than I am. These scrimmages exist for a reason – to show him who’s learned the plays he’s taught and who can execute them – and he could care less about fast-break points and blocked shots, about fancy dribbling and

fancier dunks. He’s looking for precision and basketball IQ; he’s looking for guys who listen and learn. Every time he feels the game is getting out of hand, he blows the whistle and walks his pupils, again, through his plays until they get them right. Only then does he let the game continue.

Unfortunately, when you’ve got 16 players on the court and only 10 roster spots, some guys are going to have to go. That’s just the sad truth of it. And when Johnson and assistant coach Dale Osbourne start calling people’s names at the end of practice, and those guys start making the long walk past their campmates and toward the door to talk to the coaches, everybody knows what’s happening, though no one acknowledges it. Four will be let go today. Two more will get cut on the last day of camp, seven days from now. So when those first four names are called, there’s no celebration for anyone. Because everyone in the gym knows that if they don’t keep playing hard and listening, they might well be facing the firing squad next.

Walt Waters, a bruising 260-pound forward out of Cleveland State, is called out by coach Osbourne first. I watch him walk out of the gym, looking for some sign of resignation in his eyes. Turning back to my notebook, I catch the middle of a heated conversation between affable forward Tedric Hill, who played at a community college in Florida, and point guard Melvin Scott, who went to the NCAA Sweet 16 with North Carolina. Distracting themselves from the tension in the room, they engage each other in a disagreement about the relative regional affiliations of their respective universities.

“Man, North Carolina ain’t the South,” argues Hill. “Just listen to the name: *North* Carolina. How can something ‘North’ be in the South?”

“Of course North Carolina’s in the South,” counters Scott.

“I guess they didn’t teach you geography at UNC,” says Hill. “The South is Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and maybe – *maybe* – Texas.”

Waters comes back into the gymnasium looking defeated. He takes a seat on a faraway bleacher and stares off at nothing. Coach Osbourne calls out for Dustin Brown, a small

“In college, you get a good core of guys; maybe one or two guys are exceptional. But here everyone’s good; everyone can play. There’s no weak link at all out there.”

– Jonathan Burris

forward out of Loyola Marymount, who stands up and drags himself toward the door.

“No,” Scott continues. “The South is Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Everything you’re talking about is the *Dirty* South.” Some of the other players laugh at Scott’s hip-hop distinction.

Hill is fired up now. “Maryland ain’t the South,” he bellows. “Only below the Mason-Dixon Line is the South. And the Mason-Dixon Line starts at Tennessee.”

Scott shakes his head. “The Mason-Dixon Line is right above Maryland, not Tennessee.”

Brown walks back into the gym looking disconsolate. Next, Ty Thomas’ name is called. Thomas, a forward who played with Concordia after leaving North Texas, betrays no emotion as he walks out to face the guillotine. Brown, however, can’t hide his disappointment. He’s already packing up his gym bag quietly. The whole business is starting to become too much for me to take.

Hill and Scott, however, are oblivious. They’ve got an argument going. Scott turns to me for corroboration.

“Isn’t Maryland below the Mason-Dixon Line?” he asks.

I absent myself from empathy for a moment and assure him that Maryland is, in fact, below the Mason-Dixon Line. Scott smiles and turns back to Hill. “See? And he’s a highly educated man.” Looks like I’ve fooled someone else.

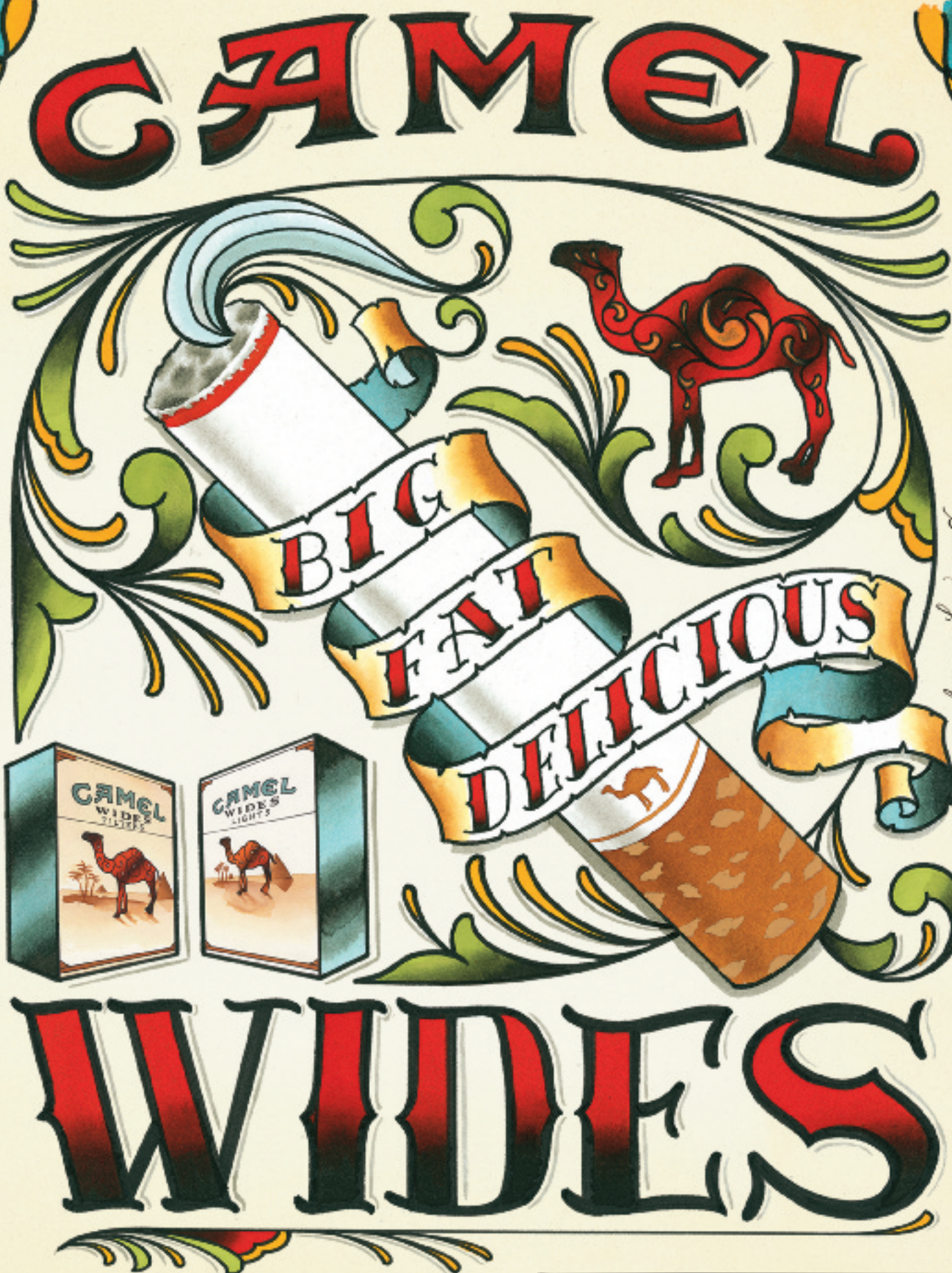
Hill shakes his head and tosses a ball up toward the nearest basket, unconvinced but resigned.

The last name called – breaking my heart – is Jonathan Burris, the hero of the open tryouts, who had come out of nowhere to earn himself a shot at the NBA dream. I had tried over the past days to show a little journalistic objectivity with Burris, but damned if I hadn’t come to like the guy; and the fact that he had gotten here by outrunning, outshooting, and out-hustling almost 100 other players back in October endeared him to me and made me feel like I was being cut along with him. It occurs to me I may have no idea what “journalistic objectivity” means.

For Walt Waters, Dustin Brown, and Ty Thomas, their futures most likely lie back in the D-League Players Pool, where they’ll wait hopefully to hear from another D-League team looking to fill their roster. For Jonathan Burris, it could mean anything: going overseas, other tryouts, waiting until next season. But for all these guys, the NBA dream has been deferred.

For the lucky 12, tomorrow will simply be another day of work: day six of training camp, with six more days to follow.

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the arts

44 TIM MILLER: IN BED
48 BOOK REVIEWS
50 AFTER A FASHION

DAN DIETZ: Breath in Denver

This is a story about air. Or more accurately, breath. And voice. And smoke.

Denver, like many cities, has a smoking ban. Makes sense. With crisp, clean, someone-oughta-bottle-it air like Denver's, you want it to stay clean. But it doesn't just ban smoking in public places; it bans smoking in theatres. Actors can't even smoke herbal cigarettes the way they can in other smokeless cities like New York.

Now, some plays require characters to smoke. Sometimes that's just window dressing, true. But sometimes it's crucial to the story. Sometimes smoke says something.

Take my play *tempOdyssey*. In it, there's a character who believes smoking is an essential part of his identity. Within 10 minutes of walking out onstage, he lights up, puffs away, and tells us the story of why he started smoking.

But here's the kicker: That character spends the second half of the play dead. He's walking around, sassing other characters, and generally helping drive the play to its conclusion, but he's dead. And we only really *know* this when he tries to light up ... and fails. He has no breath, so he can't smoke.

But if the audience can't see the character smoke in the first half, how can they understand that this character is dead in the second?

Chip Walton, who just produced *tempOdyssey* at Curious Theatre in Denver, believed so strongly in the need to maintain the integrity of this moment that he challenged the ban and went to court over it. The day I flew out there for the last week of rehearsals was the day he went to court. It should have been a slam dunk. But when I landed in Denver and checked my cell phone ...



ROBERT FAIRES

"Uh, hey Dan, this is Chip. Listen, my friend, we, uh, we need to talk about the whole smoking issue."

My heart felt like a rock. And I don't mean that Bob Seger kind of "like a rock."

Turns out the judge ruled that smoking was not a form of self-expression. He said theatre was a speech-based medium, and since smoking wasn't speech, it wasn't protected by the First Amendment. Put bluntly, according to the judge, smoke doesn't say anything.

Chip and I bitched about the whole thing. We debated and hemmed and hawed. But with time running out and an audience on the way, we had to make a decision: Do we outright flout the ban, smoke on stage and damn the torpedoes ... or do we find some way to "smoke" without smoking?

Fast-forward to opening night. Lights have gone down, and stars have come up, and the cosmos has flipped into filing cabinets. A character stops an elevator between floors and turns it into his own private smoking room. He pulls out a cigarette, and you can

feel everyone in the house lean forward all at once. He puts it in his mouth and starts to light up ... and then stops. With an impish grin, he reaches backstage and grabs a cup full of water and dry ice. It's bubbling over with rich fog. And on it, written in big capital letters, are the words "SMOKE SIMULATOR." He takes a drag off his unlit cigarette and blows onto the foggy cup. Smoke puffs out.

The audience goes wild. Clapping, cheering their support. We've managed to give this ridiculous ban the finger without doing anything illegal. We've peed all over it without actually breaking it.

And this is what the judge failed to understand. You can say a lot without speaking a word. You don't have to inhale a single breath of clean, crisp air to speak your mind. The body has a voice. And that night in Curious Theatre, it was deafening.

— Dan Dietz

*tempOdyssey continues through Dec. 16 at the Curious Theatre Company in Denver. For more information, visit www.curious theatre.org. The Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C., will also be producing *tempOdyssey* Dec. 6-31. For more information, visit www.studio theatre.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY:

Meeting the orchestra the first time

When I was very little, I remember sitting on the floor by a spinning phonograph in my grandmother's living room in Milbridge, Maine, listening to a voice describe for me the qualities of different instruments that were playing. It is one of my earliest memories, and I wouldn't at all be surprised to know that I was listening to Benjamin Britten's best-known orchestral work, *Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell*, more popularly known as *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, in which a narrator separates the instruments of the orchestra into their constituents — woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion — as each plays individually and in concert.

This weekend, the Austin Symphony Orchestra will offer *Young Person's Guide* as the first part of their Concert for the Young at Heart. For most people, says Peter Bay, ASO's conductor, "whether they know anything about classical music or not, the *Young Person's Guide* and *Peter and the Wolf* are probably the two pieces [they] will know, either because of records or because they were taken to the symphony somewhere and these pieces were played."

In the second part of the program, Anton Nel, UT professor of piano and chamber music and a regular soloist with the symphony,

will perform Dohnányi's *Variations on a Nursery Song*, which Bay considers "one of the most enjoyable pieces of classical music in the literature because it's based on 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.' It starts off with this huge, Wagnerian, almost *Gone With the Wind*-like seriously foreboding introduction, the orchestra playing at full tilt. There's this big timpani hit, and the whole orchestra comes to a sudden halt. Then, the pianist comes in playing the simple tune, and it eventually becomes a virtuoso piece for a pianist."

Nel knows something about young people and music, as he made his debut playing Beethoven's *First Piano Concerto* at the ripe old age of 12. "I was living on a farm in South Africa," he says, "and my mother, who played the piano, realized that I was very drawn to music and listening to the radio and picking out things on the piano. I wanted to play, there was no question. But she never taught me. She enrolled me in a local music school, and that was how it began. It was something that seemed destined to be."

ASO will conclude the program with another installment of its two-season mission to perform all of Beethoven's symphonies. This time it's the *Second Symphony*, surely a fine way to show off any orchestra — or even make an impression that lasts a lifetime. — Barry Pineo

The Austin Symphony Orchestra will present A Concert for the Young at Heart on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, 8pm, at Bass Concert Hall. For more information, call 476-6064, or visit www.austinsymphony.org.

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS: Weeks 3/4

The yearlong festival of plays by Suzan-Lori Parks continues. Each week through Nov. 12, 2007, a different group will present seven short plays written during the same week four years earlier. Admission is free or by donation, as noted. For more information, visit www.zachscott.com/365.

WEEK 3: Blanton Museum of Art

Friday, Dec. 1, 8pm, at the Blanton Museum of Art, upstairs contemporary gallery. Plays will be performed during the Blanton's "B Scene" event.

WEEK 4: Different Stages

(Norman Blumensaadt, director)

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 8pm, at private apartment. Reading by actors Frank Bengé, Aleta Garcia, Nicole Marosis, Norman Blumensaadt, Jennifer Underwood, Chris Sykes, and Trey Deason. Admission: canned food item for Capital Area Food Bank. Seating limited to 25 people; for reservations and directions, e-mail differentstagescompany@yahoo.com.



BALLET EAST:

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Ballet East hasn't changed its name to Alvin Ailey West, but we're thinking it could. The local company, which has a long tradition of working with choreographers from established dance troupes, has had three Ailey company members set works on Ballet East dancers in seasons past. Now, for its fall concert, being presented this weekend at the Dougherty Arts Center, a fourth has joined their ranks. Hope Boykin, a dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 2000, has created the new work *Suite, ... Peggy Lee* on commission from Artistic Director Rodolfo Mendez and set it on the company in October. As Boykin is said to love "earthy, full-out choreography" and has had her work described as "fierce," this dance might well put you in something of a ... fever. The program also features new choreography by Ballet East assistant director Melissa Villarreal, Amberlee Cantrell, Steve Ochoa, Sharon Marroquin, and Lyn C. Wiltshire.

— Robert Faires

Ballet East presents Suite, ... Peggy Lee Nov. 30-Dec. 3, Thursday-Saturday, 8pm, Sunday, 2pm, at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. For more information, call 474-TIXS, or visit www.balleteast.org.

Finding Hope ... in Bed!

Tim Miller's latest trip to Austin finds the noted performance artist optimistic about being gay

BY ROBERT FAIRES

The last time Tim Miller came to Austin, he actually had cause to celebrate being a gay man – no small feat given the homophobia so deeply ingrained in the Lone Star State, much less the hysterical kind that's been driving national policy for umpteen years. As the performance artist explains in "Oklahomo!," an essay in his new book *1001 Beds*, he flew here to perform his piece *Us* at the Vortex the day the U.S. Supreme Court rendered a decision on *Lawrence v. Texas*, declaring Texas' sodomy law unconstitutional. It was a rare victory in the long, bruising battle for gay rights – a battle in which Miller has logged a full quarter century on the front lines – and he found it strange and sweet to be savoring it in Texas' capital city, what he calls "the hip town of this extremely complex state that ends up controlling the fate of our nation in almost exclusively negative ways." It makes being in Austin, he says, "a very charged and interesting position, as it was being in California during Reagan or Nixon."

Three years later, Miller returns to this charged city on the heels of another political victory. Granted, most midterm elections didn't directly affect gay rights the way the Supremes' sodomy smackdown did, and the ones that did suffered more losses than wins in the pro-homo column. Still, Arizona's rejection of a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to partners of different sexes was significant, as was the trouncing that the politics-of-fear party took in the congressional races, and that can't help but be heartening for the gay rights camp. It surely is for Miller, who feels optimistic in ways that he hasn't in years. After all, he says, "Three years ago, who would have thought Tom DeLay would be in incredible legal trouble and have to step down? Anything is possible right now. It feels like a very hopeful time."

Hopefulness feeds Miller's work now – both the book, just published by University of Wisconsin Press, and the performance work of the same title (which he performs this week at, yes, the Vortex). In them, Miller takes stock of his life: as a gay man, as an American, as partner of 12 years to Alistair McCartney, as artist and activist. His 1,001 beds refer not to Wilt Chamberlain-esque sexual conquests but to the hotel beds Miller expects to have slept in if he performs for another 20 years on top of the 21 he has to date. It's a symbol for what he does, what he now considers his life's work: "doing my lean-and-mean homo-drenched performances, my cultural agitating and teaching, and offering myself as a way-out gay role model and/or target." Besides creating "queer space" in unlikely locales – small Southern colleges and fading Midwestern cities – he believes he's touching lives. Tim Miller's thousand beds also represent a couple *hundred* thousand individuals with whom he's making connections, and it's that contact that keeps him going. Miller spoke with the *Chronicle* by phone about his career, his new work, and this season of hope.

□

Austin Chronicle: Obviously both *1001 Beds* the book and the performance were created before the midterm elections, but does the hope you feel from that bring anything different into the theatre?

Tim Miller: This is a pretty hopeful show in lots of ways. Within this conceit of 1,001 beds and all my travels and efforts to embolden queerness, challenge the government, and all that, it ends with this big queer orgy overthrowing the government, which has felt like an exhortation toward engagement and imagining that we're in a dramatic time of change – which we clearly are, but much more dramatically than I thought we would be, which is very heartening, of course. I've only been doing this show for eight months, but I imagined this piece to invite in some of that feeling of hopefulness and change and optimism. It's also a very romantic piece. Amid all the politics I've charted around Alistair and me and this ongoing jeopardy we are in [McCartney, an Australian, has been fighting deportation for several years], I'd never really told the story of how Alistair and I met, so it's lovely to have that finally and have it lead toward the gay sex orgy that overthrows the government. [Laughs] This will be the first performance post-election, and I think the end of the show will seem not so much a fantasy. It may seem a little more

like something we can actually do. This country is going to look really different in a couple of years, I think.

AC: When you talk about hope, are you drawing largely from that sense that change is coming or from other sources? Because you're in such a struggle, as you say, and have been. It's an awfully cold wind blowing on that tiny flame.

TM: Right, and certainly another little message of this election were the seven states that voted to ban civil-marriage equality and all the legal rights thereof to gay couples. These [amendments] are not about marriage; these are about denying us any rights under law, period. One of Bush's most hideous contributions to undermining democracy in this country is the Federal Marriage Amendment that he has championed. So that's pretty grim.

You know, I was just up in Wisconsin – me in the Midwest! – and there was a real feeling they were going to beat back this constitutional amendment to deny gay people any relationship rights, but they didn't, and that was very, very upsetting and, for people up there, incredibly horrifying. It paints them as a "hate state" in a way that is very depressing. On the other hand, one state, Arizona, did defeat these things and was the very first state that's done it. The next time, a couple



of states will defeat it. And who would have thought Arizona would? There is that kind of Republican/Libertarian thing in Arizona and the Rocky Mountain states that is ascendant, so for me that's incredibly hopeful. So you win one, you lose seven. [Laughs] Which may be my own American Pollyanna way to look on the bright side. But amid all the positive election news, it's not hard to look on the bright side. It was brighter than many of us thought it would be.

My brother's wife is South Asian, so my nephews are Euro/South Asian, and they live in northern Virginia, and the fact that one South Asian man in Virginia with a camera basically brought down Senator [George] Allen, it just shows the power of one person. It's a testament to YouTube certainly, but also to individuality, to risk-taking, and to art as well, because for me all that YouTube stuff is sort of video-art interventions.

AC: That seems to be in line with your conclusion in the book *1001 Beds*, where you're making peace with your role as one guy, traveling around, doing your performance pieces, filling time in these 1,001 beds so you can make a difference where anyone needs you.

TM: Oh yeah, which would mean that I have an investment in believing this stuff does anything. But of course it does. I just know it does, because I travel so much – it's like I'm constantly running for president, certainly with the amount of time I spend in Iowa. In some ways, Austin is this whole other species: this incredibly hip, liberal town; performing

at Vortex; doing UT Performance in Public Practice, one of the smartest university programs around performance and society. But a lot of times I'm getting invited to interesting Baptist colleges in North Carolina small towns – bizarrely, I mean, how does this happen? For me, then, when I go do a presentation at an Intro to Theatre class with 200 freshmen, literally fresh from their Southern Baptist, incredibly conservative, rural, Republican upbringings – they've never seen a gay person in a position of authority, sometimes there's not a single out gay faculty or staff member, no out gay students – it's the opposite of preaching to the converted. It's so completely out there in terms of creating visibility and opposition and humor and theatricality. And again and again after a performance, some guy will come up to me, somebody who looks like a Southern Baptist, Republican, frat-boy football player will come up and identify himself, "I'm a Southern Baptist, Republican, frat-boy football player, and I don't know if you and Alistair should be able to get married, but you should have all the rights of a straight couple." So it's a huge, wonderful, lightbulb moment, you know. The Vegas cherries line up in a jackpot of somebody getting it, just as you or I may need to get it around issues of male privilege or race or whatever. We all have a learning curve. I am not complete. There's stuff I'm working on, and artists, writers, and theatre people help me do that, so hopefully I can extend the favor to other people.

continued on p.46



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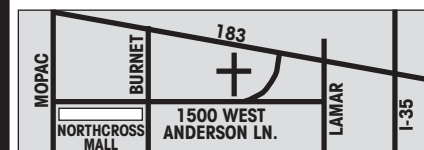
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AC: So do you also draw hope from these kinds of experiences, meeting up with the next generation whose prejudices aren't so ingrained yet and who might see the world in a more humane and compassionate way?

TM: Oh, for sure. It's partly why whenever some state college in Tennessee wants me to come do something for no money, I'm ready to go there. The more time you spend with 18- to 22-year-olds, whether it's in expensive private colleges or underfunded state universities, you can't come away without feeling heartened and encouraged and hopeful. The crop coming up are going to be really interesting. I was just hearing something on NPR — which means it's probably old news — about some study on the post-9/11 undergrad population, and they're very, very interesting and skeptical and much more progressive than the previous 10 or 15 years of college students. I work at a lot of colleges now; it's sort of where the action is. If I'm going to rural Iowa or Appalachia somewhere to perform, I'm almost certainly performing at a college or university. The only people who are going to bring me to Boone, North Carolina, is Appalachian State University, where I'm going in a couple of months. There would just be no context otherwise. The more time I spend there, the more hopeful I get for what's coming next, these really, really bright, sharp, openhearted young people. Not that people don't get more conservative as they get older. People also can get more closed-minded. [But these students] just endlessly surprise me [with] their open-

ness and interest. I know sometimes my work is really challenging; it's just not like anything they've ever seen: this big fag talking about sex and radical politics and queer orgies overthrowing the government. Actually, they find it really funny. Of course, they're all really interested in sex. It's all they think about. [Laughs] Every now and then, I think I'm going to cut some part of something out because I'm at a Baptist college in North Carolina; then I don't, and that's the thing the students [love]: "Oh,

something completely unrelated. [Laughs] I do think that the page scandal, along with orgasms and ice cream, is proof of God's existence. I'll take it as that anyway.

AC: But back to that idea that these students who are so open now might become more closed-minded as they get older. We're all creatures of the times in which we live, aren't we? Certainly, our parents and grandparents who grew up during the Depression and World War II had their characters shaped for a lifetime by those events,

person to have early in life. I certainly had it. I was growing up in the hometown of President Nixon; how could I not have internalized this incredible lying psychopath who was running the country for six years? It's informed my world-view for my whole life.

AC: It's the kind of thing that can echo through your being for as long as you live.

TM: I get these e-mails all the time, say, from someone from some college in Arizona that I was at five years ago: "I thought about what

"[Students] just endlessly surprise me [with] their openness and interest. I know sometimes my work is really challenging; it's just not like anything they've ever seen: this big fag talking about sex and radical politics and queer orgies overthrowing the government. Actually, they find it really funny."

— Tim Miller

that part was so awesome! That really made me want to do a piece like that."

I just turned 48. With the freshmen, I'm 30 years older than them. I might as well have been born in the Crimean War. And so to have that time and space with them ... it's pretty great. This gives me a whole other chance to get to know who these people are as they enter their adult lives. I might not have that access otherwise if I weren't in colleges or weren't a congressional Republican perving on the pages. I just brought up

and the same could be said for people who came of age in the Sixties. Maybe this 9/11 generation will be influenced for the rest of their lives and shape American society in a good way.

TM: That's pretty much what they were determining [in the study]. With 9/11 and the war in Iraq, how can you be a young person paying any attention at all and not have a healthy skepticism about our government — and not just Bush, though Bush is liar-in-chief — that our government is capable of unbelievable mischief? That's a very healthy thing for a young

you said ever since. I just want you to know, I'm working to help defeat the anti-civil-marriage proposition in Arizona." Stuff does stick. It ends up resonating for the rest of our lives. Which is why I do what I do now.

AC: You're George Bailey.

TM: Oh, boy. [Laughs] Well, we could do worse, for sure. ■

Tim Miller performs 1001 Beds Nov. 30-Dec. 3, Thursday-Sunday, 8pm, at the Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. For more information, call 478-LAVA, or visit www.vortexrep.org

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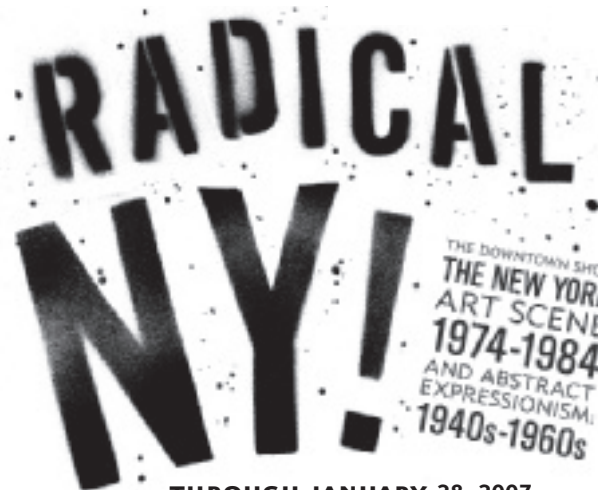
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THUNDERSTRUCK

by Erik Larson

Crown, 446 pp., \$25.95

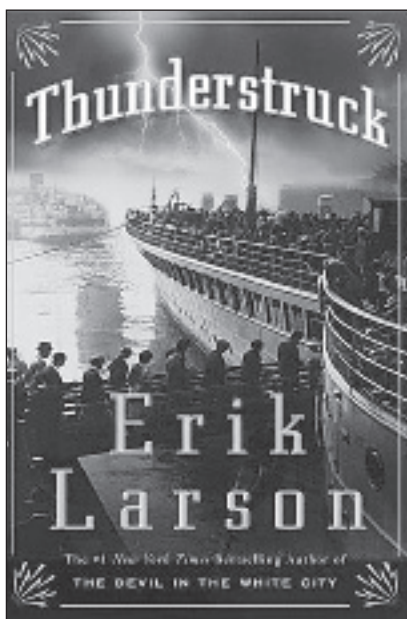
Erik Larson's previous novel, *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America*, established him as the premier contemporary author of literary true crime. The publication of *Thunderstruck* maintains his status.

Larson retells the infamous and oft-told tale of the American Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen, who, while living in Edwardian London, murdered his aspiring actress wife and attempted to escape on an ocean liner only to be captured, thanks to a new invention: the wireless radio. Plotted and paced like a thriller, Larson successfully weaves the concurrent stories of Crippen, his wife Belle Elmore, and Guglielmo Marconi into a fascinating view of early 20th-century life. While the other threads are intriguing, it is the chronicling of Marconi, his radio, and the ensuing marketing of the invention that truly fascinates. Historians often paint a less-than-flattering image of Marconi, claiming he did not invent the radio; rather, that he stole the idea. In *Thunderstruck*, Larson debunks that idea and envisions the young Marconi as akin to the young entrepreneurs who powered Silicon Valley in the 1990s. Compared to the Marconi segments, the rest of the characters' stories lack the same charm. I longed for more of Marconi and his invention.

Thanks in a large part to his realistic portrayal of England and his work's tense pacing, Larson approaches this well-trodden turf – the second-most famous murder in England, according to the preface – from a unique and fresh perspective.

Meticulously researched and well-written, *Thunderstruck* offers entertainment at its finest, sure to enthrall fans of crime and history alike.

– Rick Klaw



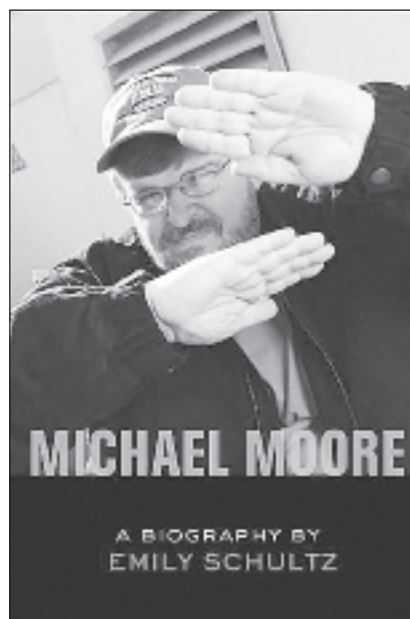
MICHAEL MOORE: A BIOGRAPHY

by Emily Schultz

ECW Press, 245 pp., \$24.95

The cover of *Michael Moore: A Biography* features a rather revealing photograph of the provocateur. He squints into the camera from behind his cheap-looking everyman frames with his huge hands held up in front of his face. A passing glance might mistake this as a posed image of the director framing a shot, but a second look reveals that Moore is actually attempting to deflect the camera's gaze. This image is actually quite a fitting metaphor for the dimensions of this biography, as author Emily Schultz seems more committed to delineating the boundaries of "Michael Moore" the persona rather than Michael Moore the person.

Schultz's organization is fairly straightforward, moving chronologically, beginning with his nascent muckraking tendencies as the youngest person ever elected to public office in the city of Flint, Mich. A failed stint at *Mother Jones* and on staff for Ralph Nader followed a decade of self-publishing the *Michigan Voice*, which Schultz attempts to report on impartially, but her exegesis is clouded



with seemingly unrelated digressions (or, at the very least, poorly connected ideas) that do nothing to enrich her discussion.

However, Schultz's concern with how public figures "begin to self-edit" becomes more interesting in the final quarter of the book, as Moore's troubled star begins to rise with the successes of his documentaries *Bowling for Columbine* and *Fahrenheit 9/11*. She captures this phenomenon perfectly when she describes Moore's rationale for his fiery, polarizing Oscar acceptance speech: "I'm Michael Moore. What else was I going to do?"

And there's the rub. Because she has none of her own interviews with Moore from which to build her biography, Schultz has had to piece together her text using Moore's words on DVD

and in previously published interviews with her subject, as well as anecdotes from former colleagues and employees. The resulting character is ultimately likened to a contemporary Citizen Kane. We don't yet know what Moore's "Rosebud" will be – currently, he's at work on a film about the health care industry – and this biography, while an interesting enough read, doesn't offer up any clues. Which is probably exactly as he would like it.

– Melanie Haupt

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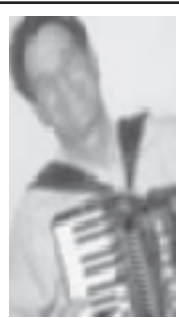
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All entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2006. NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS. Winners will be notified by January 26, 2007. (No phone calls, please.) Please read all rules and regulations thoroughly.

Questions should be directed to books@austinchronicle.com. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

NEED INSPIRATION? LAST YEAR'S WINNERS APPEAR AT
austinchronicle.com/shortstory

Events at BookPeople



THE CHRISTMAS PIG

KINKY FRIEDMAN

Simon & Schuster

Wednesday, December 6 7pm

He may not be our next governor, but Kinky Friedman will always hold a soft spot in our hearts. Kinky will be coming to BookPeople to promote his new book, *The Christmas Pig*. This is a story of a boy and his pig charged with painting the Christmas nativity scene for their king. Kinky will be bringing Nancy Parker-Simmons with him with her book *The Road to Utopia*.

PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID

JIMMY CARTER

Simon and Schuster

Thursday, December 14 10:30am

President Jimmy Carter, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, offers his advice in how to make lasting peace in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Vouchers for this event are on sale now with a limit of five per customer. *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* retails at \$27.00. Please note he will only sign books that have vouchers and not presold books. This is a signing event only. Check our website, www.bookpeople.com, for up-to-date information about this event.



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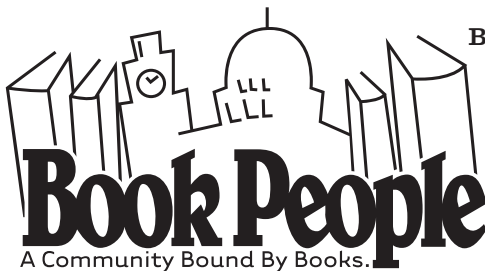
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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

WEEKEND AT THE WALDORF-MART

With **Wal-Mart's** PR blitz failing badly, don't ask how I wound up spending so much time at the one in Buda – it was an accident, I swear. At first I felt like **Jackie O** entering **Luby's**, looking around furtively for paparazzi then captivated by the selection in front of me. I breezed from the draperies to the furniture section, from the Christmas department to the sewing section, feeling like **June Cleaver** (but looking like **Divine**). I must have given the air of some kind of **Martha Stewart** acolyte; shoppers would overhear me discussing the pros and cons of this-and-such item with my companion and then begin asking me for advice on *their* items. “Yes, ma’am, that bath mat *does* pick up the colors of the lotion dispenser, but it doesn’t *really* have to match the toilet brush,” I graciously offered one customer. “No,” I found myself advising some suburban dad who had clearly figured me for homo (therefore all-knowing about all things window treatment). “I think the black sheers make too strong a statement and that the ivory sheers would complement the drapes.” Needless to say, I got a little wrapped up entertaining the Wal-Martians ... until I realized how much potential revenue I was forfeiting to the retail behemoth. Omigod, maybe the PR campaign *is* working.

YES TO N.O. So much has been said about post-Katrina **New Orleans**. Austin,

among so many cities, has opened its hearts, homes, and services to the multitude of evacuees from a city that Austinites have a special kinship with. New Orleans is far from resurrected, and the tourist trade has not returned there in a profitable way. Like Austin, New Orleans is a city that nurtures its small businesses and independent designers, and many have remained in New Orleans, struggling to stay afloat in lean times. So, in a holiday spirit of camaraderie and compassion for the city in which I was born, I offer a list of very New Orleans businesses that sell their goods online and can help you give unique and thoughtful gifts while helping out the **Crescent City**. For the sweet tooth on your list, **Loretta's Authentic Pralines** (lorettaspralines.stores.yahoo.net/index.html) is sheer heaven in a candy box, with divine original pralines, as well as gourmet selections. **Trashy Diva**, a boutique on Magazine Street (www.trashydiva.com), also sells clothing and accessories from vintage patterns online – charming and totally fresh, with a feel for the past. **Garden District Book Shop** (www.gardendistrictbookshop.com) specializes in



A photo of old New Orleans used as the cover of a nightlight, from Heather Elizabeth Designs

local New Orleans authors and titles of regional interest. **Let's Get Up** (www.letsgetup.com) sells handmade Mardi Gras-bead light fixtures and other lamps and New Orleans-themed items. The influence of the French is unavoidable in New Orleans, so give in and go to www.vivelafranceonline.com – the next best thing to being in the French Quarter. And lastly, **Heather Elizabeth** designs New Orleans photograph jewelry and accessories for the home (www.hedesigns.com) that are as romantic as they are original.

RANT It's the holiday season again, and you know what *that* means: Yes, my annual rant against the annually **Horrid Christmas Decorations on Congress**. They haven't been pretty for the seven years I've been complaining about them. What is the point of making Downtown so attractive to residents and businesses and then undermining those efforts with the insult of hideous, dated holiday tinsel?

SAD NEWS After the Christmas holidays, Austin will lose one of its most popular and oldest locally owned and operated retail establishments. In business for 54 years, the **Cadeau**, with locations on the Drag and in Central Park, will close its doors. Owner **Jeanette Nassour's** husband and partner,

Ferris Nassour, died recently while on a buying trip to New York. The Nassours have been major supporters of the Austin performing and fine arts. They were founding members of the **Austin Lyric Opera** and major supporters of the **Austin Museum of Art**, the **Blanton Museum**, and the **Long Center for the Performing Arts**. Best of everything to you, Jeanette.

AGENDA Saturday, Dec. 2, 10am-2pm, Bouldin Creek neighborhood, home to a multitude of diverse studios, is having the **Bouldin Creek Studio Tour** featuring artists such as **Brian Bowers, Stella and Brian Alesi, Stephanie Lindsey, Leslie Bonnell, Andrea Sher-Leff, Kathie Sever, and Shannon Lowery**. Go to www.bouldincreekstudiotour.com for complete info... Also Saturday, Dec. 2, 6pm at 5412-A McCandless, photographer **Mary Sledd** and developer **Robert Nash** present **Open House**, a photographic installation by Sledd in a property developed by Nash's **Skyline CityHomes**. This partnership features a mix of photographic works in multiple mediums selected to simulate the decor of a living space... Additionally on Saturday, Dec. 2, 8pm-12mid, **Project Transitions** presents the 18th annual **Holiday Swing** at the **Dell Jewish Community Center**. See www.projecttransitions.org for further info.

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

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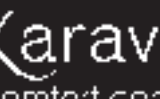
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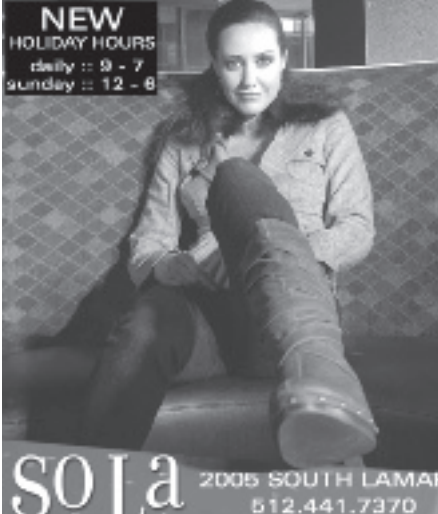
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www.asiamarketaustin.com/grocery.html

My exploration of Asia Cafe (see review, p.54) led me to Asia Market, located in the strip center on the southeast corner of Spicewood Springs and Research. I love markets that have affiliated restaurants; you get to cruise the shelves before and after your meal, and it's an indication that all of the ingredients used in the preparation of the food are authentic. Asia Market, to my knowledge, is the only purely Chinese food market in town, and it's unique from the rest of the Pan-Asian, Vietnamese, Korean, Indo-Paki, and Japanese markets in Austin.

The snack shelves are a colorful wall of brilliantly hued packaging, with many unusual treats on offer. Near the front of the store, there are always lots of different prepackaged dough- and pastry-based foods for sale: scallion cakes, red-bean buns, assorted dumplings, and the like. The produce section is limited but has most everything you'd need to throw a respectable Chinese feast together (for the esoteric produce, stick with My Thanh Supermarket).

The freezer sections are loaded with all kinds of dumplings, sausages, fish, sliced meats, and more. There's an interesting refrigerated section adjacent to the produce, which is packed with loads of curious saladlike and pickled offerings that require further experimental tasting. The dried-food section is amazing: I counted nine different types of dried mushrooms and fungi, including dried *enoki*. A tray of dried chanterelles set



JOHN ANDERSON

me back just more than four bucks, a quantity of mushrooms that would cost a day's pay at some of Austin's gourmet markets.

The bottled sauce aisle is a godsend, featuring brands I've never seen before in any Asian market, including the real traditional Sichuan hot bean paste, made with fava beans. The label of sauces that features the small black-and-white photo of the chef has proven to be especially good. This is an Asian market worth spending some time – and money – in, and Asia Cafe is right in the back!

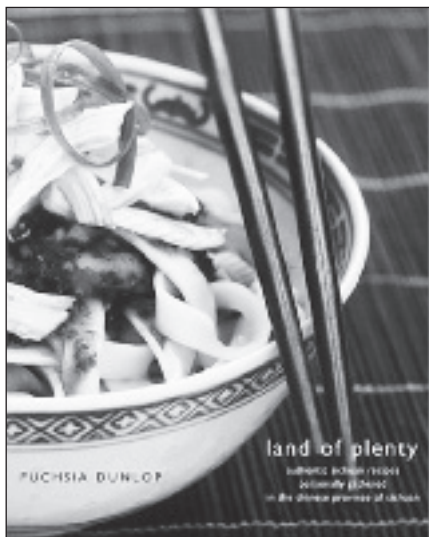
– Mick Vann

LAND OF PLENTY: A TREASURY OF AUTHENTIC SICHUAN COOKING

by Fuchsia Dunlop
W. W. Norton & Company,
394 pp., \$30

Shi zai zhong guo
Wei zai si chuan

(China is the place for food ...
But Sichuan is the place for flavor)
– legendary Chinese saying



Somehow, this book passed under my culinary radar, sitting in a pile of review books for an extended time. A friend recommended it to me, loaning me his copy, and I was entranced. Dunlop's *Land of Plenty* is a seminal work on the level of the late Barbara Tropp's famed *The Modern Art of Chinese Cooking*.

Fuchsia Dunlop, a BBC journalist and Cambridge graduate, immersed herself in Sichuan cuisine and culture, living there for two years, while spending her time wandering the alleyways, home kitchens, and cafes of the province, collecting recipes and techniques from cooks and chefs alike. She was the first foreign student invited to study at the prestigious Sichuan Institute of Higher Cuisine and speaks, reads, and writes the local language fluently.

Dunlop lucidly chronicles the history, culture, ingredients, techniques, and recipes of China's most vibrant regional cuisine. Her passion for the food and the detail of her research are evident when one reads any of the illuminating headnotes to any of the recipes in the book.

The recipes are written in a simple, straightforward manner devoid of ambiguity; anyone can cook with confidence from this brilliant reference source.

She covers a representative sample of some of the region's 5,000-plus different dishes, including such old favorites (although you might not recognize them in their authentic form) as twice-cooked pork, dan dan noodles, kung pao (actually *gong bao*) chicken, and my all-time favorite, *Ma Po Dou-fu* (Pock-Marked Mother Chen's Bean Curd). You'll also learn about treasures such as steamed pork-and-pumpkin dumplings, pork in lychee sauce with crispy rice, or Jade Web Soup (which comes from a verdant area known as the Bamboo Sea). *Land of Plenty* is essential for any collection, a pleasure to read, and a joy to cook from.

– Mick Vann

EVENT MENU: DEC. 1-7

The proprietors of **Home Slice Pizza** (1415 S. Congress, 444-PIES; www.homeslicepizza.com) invite everyone to help them celebrate their first year in business at Home Slice-o-Rama, a backyard carnival with plenty of family fun. Events include a pizza-eating contest, pizza-dough-tossing demonstrations and hand-tossing challenge competitions, Hands on an Eggplant Sub contest, musical entertainment, game booths, and plenty of cheap beer for grownups. Proceeds benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters. Admission to the carnival is free, with tickets for drinks and food. Noon-5pm, Saturday, Dec. 2.

One good holiday shopping idea would be to take a drive along the **Texas Hill Country Holiday Wine Trail** (www.texaswinetrail.com) and pick up Texas wines for gift-giving, plus a custom-made grapevine wreath decorated with signature Christmas ornaments from participating wineries. Tickets for the self-guided tour are \$35 per wreath and are available online. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 9-10.

Enjoy a holiday wine dinner buffet in the tasting room at **Stone House Vineyard** (24350 Haynie Flat Rd. in Spicewood, 512/264-3630; www.stonehousevineyard.com) paired with wines from Australia and Texas; \$65 per person; reservations required by Dec. 5; 7pm, Saturday, Dec. 9.

If singing Christmas carols is what it takes to get your family into the spirit of the season, **Henri Mazza** and **Owen Egerton** at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown (www.originalalamo.com) are creating a new tradition just for you. Bring the whole family to the **Christmas Pops! Sing-Along** with all your favorite Christmas carols being performed by pop stars. After singing along in the theatre, lyric sheets will be distributed, and the audience will go caroling around the Warehouse District, Congress Avenue, and down Sixth Street, ending up at the **Jackalope** (404 E. Sixth) for Christmas cookies and milk (or beer for mom and dad). Tickets are \$10; 7pm, Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, and 21; 4pm, Sunday, Dec. 10; and 4pm, Saturday, Dec. 16.

– V.B.W.

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

My annual holiday descent into candy hell (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A190639) began early this year, and things are really going much smoother than usual – all because of a present I got for my birthday in July. I'd seen the metal whisk with a thermometer in the handle in the *King Arthur Flour Baker's Catalogue* (www.kingarthurflour.com) and put it on my birthday list along with a few other tools and gadgets that caught my eye. My sisters came through in a big way, and the shiny new whisk had been waiting patiently for the summer blast furnace to fade and candy-making weather (cool, dry days) to finally arrive. The news couldn't be better: Being able to use one tool to both stir and check the temperature of melted chocolate while tempering made the always challenging process so much easier and more accurate. The first batches of toffee were topped in beautiful, thin layers of bittersweet chocolate: perfectly tempered, with just the right sheen and snap. The **Cuisipro Balloon Thermowhisk** is my absolute new favorite toy: not as precious and certainly not as expensive as the big French copper jam (candy) pot, but an important and indispensable addition to the annual holiday candy-making ritual. I'm sure it will come in handy with other temperature-sensitive concoctions as well. The good news is that it's possible to buy the whisk-thermometers right here in town. They run about \$25, and I'm assured they are in stock at **Breed & Co** (718 W. 29th, 474-6679; 3663 Bee Caves Rd., 328-3960). The manager at **Faraday's Kitchen Store** (1501 RR 620 N. Ste. A, 266-5666) was looking to add them to her stock when we talked. Stuff one in the stocking of pastry chefs/passionate home bakers and confectioners on your Christmas list. Get moving Santa!... Hearty congratulations to **Carmelo** and **Hilary Mauro**, who recently celebrated 21 years of success at **Carmelo's Italian Restaurant** (504 E. Fifth, 477-7497), their downtown mainstay located in the lovingly restored, historic Old Depot Hotel building... The original **Central Market** (4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000) has added longtime Austin chef **Fred Geesin** to the staff, where he will oversee operations in the busy cafe... Be sure to ask **Hilton Austin** (500 E. Fourth, 482-8000) Executive Chef **Mark Dayanandan** about his experience judging the culinary expertise of the chefs at New York's prestigious private **Knickerbocker Club** at the 70th annual fall fundraising dinner of the **Les Amis d'Escoffier Society** in November. Chef Dayanandan has been the society's resident critic for the past six years, and he held posts on hotels all over the world before relocating to Austin to open the downtown Hilton three years ago.

recently reviewed

THAI: MADAM MAM'S WEST GATE Here you'll find authentic Thai cuisine prepared by experts and served in a colorful, casual atmosphere. Alcohol is not available, but you can bring your own. **4514 West Gate Blvd., 899-8525 \$\$**

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

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One advantage of working at the University of Texas is that I often mingle with our foreign graduate students, who provide excellent recommendations on international restaurants around town. A friend's lab partner had told us about a Chinese restaurant out north, and on further questioning, she told me it specialized in Sichuan cuisine. That sealed the deal, and plans were made to meet my Sichuan food mentor, Mike, there to explore the menu. It is all that we had hoped it would be as Austin's only Sichuan restaurant: a very casual spot without a trace of stuffiness and with excellent food at very reasonable prices. Here's how it happens: You stand at a counter, usually in a line, and place your order from the bilingual menu. You pay and get a number, go to the end of the counter and serve yourself cold water or hot tea (or both), and grab your utensils and a small bowl from which to eat. After waiting a few minutes, your order is called; you pick up your tray of dishes and dive in. If you're sharp, you've gone to the Web site beforehand to peruse the menu and have decided what you'll order before you get in line. It takes the pressure off.

My first visit left me giddy. We sampled a wide range of dishes among the three of us, and I was ready for a repeat visit by the time the meal was finished. Zhong Dumplings (\$4.50) are exquisite: Thick handmade pastry surrounds juicy minced pork, resting in a pool of sweet soy, chile, and sesame oils and loads of garlic. Spicy Wonton (\$4) is a large bowl of thin-pastry, long dumplings filled with seasoned pork, sitting upon a portion of pea shoots, dripping with a spicy broth of sesame with scallion. They have the proper slippery mouthfeel for which the dish is prized. Asia's roasted chile oil condiment on the tabletop is incendiary and loaded with *ma la* (Sichuan peppercorns), a tingly, mouth-numbing relative of our prickly ash tree.

Water-Boiled Beef (\$7.95) is a bowl of tender beef slices resting on a bed of brothly Napa cabbage with mung sprouts and scallion, topped with red oil, roasted chile, and ma la: a superb version. Pork With Garlic Sauce (\$7) is a cold dish of thin slices of pork belly with a sweet-spicy sauce of hot bean paste and garlic. Stir-Fried Chicken With Hot Chile (\$7) is cubes of marinated chicken with slices of garlic, lots of ma la, peas, carrot cubes, and celery. It was the least impressive dish of that visit but was much better when eaten later on, cold. Twice-Cooked Pork (\$7) is made with pork belly, jalapeño slices, black beans, and celery, as well as roasted chile and ma la: so very much better than what you've been led to believe this dish is, although more traditional leeks would be better than the celery.

Ma Po Tofu (\$7) is the finest version around: a large bowl of soft tofu with minced pork, in a thick sauce of hot bean paste, garlic, scallion, with red oil and ma la. Dry-Cooked Green Beans (\$5.50) are superior, as well: nary a trace of oiliness, with a rich minced meat and onion coating. Shredded Potato With Green Pepper (\$5.50) is a mound of julienned potato with shredded green bell pepper, the potatoes tasting like they had been blanched in a rich broth.

Trip two started with two cold dishes, similar but different. Sichuan Spicy & Hot Rice Jelly (\$3.50; rice jelly is thick batons of rice starch stirred with a coagulant and water over heat: translucent and soft-textured) is in a sauce that is salty and spicy and loaded with



For a look at the Asia Cafe breakfast menu, see austinchronicle.com/webextra

garlic, a textural treat. Chicken Delight (\$7.50) is a bowl of moist, bone-in, steamed chicken slices flavored with a sauce of minced garlic and peanuts, scallion, ma la, soy, sugar, and sesame oil. Wonderful!

Pork With Dry Bean Curd (\$7) was a favorite of that meal: a mound of slivers of sweet, juicy pork and nutty, dry-spiced tofu in a light garlicky sauce with soy and scallion. Eggplant With Garlic Sauce (\$6.50) is the best version in town: a perfectly balanced rich, sweet-sour sauce loaded with garlic, the Asian eggplant chunks just-cooked and still purple. Steamed Pork Leg With Dates (\$9.50) is luscious: a huge chunk of pork leg in a rich broth loaded with small Chinese dates. The meat falls apart from the silken skin, and the flavor is infused with the rich sweetness of the dates.

There it is: two visits of many dishes and praise from all concerned. We proclaim this Austin's best and most authentic Chinese restaurant in town (and the only pure Sichuan spot). You have been notified, but this is really the kind of place we would like to have kept a secret. — Mick Vann

JOHN ANDERSON



THE BELMONT
305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
Monday-Friday, 11:30am-2am;
Saturday-Sunday, 5pm-2am
www.thebelmontaustin.com

The big buzz on the Belmont has been the interior design. Everyone who has been there — many of whom are successful young professionals — is talking about its retro 1950s Palm Springs lounge look. The place is gorgeous, both inside, with its plush leather horseshoe-shaped booths, and outside, with its inviting upstairs patio bar and stylish patrons.

The owners at the Belmont have lavished a lot of attention on their bar with both fancy drinks and classics served to exacting standards. Their signature drink is the Belmontini (\$9), a combo of Grey Goose vodka, fresh pineapple juice, and Martini and Rossi Asti Spumante. Between the sweetness of the sparkling Asti Spumante and the pineapple juice, this is strictly a drink for sugar lovers, but given the owner's experience with bars (the Red Fez, Betsy's Bar, and Hi-Lo), my guess is they know their audience, and they will sell a lot of Belmontinis. I'm more of a classic drink guy, and their Classic Martini (\$9) — made with Bombay Sapphire and just the amount of vermouth I asked for — came out cold and delicious. Ditto for a straight-up Manhattan (\$9), expertly made with Maker's Mark bourbon (no rye whiskey available) and served quickly so the drink was still icy.

We tried the restaurant twice. Both times, the service was on par with Aquarelle or Vespaio, i.e., perfect. Waitstaff was informative, courteous, friendly, and cooperative. Our needs were met with seemingly clairvoyant accuracy and speed.

On our first night for food, we started with Cornmeal Fried Calamari (\$8), a delicious, carefully cooked version with succulent squid and two tasty sauces: a tomato-basil dip and a lemon-herb aioli. The Caesar Salad (\$5) was heavily dressed with a normal dressing and light on the croutons but fresh and crisp. Our Grilled Filet of Beef (\$25) was cooked as ordered and came with whipped potatoes and asparagus. The winner for the night was the Honey Chipotle Glazed Pork Chop (\$16), served with mashed sweet potatoes. The pork chop was big, juicy, and perfectly cooked to order. For dessert, the Warm Apple Crisp (\$5) was just as advertised: warm and crispy with the right amount of tart vs. sweet and topped with Amy's

Mexican Vanilla ice cream. We pronounced the night a rousing success.

We went back a few weeks later, and the apathetic and unhelpful valet service created a bad impression. The Belmont has no parking, so you are stuck using the valet. We waited with outraged Sixth Street drivers furiously honking because we had no place to pull in and no valets in sight. When the valet finally arrived, he said they were busy and asked if I could park my own car. He walked alongside my car to a place where I parked; then he asked me for \$6.

Once inside, it was clear the word had gotten out about the Belmont. The bar was shoulder-to-shoulder, the outside was full, and the restaurant was bustling. We still had a table within five minutes, where we met our server, Curtis, who again was just perfect. He helped guide us through choices, had our drinks to us while still fresh, and was always there the second we needed anything. Noticing my wife's black outfit, he thoughtfully offered a black napkin. He knew when to chat and when to glide by searching for something he could make better.

The wine list at the Belmont is short but wisely selected and priced down at the Mirabelle level. We picked the Belle Glos Clarke and Telephone Vineyard Pinot Noir, a luscious big-boned wine that generally runs about \$41 in the stores, making the \$51 price tag a bargain.

We started dinner with Crab Cakes (\$12) which were mostly lump meat crab and just slightly undercooked but still tasty and fresh. We also again ordered the calamari, but this time it seemed to be made from the sliced pieces of large squid steaks instead of baby squid. Worse, they had been cooked to a thick rubber-band consistency. The final blow was the aioli, which had broken and was just a liquid and overly acidic to boot.

For our main courses, we selected Chef Ben's Famous Spit Roasted Half Chicken (\$14), which was succulent but way oversalted. We also had the fish of the day (\$26), scallops in a caper-and-butter sauce. The scallops were nice-sized, somewhat overdone, but with a nice crust. Unfortunately, the sauce tasted as though it was mostly the juice from a bottle of capers — vinegar and salt. For dessert, we tried the Molten Chocolate Cake (\$5), a perfectly made and delicious version of the classic dish.

Final verdict: excellent bar, world-class service, but the kitchen needs a little attention. — Wes Marshall

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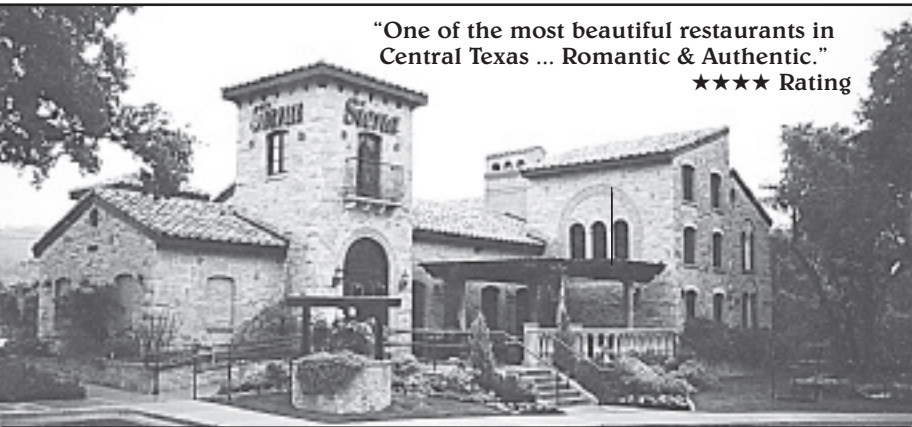
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DOWNTOWN

AMERICAN CAFE: 15TH STREET CAFE Located inside the Doubletree Guest Suites, the cafe serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. Try the Sunday buffet. 303 W. 15th, 478-7000 \$\$\$

PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT Serves home-style, thin-crust pizzas - some of the best in town - with a personal touch. 1209 Red River, 477-7006 \$\$

FINE DINING: CAFE AT THE FOUR SEASONS An excellent wine list with more than 200 offerings, a high level of service, and an elegant room add up to a sublime dining experience. 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500 \$\$\$\$

FINE DINING, FRENCH: CHEZ NOUS This grand-mère of Austin's French restaurants offers classic bistro fare. After all these years, we're still partial to the Salade Lyonnaise and the elegant Mousse au Chocolat. 510 Neches, 473-2413 \$\$\$

BURGER JOINT, PUB GRUB: THE DOG & DUCK PUB The best fish & chips in Austin with many, many beverage options to accompany it. 406 W. 17th, 479-0598 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: THE DRISKILL A very proper and delicious tea is served here with all the trimmings. Three dainty courses of sandwiches, pastries, and petit fours are served with two teas and style. 604 Brazos, 474-5911 \$\$\$

FINE DINING, SEAFOOD: EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Fine dining in a supper-club atmosphere with live music almost every night. They specialize in fresh seafood, oysters, and prime beef. 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860 \$\$\$\$

BARBECUE: HOUSE PARK BAR-B-Q Owner Joe Sullivan's chopped beef and pork roast are required courses for lots of students at ACC's Rio Grande campus and many denizens of the nearby legal ghetto. 900 W. 12th, 472-9621 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and Interior Mexican spices. 606 Trinity, 472-9240 \$\$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: KT'S DELI Housed in the bottom floor of the William P. Clements Jr. Building, this cafeteria-style eatery boasts good food and low prices. Open for breakfast and lunch. 300 W. 15th, 495-9313 \$

MEDITERRANEAN: MÁLAGA Austin's only full-time tapas bar offers a good core selection of the real thing, along with an excellent list of fairly priced wines and sherries. 208 W. Fourth, 236-8020 \$\$

DELIVERY, PIZZA: ROPPOLO'S PIZZERIA Roppolo's offers a variety of pies at their downtown location. Whether you're a vegetarian or a carnivore, they know how to pile on the toppings. 316 E. Sixth, 476-1490 \$

JAPANESE: SILHOUETTE Sushi, rice rolls, dumplings, spring rolls, wraps, coffees, teas, and live music. It's the perfect spot for that late-night pick-me-up. 718 Congress, 478-8899 \$\$\$

EAST

BARBECUE: BEN'S LONGBRANCH BBQ Smokin' good barbecue with deep historical roots. Solid sides, killer banana pudding and cobbler, a great beer selection, and fork-tender meats keep the hungry coming back. 900 E. 11th, 477-2516 \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: CAFE MUNDI This Eastside boho combo coffeehouse/art space/gift shop serves up sandwiches, salads, and muffins, plus waffles on weekends! 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: CISCO'S BAKERY & LIAR'S CLUB In the breakfast business for 50 years, they still serve good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot biscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. 1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TAKEOUT: EL REGIO The pollo asado is served with borracho beans, tortillas, grilled onions, tomato salsa, and lime wedges, plus a scrumptious green avocado salsa. 6615 Berkman, 933-9557 \$

TEX-MEX: INOCENTE'S CAFE A great place to sip an icy agua de horchata, enjoy good Tex-Mex cuisine, and soak up the flavor of the neighborhood. 2337 E. Cesar Chavez, 479-0218 \$\$

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

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

TEX-MEX: MI MADRE'S Excellent Mexican food in a homey diner atmosphere. Quaint and comfortable: known for their breakfast tacos. 2201 Manor Rd., 480-8441 \$

TEX-MEX: NUEVO LEON Cavernous, friendly restaurant offering cheap combination plates. Decorated almost exclusively in pink and green, adorned with Texas-shaped mirrors and many Christmas lights. Serious date potential. 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097 \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: PAPPADAEUX Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled with a variety of side dishes. 6319 N. I-35, 452-9363 \$\$\$

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

LAKE

ITALIAN: HILL COUNTRY PASTA HOUSE We loved the pizza with sun-dried tomatoes and melting gobs of Texas chèvre. The food here is worth a drive from town. 3519 RR 620 N., 266-9445 \$\$

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

NORTH

PUB GRUB: ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAKE CREEK The newest Austin Alamo, Lake Creek shows new - and mainstream - movies with the same old - and delicious - menu as its fellow theatres. 13729 Research, 219-8135 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA Serves adequate Tex-Mex staples with a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satellite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience. 11835 Jollyville, 257-2144 \$\$\$

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

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

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

JAPANESE, STEAKHOUSE: KOBE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE Steak, seafood, and chicken come in a variety of freshly prepared grilling combinations with generous servings of appetizers and soup. 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #380, 288-7333 \$\$\$\$

KOREAN: KOREANA GRILL & SUSHI BAR Very reasonable lunch specials highlight this pretty restaurant. The Koreana lunch features a California roll and inari sushi (fried tofu stuffed with tuna, corn, carrots, and beef). 12196 MoPac N., 835-8888 \$\$\$\$

INDIAN: MADRAS PAVILION Spiced vegetable dishes served with white and tamarind rice for lunch, and for dinner a wide selection of reasonably priced appetizers, dosai, and utthapam. 9025 Research #100, 719-5575 \$\$\$

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

STEAKHOUSE: MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Menu heavily weighted toward items from the mesquite grill, expertly prepared. Portions are generous, spicing is robust, and the service is friendly. Don't miss the fried cactus or chicken-fried venison. 8108 Mesa Ste. C-100, 853-9480 \$\$\$

ITALIAN: OLIVE GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT This chain eatery serves reliable, generic Italian food at reasonable prices. A popular family place and a safe choice for those who fear the food-unknown. 8833 Burnet, 459-0701 \$\$\$

BARBECUE: RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BAR-B-Q Good-quality smoked meats are available by the pound, along with all the light bread, pickles, onions, and peppers you need. 11570 Research, 418-9898 \$

NORTH CENTRAL

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

continued on p.58



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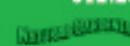


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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.56

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: AVENUE B GROCERY These days Austin's oldest surviving grocery offers a bountiful menu of hot and cold sandwiches, an array of fresh salads, and hearty soups in the fall and winter. **4403 Avenue B, 453-3921 \$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CARIBE A little-known jewel serving a mix of Interior Mexican and more-conventional Mexican fare. Tastes are authentic, the prices are very reasonable, and portions are huge. **5610 N. Lamar, 452-6207 \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: EL POLLO FELIZ Tender, juicy rotisserie chickens by the plate, whole bird, or party pack paired with reliable side dishes will make your wallet happy. **6801 Airport, 323-6604 \$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. **1000 E. 41st, 453-8666 \$\$\$**

JAPANESE, KOREAN: KIMCHI SUSHI Simply decorated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features a menu of Korean favorites. **6406 N. I-35 #2343, 453-4111 \$\$\$**

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NEWORDELI This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than \$5. **4101 Guadalupe, 451-1710 \$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN: OAXACAN TAMALED Hands-down the finest and most flavorful Interior Mexican food in Austin for the portion and the price. Delicious, authentic rotating specials are \$4.98 for lunch, \$6.45 for dinner. Don't miss the banana-leaf-wrapped tamale. **1300 W. Anderson, 289-9262 \$**

PIZZA: THE PARLOR Fine pizza, flowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. Look for another location on 43rd Street soon. **100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965 \$\$\$**

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

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

SOUTH

VIETNAMESE: 888 VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT You'll find traditional dishes seldom seen elsewhere and Asian fusion creations with Thai and Chinese influence. Delicious and inexpensive. **BYOB. 2400 E. Oltorf Ste. 1-A, 448-4722 \$**

TEX-MEX: AZUL TEQUILA Offers both Tex-Mex dishes and Interior specialties like Albondigas en Chipotle and Enchiladas de Pipian. Go with a crowd, listen to the music, and have some fun. **4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667 \$\$\$**

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

STEAKHOUSE: CAPITAL CITY STEAKHOUSE An underappreciated gem serving well-prepared, reasonably priced steaks and generous, tasty sides in a casual atmosphere. **300 S. Congress, 480-8797 \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: CASA GARCIA'S Offers a wide selection of traditional Tex-Mex favorites as well as an enticing array of Interior Mexican dishes. The cabrito is worth a return visit. **1901 W. William Cannon, 441-9504 \$\$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CHANTILLY BAKERY CAFE Try Sandra Ojong's pastries for breakfast (or anytime), and come back for the wonderful sandwich selection at lunchtime. **4032 S. Lamar #200, 916-0404 \$**

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

CAJUN/CREOLE: EVANGELINE CAFE Don't fill up on beer and the marvelous homemade potato chips with chipotle mayo for dipping, as po'boys, Cajun/Creole specialties, and fried seafood options await. **8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586 \$\$\$**

CHINESE: FIRE BOWL CAFE Asian stir-fried rice bowls featuring your choice of veggies, beef, chicken, pork, shrimp, or salmon. **5601 Brodie, 899-8998 \$**

CUBAN: HABANA SOCO Rising from the ashes of a fire, Habana has opened bigger and stronger. The Lechon Asado roast pork is a must, as is the Cubano sandwich for a lighter bite, with lots of appetizers to go with the drinks. **2728 S. Congress, 443-4253 \$\$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: LA MEXICANA BAKERY Well-known for its wide selection of inexpensive pan dulces, empanadas, and galletas. If your sweet tooth needs a root canal, try something from the taqueria. **1924 South First, 443-6369 \$**

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

JAPANESE: SEOUL RESTAURANT Beautifully presented, moderately priced sushi crafted from the freshest cuts of fish in spare, clean environments. The creamy yellowtail deserves the most attention. **6400-C S. First, 326-5807 \$\$\$**

UT

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DESSERTS: CAFE MATISSE We hear the food is as colorful as the decor and splashed with all the bright primaries used by its namesake. **2025 Guadalupe #152, 236-0207 \$**

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WEST

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Before long, we'll all be tired of Christmas cookies and bored with eggnog. And don't even mention that annual culinary punch line, fruitcake. Still, **food makes a great gift**. So take our advice on some slightly more original choices. *Newsweek* (Nov. 17, 2003)



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VIDEO GAMES

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CREW STORIES

Tommy Sturgis

The film is over; credits roll across the screen. Actors, producers, directors, costume designers, and ... boom operators? "Gaffer and best boy are some others that people latch on to," says Tommy Sturgis, known to his crewmates as "Sturge." He is one of the premier boom operators in town, and today – Tuesday – is his day off. He eases his massive frame into the opposite chair, beer in hand, and begins to explain life behind the scenes of a film.

The boom is actually the stick that holds the mic, and boom operating is microphone placement to record dialogue and effects. The microphones must be held in designated places to catch the sound perfectly, and they must be as close to the actor as possible without getting in the shot or “dipping in.” Microphones get into the shots a lot, meaning another take. “If you don’t dip in, you’re not doing your job,” Sturgis says. “Either that or you’re the most awesome person ever.”

Sturgis' impressive résumé comprises *The Ringer*, *Friday Night Lights*, *Infamous*, *Grindhouse*, and every Richard Linklater film since *Waking Life*, including *Fast Food Nation*. "All of Rick's shoots are good times," he says about working with Linklater. "For *Fast Food Nation*, we'd go and shoot Mexican slaughterhouses for a day and then go to the bar and let loose." He is currently working on the set of *Gary the Tennis Coach* in and around Austin. "I had to turn my head a couple times this week to keep from laughing," Sturgis says. "Every take ends with the crew cracking up. It's a good, old-fashioned comedy."

Sturgis did a lot of sound work while earning his film degree from Florida State University. No one wanted to do sound, and he loved everything about filmmaking, so he began to do grip and electric work. He took a gig helping out a graduate student with a road movie that brought him to Austin where he began filling in when others took days off. Eventually he built up enough experience to



ETHAN ANDRIUS

begin working as a freelance boom operator primarily with sound mixer Ethan Andrus.

For every take of every shot, 12 hours a day, five days a week, Sturgis is on his feet, boom in hand. At times it can take more than 30 takes to get a shot right, hence this saying among crews: "What's the most exciting day of your life? Your first day on the set. What's the most boring day of your life? Your second day on the set."

However, as it goes with most jobs, some days are more exciting than others. One film shoot had actors wading through a Louisiana bayou at night. The director tried to convince the crew to join them, arguing that they were receiving hazard pay for such situations. "If you took a light and shined it, you could see 100 pair of golden, glowing alligator eyes," Sturgis says. He and his colleagues refused.

- C. Amber Pearce

DVD WATCH

O. HENRY'S FULL HOUSE

"People ask me how I manage to come up with that 'fine little twist' to my stories," intones the supremely self-confident voice of O. Henry in a rare audio recording made just before his death in 1910 (one of several unexpected bonuses on this DVD). "I always tell 'em that the unusual is the ordinary, rather than the unexpected."

Like countless Austinites before and since, young William S. Porter floundered at just about everything he attempted during his formative years here before finding his true calling: a failed pharmacist, a bored bookkeeper, a bankrupt bank teller, a fledgling publisher, and, most fatefully, a careless embezzler. After skipping town for the Big Easy, he changed his name and his destiny, going on to become the Norman Rockwell of American literature in the process. His popular (and populist) short stories pretty much invited adaptations, a calculated risk that



Hollywood decided to gamble on in 1952, when 20th Century Fox released *O. Henry's Full House*, an omnibus showcasing five of the author's most celebrated short stories.

The studio hedged its bets, stacking the deck with the talents of five different directors (including Howard Hawks and Henry Hathaway), a score of seasoned script doctors (with uncredited input from Ben Hecht and Nunnally Johnson), a semi-all-star

cast (including a young Marilyn Monroe as New York's most fetching streetwalker), and topped it all off by recruiting John Steinbeck, gruff and ill at ease in a frumpy wool jacket, for the professorial introductions.

Like most anthology films, *Full House* yielded a mixed bag, with the episodes running the gamut from the whimsical ("The Ransom of Red Chief") to the maudlin ("The Last Leaf") to the iconic ("Gift of the Magi") – not the first time Hollywood has compromised the power of the pen in favor of the rewrite. This bargain-priced DVD features a digitally restored print and enough bonus features to justify an anthology of its own, including a video tour of the O. Henry Museum on Fifth. – *Steve Uhler*

ALSO OUT NOW

Star Trek: The Animated Series
(Paramount Home Video, \$54.99):

This long-lost stepchild in the *Trek* universe – containing all 22 episodes from the Saturday-morning TV series aired from 1973 to 1974 – finally beams down into the marketplace, featuring the voice talents of the original crew.

FILM NEWS

ALTMAN AT THE END

A fictional take on S.R. Bindler's 1997 documentary *Hands on a Hard Body* was on the fast track when **Robert Altman** died, with an early 2007 start to filming planned. Now, the project is in limbo. "All I know at this point about the future of *Hands on a Hard Body* is that Robert Altman will not be directing it," says **Stephen Harrigan**, who had penned the screenplay. "But I'm grateful I had the chance to work with him and happy that he was so excited about the movie. The last time I talked to him, about a week and a half before he died, he was brimming over with enthusiasm and energy about the casting and the shooting schedule. It's nice to know that, until the last day of his life, he was looking forward to his next project." As you read here back in October, *Hard Body* was to be Altman's fictionalization of the Longview contest in which contestants vied for a free vehicle as the last one to take a hand off of it. *Variety* quotes Picturehouse head **Bob Berney** as saying no final decision has been made. No matter the outcome, Harrigan counts himself lucky to have worked with the famed director. "He had no tolerance for anything that struck him as clichéd or conventional or predigested," Harrigan says. "He had no apparent interest in character or plot. He just wanted to create, with every movie, something authentic and new."

SHOTS FIRED IN FILM INCENTIVES WAR

Is Angelou Economics of Austin working to pump up Alabama's film industry? That's the gist of an editorial in *The Anniston Star* that eagle-eyed **Angela Lee** sent my way. Seems the effort aims to turn a former military installation into an economic hub, including a one-stop film-production shop. They've already hired a main player behind Louisiana's surge onto the film scene. Of course, Alabama's plan depends on its Lege approving filming incentives. The firm, headed by **Angelos Angelou**, former honcho with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, also prepared an economic development plan for the city of Santa Fe in 2004 that advised using the Austin Film Commission as a model to take advantage of New Mexico's filming-incentives program. We can only hope he's also putting in a good word for filming incentives at the Texas Capitol. More to come when our Lege arrives in town early next year.

NOW SHOWING (AND NETFLIXING)

Two films from Austin creators are finding a wider audience. **Turk Pipkin's** *Nobility*, a doc featuring Nobel Prize winners talking about how to save the world, is now in national release, but just as important, you can find previously unseen footage of Nobel winners including Desmond Tutu and Rick Smalley at Nobility.org for your perusal free of charge. Also, Pipkin and crew have formed the *Nobility* in Schools program aimed at putting the film in eighth- and ninth-grade classrooms across the nation. Meanwhile, film shooter **P.J. Raval** says you can now find **Kyle Henry's** *Room* available on Netflix for your viewing pleasure. If you missed the film at the Sundance or Cannes film fests – or during its Austin screenings – you now officially have no excuse.

AND THE REST ...

As we went to press, there was word of the Austin-produced *Chalk's* nomination for the Independent Spirit Awards' John Cassavetes prize, given to the director, writers, and producers of "best feature made for under \$500,000." In *Chalk's* case, those would be, respectively, **Mike Akel**; **Chris Mass** and Akel; **Akel**, **Angela Alvarez**, **Graham Davidson**, and Mass. Past Cassavetes nominees with Austin ties include *The Puffy Chair* and *Room*. The ceremony will take place on Feb. 24, 2007... **Bennie Klain's** short film "Share the Wealth" premiered this week on the opening night of the Native American Film + Video Festival in New York City. The short follows the travails of a homeless, middle-aged Native American woman on a busy city street... Eight new programs of *East Austin Stories* from a class at the University of Texas will be shown at 7pm, Dec. 12, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and at 9pm the same night at Cafe Mundi. Plus, many of the short docs can be seen at EastAustinStories.org or can be downloaded as podcasts for you iPod-enabled types... Local filmmaker **Arnie Reyes** has teamed with writer/director **Yehudi Mercado** to shoot the short "Monster Job Hunter" at Austin Studios early this month. **Robert Rodriguez's** Troublemaker Studios is helping out by donating set materials... Mark your calendar: A holiday party presented by Reel Women and the Alliance is Monday from 7 to 10pm at Hi-Lo, with tickets a measly \$5. On Sunday from 6 to 10:30pm at Trophy's Bar and Grill, the oft-postponed benefit for **John McLean's** *Z: A Zombie Musical*, which came back from faulty hard-drive hell but still must pay the bills, is expected to finally happen. Really. I mean it this time.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

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Re: Gift

When a PS3 just isn't in the cards

Try to be impartial, and ask yourself, does your child deserve the PlayStation3? How good does a kid have to be to earn a graphics-rendering god while at the same time putting you in the war zone that is Best Buy? Let's assume you're not Pollyanna's parent but still worry that your gift-grubbers might be spending too much time outside with friends. Kill two birds with this selection of stones, and give a well-earned gift while offering up a friendly reminder that, "I love you, but you can always do better."



— James Renovitch

GEARS OF WAR

Microsoft
\$59.99

Cliff Bleszinski, lead designer for *Gears of War*, stated that his influence for making this game realistic was his personal experience playing paintball. So the question is, did the experience pay off?

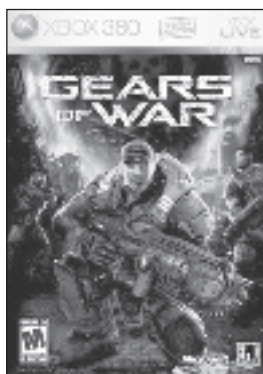
All the hype that's been churning about GOW's graphics is essentially true. Not only are the characters finely detailed down to the spherical droplets of slime on the aliens' faces, but the settings are simultaneously breathtaking and nauseating. GOW takes place in a renaissance-like infrastructure that's painted with war desecration. Your character is Marcus Fenix, a re-enlisted ex-Marine whose mission is to eliminate an Earth-devouring alien race.

Though the graphics are gruesomely spectacular, it is the complement of fluid physics and realistic action that really assaults the eyeballs. Landscapes that tremble from bomb blasts and spraying gunfire induce vertigo, making you feel as if you've been huffing paint thinner. In the midst of mayhem, you have to avoid injury by hiding, jumping, and remaining limber, which, if you've ever played paintball before, is harder than it sounds.

Fenix is loaded with an assortment of weapons to help him rise from his ashes, but the lancer assault rifle is what alien-slaughtering dreams are made of. Get in brawling distance of an oversized locust, and you can crank the rifle's chain-saw bayonet, transforming Fenix from a Marine hero into Leatherface in a crimson-splattered nightmare. The buzzing scenes are bloody, brutal, and beautiful and will induce flashbacks the next time you hear your neighbor's weed whacker. This single device is the zenith of GOW and sets a higher bar for shooter games' tools of the trade to follow.

The online-play options will keep any guild hooked, which is one reason GOW is being referred to as the next *Halo*. As far as Bleszinski's experience cashing in, I'd like to play a paintball game that's as exhilarating as GOW. Dear Santa, please stuff my stocking this year with a lancer assault rifle equipped with a chain-saw bayonet.

— Carson Barker



SPLINTER CELL: DOUBLE AGENT

Ubisoft
\$59.99

You're an undercover agent, deep classified shit. The terrorist organization you're working for wants you to execute an innocent man. Do you: a) gain the organization's trust but lose your agency rep by putting one in his ear or b) pretend to miss, showing you're willing to

deep-six a bitch but also that you're the kind of amateur who misses from 6 feet? If you're playing *Splinter Cell: Double Agent*, the most common response is probably c) screw up and die.

At its heart, *Double Agent* is a Hindu game: You spend life after life getting your ass handed to you until you learn to play through the level without embarrassing yourself. Fortunately for you, no matter how much you screw up in your current life, you never come back as a cockroach. You keep reincarnating as Sam Fisher, coldass secret agent mofo.

Stick with this game, and you'll be rewarded with the kind of "I'm awesome even though I'm just sitting on my couch" moments that mark any of your sweeter video games. For example, swimming under ice, for some reason, plays heavily in the game. Swim under a henchman, and you get the chance to break through the ice, pull him down, and stab him in the chest. Who knew tapping "A" twice could be so badass? As always in the *Splinter Cell* series, we get more cool gadgets and moves than we deserve, and one of the best online multiplayer games going. But we get even more of a challenge in the trust meter, which forces your two-timing self to balance both sides of the law. Playing *Double Agent* is like watching *The Departed* but with way more parts where you curse and throw your controller at the screen.

— Jeremy Martin

FINAL FANTASY XII

Square Enix
\$49.99

Sixteen hours, 13 minutes, and 27 seconds later, and there's no sign this is going to end soon. The depressingly precise clock, arguably the worst development in the *Final Fantasy* franchise, ticking away perfectly good game time.



KIDS CORNER

FLUSHED AWAY

D3 Publisher
\$29.99

The Nintendo DS rendition of *Flushed Away* is, along with the majority of often quickly produced movie-based titles, a side-scrolling platform game. You assume the role of Roddy and Rita, exploring an underground metropolis while trying to avoid the evil Toad and his henchrats. Most of the game is very routine stuff, such as sword swings, kick attacks, and jumping over obstacles, but there are a few levels where you will take command of Rita's boat — the *Jammy Dodger*. However, similar to some of the other gameplay mechanics, the ship's targeting is not very intuitive, and the first few times around you will take some major hull damage. You will also find that Rita's bungee-cord swing move will cause equal frustration as you repeatedly fall to your doom in the rat-infested sewers.

Other than the thumb-straining time it takes to master some of these moves, you can finish the game in just a couple of hours. The three added minigames do allow for a change of gameplay by utilizing the DS stylus and microphone, but they are very basic and don't boost the title's lasting appeal. Besides some cool graphics and voiceovers, the game leaves you pretty unsatisfied. Unless you really enjoyed the movie, stick with one of the other DS platformers released this fall, such as *New Super Mario Bros.* or *Mega Man ZX*.

— Paul Warner

LEGO STAR WARS II: THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY

Lucas Arts
\$49.95

At first glance, *Lego Star Wars II* seems to be marketing to an odd audience. Sure it's the perfect game for *Star Wars* freaks to play with their nerdlings, but how many of us dudes in Boba Fett Underoos have actually had the chance to procreate? I'm sure the number's a lot higher than you'd like to estimate, but whatever the case, the game is a must-have for anybody who complains when Han doesn't shoot first.

Not only is this probably the only next-gen video game we'll see faithfully re-create every key scene from the good *Star Wars* trilogy, its too-cute Lego gibberish and two-second controller mastery ("See the blue button there? Press it forever.") make it perfect for your gamer-challenged friends or (dare I suggest it?) your significant other.

Free play mode and a freakish amount of custom character-building options give the game a surprising amount of replay value, and if you've actually managed to reproduce, *Lego Star Wars II* can't be beat for a good Jedi brainwashing. "Obsess about this franchise you shall." Insert your own joke about "the building blocks of a childhood education" here, because I flat out refuse to do it.

— J.M.



But then again, what are a few days when war looms on the horizon of Ivalice?

And so enters a world of hit points, "magick," and other *D&D*-inspired accoutrements. By popular demand, *Final Fantasy XII* varies little in terms of gameplay from its predecessors: Come across an enemy, kill enemy, gain money and experience to make your characters stronger, kill bigger enemy. Crowd-pleasing *FFXII*'s slight variations on this theme consist of a system of licenses that require that you pay a certain amount of dues before you can wield the mystical battle-axe you've been eyeing. This can be viewed as an impediment to the action or another way to obsess over the minutia of your party of characters.

Therein lies the difference between an RPG and an action game. Any RPG worth its salt rewards, if not insists on, some amount of repetitive character-building.



Don't be fooled when an ally says, "We must hurry," for the exact opposite stands to be the best course of action. Why else would the game offer greater rewards for killing the same enemy over and over. The beauty of RPGs and *FFXII* in particular? Giving you variously sized senses of accomplishment every step of the way. Thank God, because there are a lot of steps.

— J.R.

MARVEL ULTIMATE ALLIANCE

Activision
\$39.99

The rising destructive capability of evil men threatens global stability. And so, you must take control of a team of Marvel superheroes and form the world's mightiest counter-terrorism unit! But you won't find Spider-Man turning his sarcastic wit against the likes of Osama bin Laden or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in *Marvel Ultimate Alliance*; instead, you will encounter a fantastical adventure that takes you from the gates of



hell to the beer halls of Valhalla, battling villains of every stripe, even including the cosmic entity Galactus, Devourer of Worlds, who apparently has half a mind to, well, eat Earth.

Yes, it is, in large part, the epic story that makes *MUA* such a compelling diversion. That's not to say that the gameplay isn't a lot of fun; it is, but gamers who were drawn to the role-playing aspects of earlier installments in Raven Software's superhero RPG series should be forewarned: This time around the role-playing elements have been diminished in favor of more traditional arcade action gameplay. No longer will you be able to distribute stat points after leveling up, and experience is essentially a nonfactor since it's divided evenly among all of your heroes. New features include the ability to pick up and wield weapons (think *Double Dragon*), a chargeable jump attack, and various special moves requiring fierce, occasionally exhausting button mashing.

While the loss of customization is disappointing, it's easily forgotten in the depths of the Marvel Universe and the simple pleasures of throwing around Captain America's shield, plunging Wolverine's claws into so many faces, and terrifying poor sinners with Ghost Rider's penance stare.

- Tim Warden

WTF: WORK TIME FUN

D3 Publisher

\$29.99

PSP's new *WTF* boasts a simple premise: It's a collection of simple little jobs, most of which look and play like old Atari games. Upon completion of each simple little job, you earn money, which you then use to buy access to more simple little jobs. Chopping wood, crossing the street, counting people, capping pens: There's no end to the work that needs to be done.

What a world! We create video games in which we work to earn money and then must work more. How truly odd. Surely just around the corner resides a game wherein we perform only the most rudimentary tasks and chores: *Happy Super Breathe In/Breathe Out! Time to Pay Bills! Floss and Floss Again!*



The really odd thing about *WTF* is that, once you've earned enough money, you can actually "purchase" tools that will allow you to use your PSP for utilitarian, real-world purposes, tools like the Restaurant Bill Splitter and the Handy Light.

Maybe one day soon our handheld video-game machines will start producing food and shelter.

- Josh Rosenblatt

BULLY

Rockstar Games
\$39.99

In this latest Rockstar "free form" game for PS2, you are young Jimmy Hopkins, sent to Bullworth Academy by an unpleasant mother and arrogant stepfather. Before you have time to contemplate this, you're knee-deep in scheduled English, chemistry, art, shop, and gym classes.

As the misfit of the academy you'll be the target of preps, jocks, hypocritical teachers, and all the other obligatory cliques. Your character advances and takes on your personal strengths. Good English students establish insult comedy and backhanded compliments for defense, while loaner jocks get better at throwing things at people.

Jimmy rides karts, skateboards, tractors, bikes, and can leave graffiti tags, but Tony Hawk's been doing that for years. Long load times, infrequent saves, and lack of a multi-player mode are big problems, too, perhaps due to lazy developers.

Originally *Bully* was called a "violence in the schools" game, but humor and teen angst more than fighting are the norm: no guns, knives, or blood. Teachers, however, misbehave and can be blackmailed as a consequence. Overall *Bully* is a great game if you are patient with the long loads of the slowly expanding Bullworth universe.

General advice to parents buying this game: Although kids have been pulling fire alarms, loosing marbles on stairs, and shooting bottle rockets at one another for a long time, you might think twice about this gift if your hellion tends to imitate video games.

- Ed Baker



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TV EYE

Xmas-Rated?

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

What makes a Christmas special a classic? There are several factors, the most significant being how impressionable you were when you saw said special and the influence of your respective demographic. For me, the animated *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (1964), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (the animated 1966 version narrated with Grinchy glee by Boris Karloff), and *J.T.* (1969) are among my favorites. Not so keen on the most recent ascendant to holiday classic status, *A Christmas Story* (1983), which was first released when I was in my mid-20s. Still, it's a bona fide favorite, airing in a marathon starting on Christmas Eve on TBS.

Every year, someone tries to reconstitute the Christmas movie that will strike gold on the small screen. This year's entry is *The Year Without a Santa Claus*. Based on the book by Phyllis McGinley, it has many of the hallmarks of a holiday classic in waiting, the most crucial being a disenchanting main character. Here, it's Santa himself, played by **John Goodman**, who frets that the spirit of Christmas has been lost: "If [kids] can't see it or buy it, it doesn't exist to them." Even the North Pole — where the Christmas spirit (minus the religious over-



The Year Without a Santa Claus

tones) should be secure — has fallen under the thrall of commercialism, thanks to the leadership of head elf Sparky (**Chris Kattan**, *Saturday Night Live*). Santa's toy factory is now known as SantaCo, and Sparky is its ambitious

CEO. After attending a pre-Christmas toy expo where the toy-making elves present loud and violent video games and toys that require multiple tie-in purchases, a disgusted Santa decides to skip Christmas altogether.

Goodman is a down-to-earth Santa Claus, playing old St. Nick as a very large kid lumbering around in a cynical romantic's tired body. To prove him wrong and save Christmas, two side characters step up: elves Jingle and Jangle, played by **Eddie Griffin** (*Scary Movie 3*) and **Ethan Suplee** (*My Name Is Earl*).

Like other holiday films, *The Year Without a Santa Claus* trades on the "What happened to the Christmas spirit?" theme by critiquing modernity, in this case through pop cultural references. Jingle is a TV junkie, and his references are incessant and curious, given that online media is challenging TV's influence. (Is that handheld TV Jingle totes around wireless or run by magic?) No matter: It's his TV habit that helps the pair locate Iggy Thistlewhite (**Dylan Minnette**), a boy who they think can convince Santa Claus that the Christmas spirit lives. There's only one problem: Iggy doesn't believe in Santa Claus.

From here, we get the sneaking-off-without-permission device and all the necessary obstacles. The film jogs along nicely enough, with the exception of a bloated side story about

Mother Nature's (**Carol Kane**) dueling sons, Heatmiser and Snowmiser (**Harvey Fierstein** and **Michael McKean**). Kane is enduringly charming — and Fierstein and McKean suitably doofy — but time is sorely wasted in a plot device that exists merely so that Santa Claus can keep his promise to Iggy once the required conversion experience occurs. Wouldn't magic have been quicker?

There are several humorous cameos in this film, including an uncredited actress who plays the Greek Goddess Artemis working undercover on Earth as a gym teacher. This actress is gut-bustingly funny in a role that is far too brief when compared to the time spent on Heatmiser and Snowmiser. In fact, her role is part of the underlying, richer story about the role that myth and story plays in cultures, even modern ones. That this theme struggles to make itself known while the Mother Nature story takes up too much space and time is unfortunate. But I'm admittedly old-school. The rapid location jumps, wacky antics (including a scene in a video arcade), and the overall goofiness will please those schooled in short-attention-span theatre. And there are enough pop culture references to keep older children happy, while adults will appreciate references to prior Christmas classics. Is this iteration of *The Year Without a Santa Claus* a new Christmas classic? Not for me, but I'm not in the demographic that decides.

The Year Without a Santa Claus airs Monday, Dec. 11, 8pm on NBC.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com

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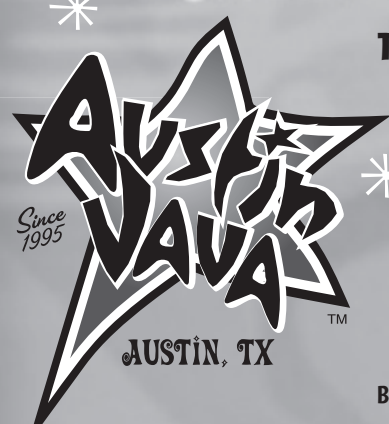
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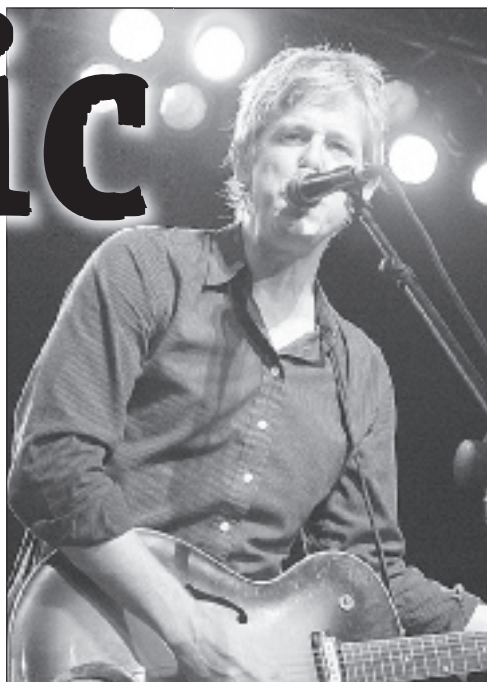
BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY



Everything's bigger in Texas:
 Gibson's GuitarTown Sculptures

A CAPITAL SLIGHT?

Everyone who thinks Austin takes itself a bit too seriously got plenty of ammunition last weekend, when a graphic accompanying the Nov. 25 front-page *New York Times* article, "Cities Compete in Hipness Battle to Attract Young," labeled Austin the "live music capital of the South." Naturally, this didn't sit too well with locals who prefer the broader, self-proclaimed, and virtually impossible to prove (or disprove) honorific "live music capital of the world." **News 8 Austin** was the first to pick up on the (non)story, and at Monday's press conference unveiling the supersized **Gibson** guitar sculptures (above) to be displayed around town and auctioned for charity, Austin **Mayor Will Wynn** joked to **Fox 7 News** about canceling his *Times* subscription and said, seriously, that he and **Ray Benson** plan to write a letter to the editor. Perhaps they weren't aware that two weeks before, in the lead Sunday Arts & Leisure article about foreign indie rock bands' double duty as government-subsidized cultural ambassadors, the first person quoted was Austinite and **SXSW** creative director **Brent Grulke**. Besides, recognition from the nation's paper of record (unless you're **Bill O'Reilly**) as the musical capital of a region responsible for everything from Dixieland jazz and Southern rock to Delta blues and booty rap is about as good as it gets. No one, *Times* or otherwise, disputes Austin as a national and even global model for converting live music into both cash and civic identity (again, above), but the more umbrage our elected officials take over such semantic trifles, the more provincial we appear. Fox 7 buried the story after a brief piece on the **Kinky Friedman** campaign's upcoming office-furniture fire sale, but it wouldn't die quite so easily: Wednesday, *Times* news blog "Lede" clucked at the "heated exegesis," whatever that means, stirred up by the paper's word choice.



JOHN ANDERSON

GARY MILLER



MARY SLEDD

TODD V. WOLFSON



December to remember: A wintry Waterloo Park welcomes the latest Austin music festival, three stages of Fun Fun Fun with, among two dozen others, (l-r) Spoon, the Applicators, Octopus Project, and DJ Mel.

FUN FUN FUN HOUSE

Some music festivals are the product of months upon months of backbreaking legwork and meticulous planning. Others just sort of happen, as is the case with Friday's first-ever **Fun Fun Fun Fest** in **Waterloo Park**. FFFF point man and Emo's talent booker **Graham Williams** says it came about when acts kept contacting him for shows on Dec. 1, but Buffalo, N.Y.-born/Tampa, Fla.-raised death-metal choirboys **Cannibal Corpse** were already booked. So was every club to which Williams referred the bands.

"**Peaches**, **Circle Jerks**, **Dead Meadow**, none of them could get a show in Austin," he says. "So I decided I'm gonna put it together. It just kept getting bigger and bigger."

As it stands now, even after **Calexico** and Sweden's **Sounds** dropped out, FFFF spans three stages and 26 performers (see "Music Listings" for a full lineup and interview with a reunited, if not reformed, **Negative Approach**). Williams asserts there's still plenty of room for a local festival with a more underground vibe.

"I think ACL is really well-done, but it only touches on that sort of music," he says. "I don't want to make a giant festival like that, which everyone likes. I want to do one that's very specific."

WHISTLING DIXIE

With unapologetic documentary *Shut Up & Sing* currently at the **Arbor**, the **Dixie Chicks'** politics continue to dominate the trio's press clippings. In the meantime, the Texans have accomplished a feat almost unheard of in modern pop music: a largely successful audience transplant. By now it's clear that most of the fans alienated by **Natalie Maines'** March 2003 anti-**George W. Bush** remark aren't coming back, and mainstream country radio has long since raised a new crop of videogenic, feisty female vocalists in **Carrie Underwood**, **Miranda Lambert**, and the **Wreckers**. However, by making the recently platinum *Taking the Long Way* an adult-contemporary album, and frankly addressing their recent history in the lyrics, the Chicks have tapped into a **VH1**-friendly fan base more in line with their beliefs and equally willing to buy their music. Moreover, Maines' comments helped wedge open a door of dissent that was slammed shut after 9/11 but is now permanently ajar. Speaking out is her constitutional right, and ironically, the uproar surrounding "We're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas" has helped create an environment where, for the hour or two the Chicks are onstage each night – **Frank Erwin Center**, Monday, Dec. 4 – band and audience alike are satisfied to let the songs speak for themselves.



NATHAN JENSEN

PEEL SLOWLY AND SEE

Country singers running for governor, privately funded musicians' health care, singer-songwriters earning a decent living: Small wonder **The Onion** decided to open a branch in our topsy-turvy town. Sadly, as the hilarious fake-news tabloid will discover, the line between satire and reality around here is already hopelessly blurred. Some possible forthcoming headlines from the *Chronicle's* new neighbor:

AREA BAND BREAKS UP TO FULFILL REUNION-GIG OBLIGATIONS

DOZENS HURT AS MYSPACE CRASH CAUSES TRAGIC OVERCROWDING AT AREA KINKO'S

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FAULTY KEGERATOR, DRUNKENLY REPEATED DIRECTIONS DOOM AREA AFTERPARTY

AREA HIPPIES FORCED TO ADMIT BELOVED SEVENTIES CLUB REALLY IS GONE FOR GOOD

The *Onion* launch party is tonight (Thursday) at Emo's with **Sound Team**, **IV Thieves**, **Eugene Mirman**, **Lemurs**, and **Tacks**, the **Boy Disaster**. 9pm doors.

Keep on Growing

Playing Dominos with Bobby Whitlock **BY JIM CALIGIURI**

Austin has its share of genuine rock stars. Few come as pedigreed and charismatic as Bobby Whitlock, however.

Who's Bobby Whitlock? His main claim to fame comes as songwriter, vocalist, and keyboardist for Derek & the Dominos, Eric Clapton's post-Cream wrecking crew that gave the world seven breathtaking minutes of "Layla." Beyond that endlessly radiant moment in 1970, Whitlock's story is truly incredible.

For starters, he and the other Dominos were George Harrison's core band on *All Things Must Pass*. Hardly confined to the Beatles camp, he also appears on the Rolling Stones' *Exile on Main Street*, albeit uncredited. A prime component of Dominos precursor Delaney & Bonnie & Friends, Whitlock has had his songs cut by John Prine, George Jones, Tom Jones, Michael Nesmith, and others.

One Monday night last month, the cream of those compositions set Austin's Saxon Pub alight. It hardly mattered that the South Lamar institution was modestly peopled or that Whitlock and his wife CoCo Carmel performed as a duo on acoustic instruments. They ran though the balance of *Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs*, "I Looked Away," "Keep on Growing," "Anyday," "Tell the Truth," "Why Does Love Got to Be So Sad," "Thorn Tree in the Garden" – all songs Whitlock co-wrote or wrote – and they did them with ferocious soul. That soul comes natural for Whitlock, who was born in Memphis in 1948 and recording for Stax Records by the time he was 15.

Home of Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, the Staple Singers, and a whole lot more, Stax attempted a pop imprint called Hip in the mid-Sixties and Whitlock was the first white artist signed to it – the kid who also stepped in on occasion as singer for Stax's legendary house band, Booker T & the MGs. "Steve Cropper was my mentor," beams Whitlock in the music room of his new digs near Manor. "I learned

how to play the B-3 by watching Booker T. It was a great time to be in Memphis. Albert King and I also became very close."

Late in '68, Delaney and Bonnie Bramlett, who had just released their first album for Stax, came to Memphis. That was Whitlock's ticket out of town. As he spins another tale, the still boyish musician's innate Southern gentlemanliness blooms. He's obviously spun these stories before, but he revels in telling them.

"Bonnie's reputation was 'The White Aretha Franklin.' They came to see me play and afterwards they said, 'We're putting a band together. Do you want to come to California?' I had only ever been to Atlanta, so I said, 'Hell yeah!' That was a Thursday night, and I was gone by Saturday. When I got there, they had Carl Radle on bass, J.J. Cale on guitar, Leon Russell on keyboards, and Bobby Keys on horns. It was like a dream. I went from where I had my feet firmly on the ground to a completely foreign land. In Los Angeles,

suddenly, we were what was going on."

With that, Delaney & Bonnie & Friends scored the opening slot on the Blind Faith tour in 1969. One of the era's first supergroups, Blind Faith was guitarist Clapton and his Cream bandmate Ginger Baker on drums, Steve Winwood from Traffic on keys, and Rick Grech on bass.

"Delaney and Bonnie was on tour with Blind Faith and kicking their ass!" exclaims Whitlock, eyes aglow. "It was a stomping band. Every review said that Blind Faith was getting blasted by this gospel/country-rock/soul band. Eric got close to us because we were a tight unit that was always singing and playing music. He had never experienced that and wanted to be part of it. When we were playing in Toronto, Delaney asked me what I thought about him playing with us. I said, 'OK, but he'll have to do something about those pink pants.'



FELICIA GRAHAM

Bobby and CoCo

"A couple of weeks later, *I'm* the one wearing pink pants."

After the tour, Clapton returned to England, and most of the Friends left the Bramletts to join Joe Cocker's Mad Dogs & Englishmen. Whitlock wasn't far behind. After another of his employers' marital blowouts, the keyboardist called up Steve Cropper, who suggested contacting Clapton. The guitarist agreed to a visit, so the next day Cropper paid Whitlock's way to England.

"I get on a plane and show up at Eric's door, and he goes, 'What are you doin' here?' I told him he'd said, 'Come on over.' And he says, 'Well, I really didn't think you'd do it!'

"I lived at his house for about six months."

It was during that time that most of the original songs on *Layla* were composed. The two made an odd pair, the British superstar and a soul-crazed youngster from Memphis, but they connected on their love of blues, especially Albert King. Derek & the Dominos didn't come together as a band until George Harrison called Clapton for what became *All Things Must Pass*. Two other Delaney & Bonnie alums, bassist Carl Radle and drummer Jim Gordon, were the final Dominos falling in place.

Those who've never heard *Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs* are missing out on one of rock & roll's singular recordings. Whitlock, who'd previously co-written only one song with Delaney, pushed Clapton to emotional heights that the guitarist never again reached. The appearance of Duane Allman in the middle of the recording sessions drove the guitar histrionics even higher. The sordid story of the album's birth is available in Jan Reid's bottled lightning new book.

"After the recording," recounts Whitlock, "we were on the road, and we scored an enormous amount of drugs to take with us. That was the beginning of the end for us, because we had a whole lot of cocaine. We did 50-something dates in the same amount of days.

[Still], on our worst night we were the best band on the planet. It was impossible for us to play badly."

Though the double album stiffed, achieving immortality only two years later when FM radio began playing the LP's title track, the band attempted a follow-up, which disintegrated when Clapton and Gordon almost came to blows in the studio. Whitlock remained in England to see if Clapton would regroup, but that's when the guitarist's four-year tailspin into heroin took hold.

Whitlock's subsequent solo career resulted in four albums. The first eponymous LP was well-received for Whitlock's soulful Southern charm, but the others garnered diminishing notices. He finally called it quits in 1976.

"It wasn't hard to stop," Whitlock grins, "because there was nothing going on in music. You know I'm indirectly responsible for disco. [Clapton's manager] Robert Stigwood took the Dominos' money, used it to create RSO Records and record the Bee Gees. My deepest apologies to the entire music world."

He retired to a farm in Mississippi, married, and raised two children. He built his own recording studio and

did occasional guest shots for the likes of Jeff Healey and Buddy Guy. He met his wife initially in 1990 when Delaney Bramlett brought his mother to Mississippi to see her dying sister. After Bonnie, CoCo Carmel was Mrs. Bramlett for 13 years. Once together, the duo's act was born after Whitlock spotted *The Layla Sessions 20th Anniversary* box set in a store.

"I thought, 'I'm not buying my own record when nobody's ever heard but one, possibly two songs from it!'

"That's when a light came on. The songs on that album are as new today as they were then. They just never had anyone perform them that had anything to do with them. I made one phone call to Allan Pepper, the man that owned the Bottom Line in New York. I told him I had an idea of me and CoCo playing the songs on *Layla* acoustically. He invited us up to open for someone, and after we finished, people lined up to talk to us."

A good representation of what they do is available on their live disc, *Other Assorted Love Songs* (Domino), from 2003. After living in Nashville for almost a year, the duo moved to Austin about a month ago.

"I was a little too soulful for Nashville," laughs Whitlock. "We spoke to David Milsap, guitarist for Delbert McClinton, in Fort Worth earlier this year. He told me Austin was the place to be. It reminds me of Memphis in 1965, when it was about the music, and everybody was supportive of everybody. Now I can't imagine living anyplace else."

Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel play the Saxon Pub, Monday, Dec. 8, 8pm.

LAYLA AND OTHER ASSORTED LOVE SONGS BY DEREK & THE DOMINOS

by Jan Reid

Rodale, 174 pp., \$16.95

"Every young man has a Layla in his life," writes Jan Reid, "or failing that, in his imagination." That Eric Clapton's was the wife of his best friend George Harrison, about whom the Beatle wrote "Something," forced God's own guitarist to mask his shrieks of desire in the name of an ancient Bedouin heroine. And opiates. ("They left large bags of heroin and cocaine lying around.") Like the harrowing classic rock staple itself, Austin's *Redneck Rock* biographer rips into the legend of 1970's *Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs* with all the grinning gusto of Duane Allman's impromptu, seven-note intro to the title track. Reid's lean, gutsy prose locks down a rhythm akin to a John Ford Western, at whose heart are four Southern boys conducting Clapton's open-heart surgery. Two died prematurely, one murdered his mother, and *Layla's* compositional catalyst – Bobby Whitlock – just pulled into River City. On your knees.

– Raoul Hernandez



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Second Coming

Tia Carrera's Jason Morales riffs on the Melvins' 'Lysol'

BY AUSTIN POWELL

There are dimensions of the mind that only music and a handful of pills can unlock: the dark side of the moon, an octopus' garden in the shade, a stairway to heaven. One improvised jam at a time, Austin metal trio Tia Carrera follows its muse into a surrealistic terrain where each chord progression represents another possible path. Yet it's not about the destination but rather a bleeding of the colors – the spontaneity and creativity aroused in this portal of the moment.

"The experience lets your mind wander," ventures the group's guitarist, Jason Morales. "It doesn't give you a lot to grasp on to, so you have to create your own meaning."

And it's not hit or miss. Instead, each member hits it twice, passes it to the left, returns to the tonic, drags on the root, and unleashes "Morales Riff No. Four Hundred Twenty." As many a local hoot night has proven, from the Who to the Rolling Stones and the Beatles, the trio also has an uncanny ability to reinterpret the past, exploring the voids left in the wake of rock & roll's forefathers.

Behold Tia's telepathic trinity, then. Bassist Andrew Duplantis has backed everyone from Son Volt and Jon Dee Graham to the Meat Puppets and Bob Mould, while his rootsy venture with the Unfaithfuls continues to leave audiences *Colorblind* (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid%3A402937). Erik Conn, who also handles the sticks for Those Peabodys and Migas (with Morales), is the central force driving Carrera. Morales, meanwhile, like J Mascis before him, is a drummer turned guitar god who specializes in psychedelic sludge.

In the wake of Tia Carrera's new self-titled disc on Australian Cattle God (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid%3A418644), seven jams recorded at Cacophony Recorders and the Launch Pad over the past two years, and the group's return from the CMJ Music Marathon in New York City, the *Chronicle* engaged Morales in an e-mail dialogue about an album that influenced the band's sessions. His choice? The Melvins' copyright-infringing, 1991 classic, *Lysol*, subsequently re-released as *The Melvins*. The epic, one song, six-part album practically birthed stoner and drone metal in a mere 30 minutes. It remains, arguably, the band's heaviest work to date.

In retrospect, the connection is obvious. For one, there's Morales' thick black 'fro, which recalls the Melvins' King Buzzo. Then there's the lone Native American warrior basking in the sun on the cover of *Lysol*, his remains resurrected 15 years later for Tia Carrera's artwork. Perhaps it's the "Second Coming" *Lysol* once prophesied. Oh yeah, and then there's the shared obsession with "Tone, Levels, and THC." Let it burn.

□

Austin Chronicle: I got into the Melvins a bit later than everyone else. My cousin, who moved to Seattle in 1991 to be a part of the whole Northwest

music explosion, came down for Christmas one year with what he considered the best of the best for me to check out, and *Lysol* was one of those albums. Needless to say, it melted my face off. Do you remember when you first got the record or what your initial reaction to it was?

Jason Morales: I don't remember what my initial reaction was when I first heard the album; I just knew it was dope! I had already been a Melvins fan since *Gluey Porch Treatment*, another one of my faves (if you haven't heard that one yet, you really need to), and *Lysol* took me back to the *Gluey* days right in the first track ("Hung Bunny") and the fact that it was all one track. I think it was the first time in their work where they were toying with their fans, which seems something that has lasted in their work since then.

AC: What is it about *Lysol* that's had a lasting influence on your work with Tia Carrera? What is it that makes it stand out from Bullhead, Houdini, and the four EPs (Eggnog, King Buzzo, Joe Preston, Dale Crover) that were also released around that same time?

JM: Tension. The way they make you wait in that first song, through the long, deep, heavy guitar chords, then a little bass, then the drums kick in. That, to me, was awesome. They make it last like 10 minutes!! Tia can be, well ... very

"Tia can be, well ... very long-winded, too, and I like to think that we create some of that same tension in our songs as the Melvins achieved with *Lysol*."

– Jason Morales

long-winded, too, and I like to think that we create some of that same tension in our songs as the Melvins achieved with *Lysol*.

AC: I actually don't prefer listening to stoner metal when getting stoned, so I don't have any really interesting experiences to share regarding *Lysol*. Is this one of your choice albums when passing the bong or taking that quick hit before bed?

JM: Very funny!

AC: In terms of relating *Lysol* to Tia Carrera, I hear a connection just in the fundamental tones of the music. Are you striving toward that same heaviness?

JM: It's always been a part of my guitar playing, even back in my old bands like Starfish and Hell Trout. That aspect really hit home to me, the idea of really slow metal.

AC: The way *Lysol* plays through as one 31-minute song broken into six movements seems fundamental to the way Tia Carrera rolls, especially on 2003's November Sessions where each song, like "Doom" for instance, has separate sections (1. The Riff, 2. The Four Open Six, 3. Hey! Do some



Hung Bunnies: (l-r) Erik Conn, Jason Morales, and Andrew Duplantis



drum intro thing, and maybe give us a yell). But more broadly, with the improvisational nature of Tia Carrera, all the music seems based on these changes in dynamics, these drastic differences between highs and lows. How did *Lysol* influence you on that level?

JM: Well, I think the Melvins really set the tone for this type of metal, as I mentioned before, the tension, the real heavy, slow riffs, the dynamics in their long epic songs, etc. It's just something I really like about them, and I think Erik, our drummer, digs the Melvins in that way, too. So, when it comes to us laying down some shit, it just comes naturally, and honestly the titles and all of that crap come last. We were just jammin' that day, and that's how it came out.

AC: *Lysol* is thick as brick. The first two movements, "Hung Bunny" and "Roman Bird Dog," are essentially nothing but feedback and drone, which I feel creates this really slow burning sensation. At times, you seem to do the same thing, just hold one note for a long time. Is that to create the same effect, or is it more of a technique to let the rest of the band catch up when jamming?

JM: A little of both. We definitely don't plan it that way. A lot of times it's because I'm trying to think of the next chord I want to go to. It's hard to choose that perfect chord in the middle of an improv metal jam, one that just takes the whole thing to the next level. And in doing that, we're creating this dramatic, intense moment. Everyone in the room – the band, the audience – we're all wondering where this thing is gonna go.

AC: To me, what's really interesting is the way that Flipper's "Sacrifice" and Alice Cooper's

"The Ballad of Dwight Fry" are reworked into the context of *Lysol* as a whole. Tia Carrera's always done a phenomenal job of making others' music their own, be it the Who or the Beatles or whatever. How do you know when there's a song that could really work well within Tia Carrera's format?

JM: That's hard, too. Basically, the song needs a cool riff, like "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." From there, it's all about us doing what we do best, which is not thinking too hard about it and jammin' like we're in the middle of a live Hendrix jam where he takes a 20-minute solo and the rhythm section is knockin' the shit out of the root.

AC: I spoke to King Buzzo recently, and one of the interesting things he told me was that all the different band lineups over the years kept his music-writing fresh. The nature of Tia Carrera writing an album is obviously different in that it's based more on spontaneous creativity and capturing moments in time, but the new disc also has a few collaborations as well. How did working with Ezra Reynolds and Jeff Swanson change the recording process for you?

JM: It was really cool to add some different textures to the jams. The work that those two did took the jams to a different level. Plus, it's something that we've tried live a few times, too, so it was cool to capture it on tape, because we never really had heard what it sounded like other than being right there playing the show and then afterward trying to remember if it sounded cool or not.

AC: If King Buzzo wanted to join Tia Carrera, would you let him sing?

JM: I'd let him moan a bit, like in "Hung Bunny," but that's about it. ■

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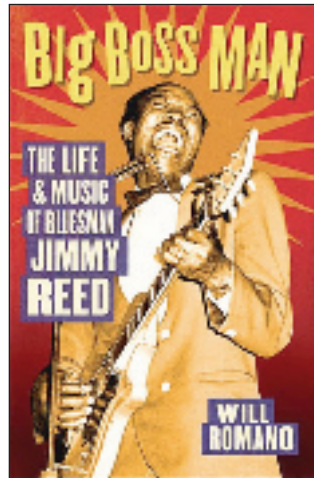
Gift Guide

BIG BOSS MAN: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF BLUESMAN JIMMY REED

by Will Romano

Backbeat, 360 pp., \$17.95 (paper)

Fifty-one was a helluva age to go considering the tremendous influence Jimmy Reed's simple, solid blues had on modern music. *Big Boss Man* shadows the Mississippi-born guitarist's life through the recording and drinking years and medical and money woes to his last dry days. Romano relies on guitar geek-speak – notes, chords, mic brands, and chart action – which isn't a complaint, even if it sometimes reads repetitively, because the author deftly explains the mojo of blues and how Reed worked it. And work it he did: From Chicago to the Chitlin Circuit, Reed cut a smoky swath of hardcore blues with "Baby, What You Want Me to Do," "Bright Lights, Big City," and "Big Boss Man." Those songs are still guitar-and-harmonica staples of Blues 101, rendered by Reed and his partner Eddie Taylor to eager imitators including Elvis and the Rolling Stones. Romano's emphasis on Reed's one and only gig at Antone's will warm local hearts. Clifford Antone not only brought Reed to play Antone's, he was responsible for bringing Reed and Eddie Taylor back together after years of estrangement. The weekend after Reed's 1976 death, a huge funeral wreath hung behind the bar. The ribbon read, "Jimmy Reed RIP." – Margaret Moser

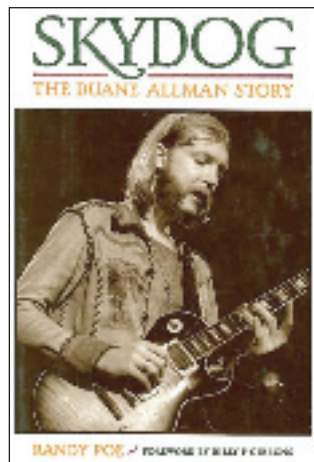


SKYDOG: THE DUANE ALLMAN STORY

by Randy Poe

Backbeat, 320 pp., \$24.95

ASTOUNDING as it may seem, it's taken 35 years for someone to write the definitive story of Duane Allman. One of rock's most enduring and influential guitarists, Allman died at 24 in 1971, just as the band he had formed with his brother Gregg was achieving worldwide acclaim. Featuring a foreword by ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, *Skydog* does a nearly impeccable job of conveying his life from a childhood in Nashville and session work with soul and jazz legends like Wilson Pickett and Herbie Mann to the rough, often drug-fueled life of his own bands. Poe brings Allman's spirit back with a passion for detail and through well-researched interviews of those who remember him. The description of the moment when the original sextet known as the Allman Brothers Band realizes they've achieved the sound they'd been searching for – one that still defines Southern rock – will raise the hair on the back of your neck. *Skydog* also includes a comprehensive discography of Allman's work, entertaining itemization of his studio and stage gear, and a look at the continuing lives and careers of Allman's friends and bandmates that makes this book even more valuable. – Jim Caligiuri

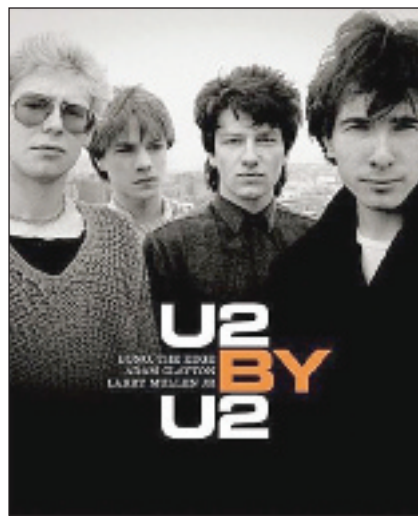
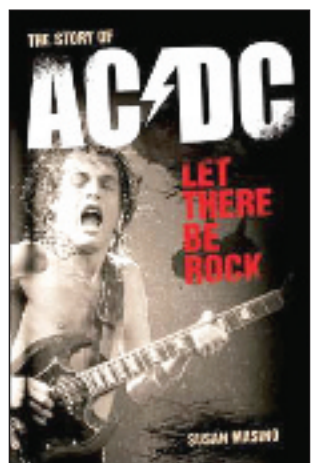


THE STORY OF AC/DC: LET THERE BE ROCK

by Susan Masino

Omnibus Press, 244 pp., \$22.95

With the noted exception of Chuck Berry, who transfixed Angus Young into his eternal "School Days," AC/DC defines rock in a way mostly unattainable throughout music history. As such, the story of the Aussies is the music itself: the sexual escapades ("Whole Lotta Rosie," "Go Down"), "Bedlam in Belgium," the transition from Bon Scott to Brian Johnson. Susan Masino's *Let There Be Rock* merely fills in the remaining voids with dates, numbers, and awards, tracing the band's "long way to the top" from their first show in the states at Austin's Armadillo World Headquarters in 1977 through the band's canonization into the educational curriculum by way of Jack Black and Richard Linklater's *School of Rock*. Her writing is reminiscent of AC/DC's abundant filler – simple, consistent, completely forgettable. Her insight is disappointing, viewing the band from the perspective of a super fan and blind to the fact that by the time the band was touring with a 38-foot bronze statue of Angus, the group had become a caricature of itself. More frustrating, she never dishes dirt on any "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap." Rock & roll damnation. – Austin Powell



U2 BY U2

by Bono, the Edge, Adam Clayton,
Larry Mullen Jr.

Harper Collins, 353 pp., \$39.95

As big as the band itself, *U2 by U2* is so massive it can hardly be done justice in a short-form review. So here's "In the Name of Love," a midpoint chapter whose oral history traces the genesis of 1984's *The Unforgettable Fire* through the Irishmen's star-making Live Aid performance in July 1985. The Edge has just had his first child. Larry Mullen adds "Junior" to his name so his dad won't get his tax bills. First-time producers Brian Eno and Daniel Lanois bunk down in manager Paul McGuinness' mews (i.e., stables). Bono says the album's theme is "a flirtation with death, nuclear fission, raw materials," but admits, "I'm not sure how much of that is articulated on the album." The title track was inspired by their Japanese publisher, "Bad" by heroin-plagued working-class Dublin, and Bono's crowd-surfing Live Aid theatrics nearly caused the Edge, Adam Clayton, and Mullen to fire him afterward. The other 11 chapters are similarly exhaustive (and exhausting); there's so much copy here – not to mention about 1,500 photos, many never before seen – that even the famously taciturn Mullen seems loquacious. Hefty as it is, *U2 by U2* is without question the pièce de résistance of any true believer's library.

– Christopher Gray

DIRTY BLONDE: THE DIARIES OF COURTNEY LOVE

by Courtney Love

Faber & Faber,

285 pp., \$35

Courtney Love has become famous for the circus that surrounds her – the assaults, overdoses, plastic surgeries, and famous dead spouses. *Dirty Blonde*, said to be pieces of her life up until 2001 (and, naturally, a teaser for her upcoming album), is proof. From pages chronicling her early years as a juvenile delinquent and stripper, there is the human element: She's a lonely, insecure girl, thirsty for fame and validation. You've got to hand it to Love; she never stopped striving for the rock & roll dream. An entry titled "Things to Teach My Children" is prescient: "Never let anyone see you be self promoting." Her obsession with celebrity and her own career trajectory is an interesting study in worship: Photos of blond icon Jean Harlow ("a perfect example of how you create illusion") next to letters to John Peel and the "right guy at 4AD" demonstrate her "mojo." Kurt Cobain shows up mostly in photos, scrawled postcards, and lists ("Hate: Nirvana-mania, drugs, being pregnant ... Love: drugs, Yoko Ono"), but there's no real insight into their relationship. A more recent e-mail exchange with Lindsay Lohan about the media and "sicko-fans" is telling; at this low point in celebrity worship, are her diaries anything other than self-promoting? – Audra Schroeder



Ganz's oral history, the four Pixies themselves offer almost no hint of the twisted minds that spawned college-radio classics like "Gouge Away," "Wave of Mutilation," and "Bone Machine," and they seem almost apologetic for writing the perfect pop song in "Here Comes Your Man." They're almost too nice, shrugging off the hard feelings that arose between founder Charles Thompson (aka Black Francis) and bassist Kim Deal due to the latter's unexpected star quality, evident at their earliest gigs at Boston rat holes (including, appropriately enough, the Rat) and full-blown after Deal sang lead on *Surfer Rosa*'s "Gigantic." Luckily, Beantown scenesters like Smith, Deal's ex-husband John Murphy, and Throwing Muses Kristin Hersh and Tanya Donnelly fill in the blanks, and a chorus of musicians (Bono, James Iha, Shirley Manson, Ian MacKaye) gladly testify to the Pixies' profound impact on an unsuspecting, and still grateful, rock world. – Christopher Gray

THE SHOW I'LL NEVER FORGET: 50 WRITERS RELIVE THEIR MOST MEMORABLE CONCERTGOING EXPERIENCE

edited by Sean Manning

De Capo Press, 359 pp.,

\$16.95 (paper)

Incorporating luminaries such as Ishmael Reed, Thurston Moore, and Harvey Pekar, a collection of 50 writers recounting their most memorable concert-going experiences should provide a more compelling read. Despite reports from the Rolling Stones' first New York City show in '65, James Brown's broadcast set that spared Boston from riots the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder in '68, and Nirvana's return to Seattle at the end of their triumphant *Nevermind* tour in '91, many of the revisited accounts suffer from hazy recollections and lazy storylines. Fortunately, *The Show I'll Never Forget* does manage a few jewels that make the book worthwhile. The story of a teenage Thomas Beller being dragged into the bowels of Madison Square Garden to be beaten by police officers after an '81 Kinks concert certainly spares no degree of intrigue. Likewise, John Albert leaves shattered glass in his wake as he describes the lengths it took for



FOOL THE WORLD: THE ORAL HISTORY OF A BAND CALLED PIXIES

by Josh Frank and Caryn Ganz

St. Martin's Griffin,

316 pp., \$14.95 (paper)

Gary Smith, who recorded the Pixies' first official session at Massachusetts' Fort Apache Studios in 1987, describes the quartet's bizarre appeal this way: "They seemed like regular, normal people, and yet they were doing this thing that was from another planet." Indeed, in Austinite Josh Frank and *Spin* Associate Editor Caryn



GORILLAZ: RISE OF THE OGRE

by Cass Browne and Gorillaz
Riverhead, 298 pp., \$35

Bigger than Jesus (when laid end-to-end), more popular than the Beatles (among members of the key 12- to 15-year-old Malaysian male demographic), and infinitely cooler than Tank Blur, Grammy-winning virtual superstars Gorillaz bare all beneath the microscope's monkey trials and two-dimensional popstars in this overstuffed, super-saturated, behind-the-bullshit tell-all. Feast your eyes and gloat your soul on their accursed awesomeness: Stoke-on-Trent, U.K.-born satanist-cum-base-ist Murdoc Niccals' unlikely role as band Reichsführer; the creation of Kong Studios and the subsequent arrival of hordes of insatiable zombie flesh eaters; and the band's shocking, bizarre ties to once-upon-a-time teenpopper Damon Albarn and gin-soaked doodle monkey Jamie Hewlett. Like Gorillaz music, *Rise of the Ogre* benefits from repeat visits. It's riddled with obscurantist arcana (Niccals' grimoire is the *Pseudomonarchia Daemonum*!) and drolly psychotic commentary from guitar-slinging Tokyo tweener Noodle; skeletal, sclerotic frontman 2D; and Yank skinsman Russel, as well as oodles of bent dope from the likes of Shaun Ryder, Ike Turner, Dennis Hopper, and random knobhead Brian Burton. So Gorillaz newest media *cri de guerre* appears to be "Today your coffee table, tomorrow the ottoman." Let 'em have it: Conquering footstools is a fool's errand, but a Noodle on your cocktail table is a religious experience. Screw the Bible, baby; this is evolution.

— Marc Savlov



him to be blown away by Black Flag at the Los Angeles Hong Kong Cafe in '79. While Linda Yablonsky relates to her recently deceased father through the descriptions of a '70 Nina Simone performance, Diana Ossana laments the disastrous effect the Vietnam War had on her husband as she identifies a '73 Led Zeppelin concert as nothing less than cathartic therapy.

— Robert Gabriel

I WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED: MY LIFE WITH JOHNNY CASH

by Marshall Grant with Chris Zar
Cumberland House, 358 pp., \$24.95

Marshall Grant played bass in Johnny Cash's Tennessee Two for nearly 30 years, during which time he bore witness to the rise of one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th century and to his long, drug-induced decline and fall. In addition to being a lovingly drawn first-hand account of life on the road, Grant's *I Was There When It Happened* (a title taken from the gospel song Cash and his band first played for Sun Studios founder Sam Phillips) is a cautionary tale for anyone thinking about cultivating an addiction to amphetamines: Taken together, the stories in this book are enough to make even the most decadent man swear off good times forever. What Grant lacks in writing ability he makes up for in enthusiasm and an archivist's attention to detail. Whether recounting the serendipitous creation of the famous Johnny Cash "boom-chicka-boom sound," the first fateful meeting of Johnny and June Carter, or fascinating incidents in the lives of music legends (like Elvis Presley building a career on the severely injured back of Carl Perkins), Grant approaches his book like a born raconteur telling tales over a bottle of whiskey.

— Josh Rosenblatt



black glasses pioneer and Waylon Jennings a cameo on *Sesame Street's Follow That Bird*. In slightly more academic terms, University of Texas professor Christopher Oglesby addresses similar misconceptions in *Fire in the Water, Earth in the Air*. Oglesby, another Lubbock expat, seeks illumination in interviews with fellow Lubbockites Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Mac "Happiness is Lubbock, Texas, in My Rearview Mirror" Davis but never reaches much of a conclusion beyond "there's nothing else to do." What's left to say after lead-in interview Terry Allen sums it up note perfect: "People in Lubbock decide who they are ... and 'Fuck you if you don't like it'?" In Oglesby's oral history, two themes appear throughout: First, isolation and lack of local support cause West Texas musicians to create their own standards, and second, most Lubbock luminaries move to Austin. Holly, ridiculed in life and celebrated in his hometown mostly as a tourist attraction, should've lived so long.

— Jeremy Martin



DARKER THAN THE DEEPEST SEA: THE SEARCH FOR NICK DRAKE

by Trevor Dann
Da Capo Press, 288 pp., \$16.95 (paper)

Most Americans of a certain generation were introduced to Nick Drake in 2000 via a Volkswagen commercial featuring the song "Pink Moon," but it's probably safe to say that few of them then extended their interest enough to buy a copy of the album of the same name. Trevor Dann, once head of the BBC's Music Entertainment, has gone to painstaking lengths to present the story of this tragic young Brit, who died in 1974 at the age of 26 due to an accidental overdose of prescription drugs. Dann posits Drake as the Byron of the free love age: privileged, aloof, brilliant, and



continued on p.74

FIRE IN THE WATER, EARTH IN THE AIR: LEGENDS OF WEST TEXAS MUSIC

by Christopher J. Oglesby
University of Texas Press, 287 pp., \$22.95 (paper)

Lubbock's Buddy Holly Walk of Fame is strictly for tourists. I lived there 23 years and never visited. For years, I thought Holly was a thick,

spectacularly self-destructive. To his credit, the author refuses to romanticize the ambitious but clinically depressed singer-songwriter while simultaneously illustrating the various callous and sloppy ways in which Drake’s career was so grotesquely mismanaged. Mixing personal anecdotes, interviews with Drake’s former cohorts, and detailed descriptions of Drake’s surroundings during various phases of his life, Dann paints as complete a portrait as possible of the man whose life and death pose the eternal question mark. Something broke Drake somewhere along the way, and while Dann has a few ideas, *Darker* does little to clear the fog. — *Melanie Haupt*

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC: THE SCIENCE OF A HUMAN OBSESSION

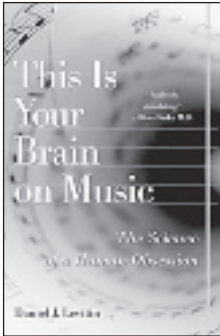
by **Daniel J. Levitin**
Dutton, 314 pp., \$24.95

As a musician-turned-neuroscientist, McGill University professor Daniel Levitin is in a unique position to tackle questions about what constitutes music, what role music plays in various aspects of the human condition, and why it cannot be dismissed as just a happy evolutionary accident. While most of us will have to digest the research findings described in *This Is Your Brain on Music* very slowly, Levitin transcends peer-reviewed turgidity with concise summations and a ready wit (i.e., explaining that having no cerebellum does not constitute a lobotomy, as the Ramones would have you believe). Levitin begins by reviewing the elements of music – pitch, rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony, and timbre – then explains how different areas of the brain process these elements. Development of musical anticipation and the engagement produced by confounding expectations is illustrated with examples running the gamut from Haydn to Creedence. Levitin explains how we tend to seek more complex musical surprises as the brain develops, yet too much complexity tends to drive listeners away. When the author contemplates the evidence of music’s role in human evolution, it’s hard to fathom a more profound way of appreciating music. — *Greg Beets*

THE PRODUCER: JOHN HAMMOND AND THE SOUL OF AMERICAN MUSIC

by **Dunstan Prial**
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 347 pp., \$27

In the final lines of Dunstan Prial’s zippy, ultimately astute biography of the 20th century’s most prescient music talent scout, the author ascribes the crusading Vanderbilt scion a singular place in American civil rights history. By championing Austin-born pianist Teddy Wilson to his future brother-in-law Benny Goodman, John Hammond directly, and, more importantly, with *intent*, helped break the race barrier on stage more than a full decade before Jackie Robinson’s Brooklyn Dodgers proved equally color-blind in 1947. So much for jazz doubling as America’s pastime. It was Hammond’s certainly, a lifeline out of the



AMERICA’S SONGS: THE STORIES BEHIND THE SONGS OF BROADWAY, HOLLYWOOD, AND TIN PAN ALLEY

by **Philip Furia and Michael Lasser**
Routledge, 328 pp., \$29.95

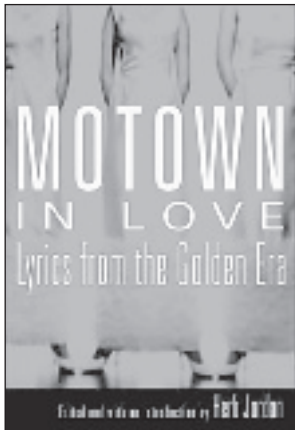
As integral to the identity of 20th-century America as Prohibition, the Cold War, or the New York Yankees, the songs of Tin Pan Alley are the closest things we have to a national poetic language. Let the English have their Wordsworths, their Shelleys, their Gilberts & Sullivans. Irving Berlin, Rodgers & Hart, Cole Porter, and the Gershwin brothers are our guys: sons of the American immigrant experience who created a new musical vernacular by combining the formality of high European romance with the wit, urbanity, and unmitigated moxie of the modern American city. The results are a collection of songs that have since become immortal (“Night and Day,” “Blue Moon,” “My Funny Valentine,” and a thousand others), interpreted by countless singers and jazz musicians in countless bars, nightclubs, and concert halls around the world – wherever a heart is breaking. *America’s Songs* doesn’t claim to be an exhaustive historical text or a work of high intellectualism. Rather, it’s an anecdotal trip through the creation of some of the greatest compositions of our recently deceased century, a trip filled with classic collaborations, booze-filled inspiration, and moments of almost divine serendipity. — *Josh Rosenblatt*



MOTOWN IN LOVE: LYRICS FROM THE GOLDEN ERA

edited by **Herb Jordan**
Pantheon, 196 pp., \$23

At the dawn of the rock-book era, 1970, stood Richard Goldstein’s *The Poetry of Rock*. Light on text but varied in its songs, the book’s brilliance was simple: Rock lyrics are an awkward extension of traditional poetry. That year also marked the waning days of Motown’s magic touch on radio as the singles-dominated airwaves of the Sixties gave way to album-oriented formats. Yet one of Motown’s enduring legacies was the timeless classic written by its tower of powerful talent, including Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and heavy-hit teams such as Valerie Ashford and Nick Simpson, Barrett Strong and Norman Whitfield, and the unstoppable Eddie Holland, Lamont Dozier, and Brian Holland. Collected by scholar-composer Herb Jordan, *Motown in Love* illustrates how the indie label’s many muses shaped pop music well before *The Poetry of Rock* posited “Duke of Earl” with “Motorcycle Irene.” Songs such as “My Girl,” “Heard It Through the Grapevine,” and “Stop! In the Name of Love” weren’t only sophisticated poetry without a whit of awkwardness; they also taught rhyme, assonance, metaphor, simile, and meter with a lotta heart and a lotta soul. Forget the finger-popping beats and stellar musicianship: A Motown lyric is as emotional a declaration of love then as now. — *Margaret Moser*



family’s Fifth Avenue mansion in Manhattan, where the rhythm and blues of the kitchen tracked straight uptown to Harlem. “Absolutely overwhelmed” stamps his initial discovery of Billie Holiday. Hearing Count Basie on his tricked-out car stereo, he raced to Kansas City sight unseen. Charlie Christian, the patriarch of modern electric guitar, another virtual unknown the Columbia Records man brought to Goodman. Prial’s “Second Act,” three quarters in, races through Hammond’s “discovering” Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Leonard Cohen, and finally bookend device Stevie Ray Vaughan at the expense of *The Producer*, who was anything but a studio craftsman yet so much more than a music industrialist. — *Raoul Hernandez*

SOMETHING IN THE AIR: RADIO, ROCK, AND THE REVOLUTION THAT SHAPED A GENERATION

by **Marc Fisher**
Random House, 400 pp., \$27.95

Though it reads for stretches like a particularly well-cited eulogy, *Washington Post* columnist Marc Fisher refuses to pronounce his true love dead in *Something in the Air*, choosing instead to offer other, often pat, pronouncements. “Radio isn’t what it used to be, but it never really was,” he writes late while discuss-

ing Clear Channel, satellite, and podcasting. “Despite its troubles, radio is as much about the future as it is about the past.” Perhaps, but it’s tough to tell from this solid anecdotal history sagging with nostalgia. Fisher profiles postwar radio men with microphones – Todd Storz, Hunter Hancock, Cousin Brucie, Alan Freed, Jean Shepherd, Tom Donahue, Bob Fass, Lee Abrams, Paul Sidney, and even Austin’s Dr. Hepcat for a few pages – and ties their trajectories to those of Top 40 radio, civil rights and the Sixties, the Federal Communications Commission, and beyond. In doing so, he attempts to convince that American pop culture as we know it is the product of slick, creative marketing and innovative media strategy, out-cast voices in the night, and desk-to-dance-floor community-building. By no means has he failed – this is a fun book full of great moments – but he hasn’t found a strong signal, either. — *Shawn Badgley*



PIANO: THE MAKING OF A STEINWAY CONCERT GRAND

by **James Barron**
Times, 280 pp., \$24

James Barron’s *Piano: The Making of a Steinway Concert Grand* joins Simon Winchester’s *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* and Richard Rhodes’ *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* in the ranks of exceptional “making-of books” written for an audience beyond the academic experts who might ordinarily be expected to take an interest in their topics. For the right person, these books are page-turners, not how-to books. With *Piano*, one comes away with a depth of knowledge, appreciation, and perhaps affection for one of music engineering’s greatest achievements, not to mention the stubbornness and glory of a company that continues to craft in the grand old tradition. While its competitors have moved into the age of mechanization and beyond, Steinway still builds an amazing amount of its pianos virtually by hand. The biography follows its main character, the Steinway concert grand named K0862, from the lumberyard to the concert stage with stops along the way to explore the history of Steinway and Sons. Painstakingly researched and engagingly written, the book is a quick and satisfying read. Now find an upcoming UT faculty piano recital at Bates Recital Hall and go listen to the crown jewel of Austin pianos, the Bates’ Steinway D. — *Graham Reynolds*



THE DAWN OF INDIAN MUSIC IN THE WEST

by **Peter Lavezzoli**
Continuum, 456 pp., \$39.95

Deep into his well-informed but only sporadically entertaining tome on the influence of Indian music on Western musicians, Peter Lavezzoli quotes Indian-born poet and colonial apologist Rudyard Kipling. “Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,” wrote Kipling in “The Ballad of East and West.” Lavezzoli hopes to have the final say on lingering schisms between East and West – musically, at least – trotting out high-profile musicians from around the globe to illustrate just how critical Indian influence was for a generation of English and American artists, whether taken as whirling Sufism, Hindu ragas, or Indo-Persian instrumentation. Interviewed are figures from the rock pantheon, including Dead percussionist Mickey Hart and George Harrison. The author also offers discussions with the likes of Ali Akbar Khan, a legendary player of the lutelike sarod, while Ravi Shankar penned the introduction and is later profiled along with his daughter Anoushka. Passages on John Coltrane and other jazz greats who adopted Indian concepts and styles emerge as most compelling, but given the grab-bag oral history, personal chronology, and music theory that informs this book, it’s too bad the pages on Indo-jazz fusion aren’t expanded. Another omission is any up-to-date consideration of electronic music or Bollywood. — *Dan Oko*



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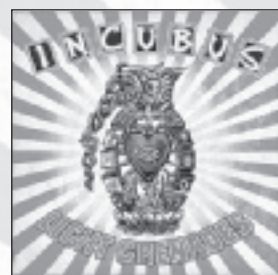
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LEAD STORY

Celebrity Trademark News: The gruff, former Chicago Bears player and coach Mike Ditka recently teamed with a California winery to sell a signature line of wines, including a premium taste retailing for \$50 a bottle. And actor Andy Griffith filed a lawsuit in November demanding that the former William Fenrick change his legal name back from Andy Griffith, which he admitted he acquired only to help himself get elected sheriff of Grant County, Wis. (he lost). And a man in China's Fujian province applied to the government in November to sell female sanitary pads under the trademark Yao Ming (China's superstar pro basketball player), catching Yao's agents dumbfounded at the man's audacity.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Among the indigenous rituals that survive today in Madagascar is the quinquennial (or so) "turning of the bones," when families dig up their ancestors' remains, polish them, show them around the village (so the departed can see how things have changed), and redress and reinter them. Not to partake is to show disrespect, bring bad luck, and risk one's own unsatisfactory afterlife, according to an October *Wall Street Journal* dispatch from Antananarivo.
- Asia's Game: According to an October report in the Asian *Wall Street Journal*, golf camps in China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore teach kids as young as 2, in many cases merely because parents are awed by the financially successful pro golfer Michelle Wie, who started at age 4. Some adult golfers in Thailand understand the obsession, such as those who play the Kantarat course in Bangkok, whose fairways are between active runways of Don Muang Airport, with the "smell of kerosene on the first tee" and the occasional need to dodge planes to play a tough lie. And China's Xiamen University recently began requiring that students majoring in management, law, and software engineering take a course in golf to round out a "socially elite" education.

ELECTION ROUNDUP (CONTINUED)

Smashmouth Politics: Barbara Cubin barely won re-election to the U.S. House from Wyoming after she angrily threatened to slap her wheelchair-confined opponent over a comment about campaign finance reform after an October debate. And former Texas state House member Rick Green took a swing at the man who beat him in 2002 when both arrived at the polls to vote at the same time.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Dead candidates continued to enjoy electoral success, with at least four winning hard-fought races in November. Katherine Dunton tied in an Alaska school-board race but, though dead, won the coin toss and was elected. Glenda Dawson won her Texas state House seat, thanks in part to a colorful campaign mailer that went out a month after her death, touting her achievements (but making no campaign promises). And Sam Duncan won a seat on a North Carolina county soil and conservation board, which was such a low-key race that even some of his backers were surprised to learn after the election that he had died in September.

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

- Bad Water/Good Water: Some churches in Canada have begun actively condemning commercial bottled water (except where no other sanitary water is available), either as environmentally destructive or as the commercialization of God's gift of life (according to a September report in Toronto's *Globe and Mail*). At the same time, in Mumbai, India, as many as 1 million Hindus once again this year ritually dunked handmade idols of the elephant-headed Ganesh, thus worsening the hopelessly polluted waters around the city.
- New York City Episcopal priest Timothy Holder ("Poppa T"), whose HipHopEMass and "Hip Hop Prayer Book" have turned South Bronx youth into parishioners over the last

two years, issued a music CD in November featuring Bible stories in street language. For example, the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is all that / I need for nuthin' / he 'lows me to chill."

QUESTIONABLE JUDGMENTS

Frank Williams, 48, filed a lawsuit in Pittsburgh in August, accusing the state Department of Corrections of improperly punishing him four years ago when he was immediately ordered back to prison for missing a parole appointment. Williams said he was not able to contest the decision then because he was hospitalized, unconscious, having been shot on his way to the appointment, and in the intervening years, his medical condition has worsened because of inadequate medical care in prison.

PEOPLE WITH MUCH WORSE SEX LIVES THAN YOU:

- 1) Michael McPhail, 26, was arrested in Spanaway, Wash., in October after his wife said she caught him having sex with the couple's pit bull terrier. (Washington's new anti-bestiality law took effect in June, passed after the highly publicized 2005 death of a man in Enumclaw who allowed himself to be penetrated by a horse.)
- 2) Bryan Hathaway, 20, was arrested in Superior, Wis., in October and charged with molesting a deer carcass that he said had sexually aroused him when he saw it in a ditch. (Hathaway's lawyer has raised the defense that the anti-bestiality law only applies to sex with live animals.)

BUT FOR ALCOHOL, THERE'D BE LITTLE NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Twice in October, motorists were arrested for DUI after driving up to the security guard house at the nuclear power plant in Braidwood, Ill., by mistake. According to police, Lloyd Kuykendall, 38, drove up and handed the guard \$1, thinking it was a highway toll booth, and 10 days later, Stanislaw Drobrzawski, 51, tried to align his car with the guard house, thinking it was a gas station pump. And in Des Moines, Iowa, in October, customer Michelle Marie Engler, 45, was arrested for public intoxication at the Big Tomato Pizza restaurant after boisterously demanding to know why her food was taking so long. (An employee explained that she hadn't ordered yet.)

UPDATES

Since 1999, "News of the Weird" has reported stories of perhaps the same man who, posing as a cop, made periodic phone calls to managers of fast-food restaurants in several states demanding that a young female employee be interrogated about a crime while he listened in and steered the questioning to sex. Last year, police finally made an arrest after identifying the purchaser of a calling card used to phone a Kentucky McDonald's as David R. Stewart, 39, of Fountain, Fla. (The caller had demanded that the employee undress and jump up and down so that the manager could sniff her sweat for traces of drugs.) However, a jury in Shepherdsville, Ky., acquitted Stewart in October. The employee still has a lawsuit pending, and authorities in other states want to talk to Stewart.

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



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calendar

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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

Thursday 30

CELEBRI-TREES SILENT AUCTION Tonight's ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the beginning of this 20-day show featuring trees decorated by local celebrities and organizations. You can vote for your favorite tree, or, if you make a winning bid on it, you'll take it home Dec. 20; all proceeds benefit the **University of Texas Elementary School**. 6-8pm. University Co-op, 2246 Guadalupe, 322-7071. Free. hswain@universitycoop.com.

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN PREVIEW PARTY Get a sneak peek at some of the artists who'll be entertaining you this New Year's Eve. 5-7pm. Volitant Gallery, 320 Congress #100, 476-5577. Free. www.firstnightaustin.org.

GET MADE HAPPY HOUR complements your shopping with free makeovers, massages, and appetizers, plus music from **DJ Holland**. 7-9pm. Flirt, 2405 Nueces Ste. H, 472-4440.

HOLIDAY MARKET features food from Rudy's, Santa Rita, Oaxacan Tamaleo, and more, plus a silent auction, holiday music, and gift-shopping, all to **benefit charity care at Seton**. 5-9pm. Seton Medical Center Austin, North Lobby, 1201 W. 38th, 324-1590. \$20. vkappler@seton.org.

HOW TO PLANT/TRANSPLANT/PRUNE TREES & SHRUBS 7-8:30pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 854-9600. Free. www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html.

RED SALMON ARTS BENEFIT NIGHT Shop the fair-trade goods at Ten Thousand Villages, and a portion of tonight's proceeds will benefit **Red Salmon Arts**, which works to foster artistic expression – especially among at-risk youth – through programs like **Save Our Youth** and **Eastside/Southside Poetic Action**. 5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 416-8885. Free. www.resistenciabooks.com/aWebPages/%20eRedSalmon/redsalmon_.html.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)

Xmas Unwrapped: A Holiday Burlesque Hyde Park Theatre

LITERA (See Arts Listings)
Les McGehee BookPeople

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Next: A Primer on Urban Painting @ Alamo Downtown, 9:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Sound Team; IV Thieves; Lemurs; Tacks, the Boy Disaster, Emo's
Chili Cold Blood CD Release Beerland
Dave Brubeck Paramount Theatre

Friday 01

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS Join Father Christmas for a hayride into the historic town of Sprinkle Corner, which is lit with festive oil lamps and candles and full of caroling, warm-holiday-drink drinking, tree-decorating, and general 1800s merriment. Entertainment includes live music and theatre performances; see schedule online. 6-10pm. Pioneer Farms, 1400 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$15 per person or \$50 max per family (discounts available on advance tickets). www.pioneerfarms.org/events/cct.html.

FRIENDS OF THE BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE includes hardbacks, paperbacks, CDs, DVDs, and videos, plus a silent auction of rare books. 10am-6pm. Bastrop Public Library, 1100 Church St., Bastrop, 512/308-0063.

FUN FUN FUN FEST We presume there's one fun for each stage – punk, indie, and dance party – but there's probably a lot more fun to be had with 26 bands on hand as well as the one and only **Chrontourage**, the *Chronicle's* very own merry band of scenester types who like giving away free stuff. (See Club Listings) 1-10pm. Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th. \$20-25. www.funfunfunfest.com.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT BENEFIT Lotsa good music to benefit IBP, which provides books for Texas prisoners. (See Club Listings) 10pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$5.

NOCHE DE FIESTA NAVIDEÑA This traditional Mexican Christmas celebration doubles as the opening of Mexic-Arte's Contemporary Latino Art Exhibit and Sale. 7pm. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.



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the young ones

BIG BUGS has proven too popular for its original Nov. 4 closing date. Now you have till Dec. 2 to experience this giant-bug-sculpture exhibit in all its glory. Tue.-Sat., 9am-5:30pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. \$7 (\$3, ages 5-12). www.wildflower.org.

WINTER ART CAMP AT THE ART PAD Weekly morning and afternoon sessions feature different activities led by professional artists, from knitting and wire sculpture to claymation and painting on unusual surfaces. For ages 6-16. Dates: Dec. 26-29, Jan. 2-5. Art Pad Studio, 1403 W. 47th, 323-0802.

HOLIDAY HEROES This interactive musical invites kids ages 3-7 to learn the traditional songs and stories of various cultures. Through Dec. 20. Weekdays, 9:30 & 11am. Zachary Scott Theatre Playspace, 1510 Toomey Rd., 476-0594 x236. \$5 (free, adults). www.zachscott.com.

MARIPOSAS SPANISH offers a weekly class beginning in January for ages 4-6. Mariposas teaches Spanish through traditional songs, games, literature, and sign language.

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ZACH HOLIDAY THEATRE VARIETY CAMPS Sign up now for four days of acting, singing, and movement, culminating in live performances. For ages 5-18. 9am-5pm. Tue.-Fri., Dec. 26-29 or Jan. 2-5. Zachary Scott Theatre Performing Arts School, 1510 Toomey Rd., 476-0594 x236. www.zachscott.com.

PROJECT GRINCH BASEBALL TOURNAMENT (See Sports) Fri.-Sat., Dec. 1-3. Northeast Metropolitan Park, 2703 E. Pecan, Plugerville, 512/935-1292. Free (donations of new, unwrapped toys appreciated; monetary donations accepted as well).

TREASURE BOX WORKSHOP teaches ages 5-12 how to build a treasure box. Sat., Dec. 2, 9am-noon. All Home Depot locations. www.homedepot.com.

PRINCIPAL STORYTIME WITH LISA STREUN of Cedar Creek Elementary. We know who you are. This event is part of an in-store book-fair fundraiser for the school.

Sat., Dec. 2, 10am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

HOT ART, HIP KIDS This new program for ages 6-12 brings you games, hands-on art activities, and performers so that you and your kids can learn about works of art together. Sat., Dec. 2, 11am-4:30pm. Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-9205. www.blantonmuseum.org.

THE ANGELS AND THE TRUMPET CONCERT features a variety of carols – including the Israeli song “Dodi Li” and a collection of 14th-century English carols – accompanied by piano, organ, trumpet, and harp. Sat., Dec. 2, 7pm. St. Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd., 454-0384.

THE PLIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS The Not Quite Rite Players present *A Christmas Carol* with a Texas twist, set in Ye Olde Curiosity Saloon in El Paso. Popcorn-throwing encouraged (at the villain, of course). Recommended for ages 12 and up. 8pm. Dec. 2, 8-9. Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$15. www.scottishritetheatre.org.

CYNTHIA AND GREG LEITCH SMITH join forces to come up with the best Christmas story ever: *Santa Knows!* They will both be there to sign! Sun., Dec. 3, 1-3pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Every child gets to sit on Santa's lap and receive a new, wrapped gift at this annual YMCA event. There will also be games, snacks, arts & crafts, a moonwalk, music, and face-painting for all. Sun., Dec. 3, 1-5pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 322-9622 x22. Free. katy.powell@austinyymca.org. www.austinyymca.org.

EYES OF BABES A performance from the Austin Children's Choir, the Youth Handbell Ensemble of Westlake Methodist Church, and Austin Haller & His Jazz Trio. Sun., Dec. 3, 6pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 Capital of TX Hwy. N. www.austinchildrenschoir.com.

PLATICA: INFANT MASSAGE & BONDING This informal bilingual talk will introduce you to traditional healing methods and teach you how to use them to help babies

relax and to relieve them of colic and constipation. Bring a baby or a doll to practice on. Mon., Dec. 4, 4-6pm. Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 228-1069. Free. www.quesuavemos.com.

THE MOUSE BRIDE The Austin Public Library's **ECHO'S PALS** puppets introduce you to the Mouse Bride, who will learn some surprising things in her attempt to find the strongest husband in the world. For ages 3 and up. **Springs Branch Library**, 3101 Oak Springs: Tue., Dec. 5, 10:15am. **Hampton Branch at Oak Hill**, 5125 Convict Hill Rd.: Wed., Dec. 6, 11am. **Ruiz Branch**, 1600 Grove Blvd.: Thu., Dec. 7, 10:15am. **University Hills Branch**, 4721 Loyola: Fri., Dec. 8, 10:15am. **Faulk Central**, 800 Guadalupe: Sat., Dec. 9, 2pm. **Pleasant Hill Branch**, 211 E. William Cannon: Tue., Dec. 12, 11am. **Old Quarry Branch**, 7051 Village Center Dr.: Wed., Dec. 13, 10:30am. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

FREE CHILD SAFETY-SEAT INSPECTIONS Call to schedule your inspection. First Wednesdays, 10am-12:30pm. Del Valle Adult Softball Complex, 3400 FM 973, Del Valle, 512/854-4194.

SPONTANEOUS MEDITATION this event includes an evening presentation on Friday and a full-day retreat on Saturday. Hosted by Lama Surya Das, author of *Natural Radiance: Awakening to Your Great Perfection*, the event will focus on deepening your awareness and your ability to be fully present in your everyday activities. *St. Edward's University*, 3100 S. Congress. Presentation: 7pm, Fri., Dec. 1, Ragsdale Center, Jones Auditorium, \$15. Retreat: 10am-5pm, Sat., Dec. 2, Main Hall, Maloney Room. 413-4907. austin.dzogchen.org. www.dzogchen.org/retreats.

★ **WORLD AIDS DAY PRAYER BREAKFAST** With 40,000 new HIV infections occurring each year just in the U.S., it's worth remembering that there's still a lot of work to be done, which is why this year's World AIDS Day theme is **Action Makes a Difference – The Promise of Partnerships to Educate, Motivate, and Mobilize Against HIV/AIDS**. This morning's remembrance, prayer, and candle-lighting breakfast features a talk from Eduardo Sanchez of UT's School of Public Health, and prayers from Care Communities' Roger Temme, Banah Full Community Church's Rachael Caron, and Congregation Augudas Achim's Cantor Neil Blumofe. 7:30am. Kleberg Hall, St. George's Episcopal Church, 4301 N. I-35 www.thewrighthouse.org.

★ **WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE** 7pm. St. Edward's University Chapel, 3001 S. Congress, 459-5883. www.interfaithcarealliance.org.

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
It's a Blue Show Velveta Room

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Artspoken Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Before the Music Dies @ Alamo Downtown, 4pm
A Very Brady Christmas @ Alamo Downtown, 7, 9:45
Repo Man @ Alamo Downtown, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Ziggy Marley La Zona Rosa
K-Tel Hit Machine and Tosca Strings' ELO Experience Antone's
Octopus Project Blanton Museum of Art
Fun Fun Fun Fest Waterloo Park
Benefit for Inside Books Elysium

Saturday 02

3110 GUADALUPE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL Stop by to visit the artisans, vendors, and massage therapists gathered by Celebration!, Boomerangs, Turtle Dragon Health, Gelato's, and the other businesses of 3110 Guadalupe. 10am-7pm. 3110 Guadalupe, 363-7642. Free.

A CELEBRATION OF SUPPORT FOR NABA'S SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS LUNCHEON Today's the RSVP deadline for attending this celebration (Thu., Dec. 7, 6-8:30pm) with the Austin chapter of the **National Association of Black Accountants** and the **Capital City African-American Chamber of Commerce**, featuring holiday carols sung by East Side Church of Christ's **One Voice**. George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 632-9384. Bring a new, unwrapped children's gift for donation to Soul Santa. www.naba-austincentex.org.

ASIAN HOLIDAY BAZAAR has Asian artwork and gifts, plus snacks and a Holiday Tea Time. 10am-3pm. Asian American Cultural Center, 11713 Jollyville Rd., 336-5069. Free. www.asianamericancce.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. 15 issue is Monday, Dec. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or art-work. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

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

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

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

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

BUS RIDERS UNION-ATX meets today to discuss fair distribution of transit resources and fighting proposed fare increases. 2pm. *Cepeda Public Library*, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 220-8227. www.busridersunionatx.org.

★ **CAPITOL TREE-LIGHTING/HOLIDAY SING-ALONG** Join KUT's John Aielli tonight for this annual evening of ceremony and song, and stick around for the **Congress Avenue Holiday Stroll** – all the businesses along the avenue will be open late and serving holiday treats. Ceremony: 6-7pm; stroll: 5-9pm. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress, 469-1766. *Nonperishable food items will be accepted under the tree for donation to Capital Area Food Bank.* www.downtownaustin.com.

CHRISTMAS MARKET DAYS brings you a hundred or so vendors with all kinds of handmade crafts and Texasy cuisine-packages for the out-of-towners on your shopping list, plus live music, a performance from the **Cadence Cloggers**, and the chance to have your picture taken with **Cowboy Kringle**. 10am-4pm. 1641 Hunter Rd., Gruene, 830/832-1721. www.gruenemarketdays.com.

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS 2-3pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 750-0586. \$25.

★ **FREE MEDICAL HEALTH SCREENINGS** offer testing for **eyesight, hearing, glaucoma, blood pressure, and blood-sugar levels**. References for free follow-up medical care will be provided for those without health insurance. 9am-4pm. *HEB*, 2701 E. Seventh, 328-0555. niki.robertson@sbcglobal.net or pattdreamcenter@hotmail.com.

★ **FUNERAL PROCESSION TO MOURN THE DEATHS IN IRAQ** Wear black for this silent, single-file procession in mourning and protest of the deaths of U.S. soldiers and Iraqis. Don't bring signs (they'll be provided). Organized by **CodePink, Austin Against War, Veterans for Peace, and Women in Black**. 1pm. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 448-3090.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET features hand-crafted wooden nutcrackers (from the Erzgebirge region of Germany), embroidered linens, hand-painted tole-work signs and bowls, and other German crafts. 10am-4pm. German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. Free. www.germantexans.org.

HEAVENLY HOLIDAY Enjoy shopping, live music, DJs, a visit from Santa and his elves, and lots of in-store parties in the **2nd Street District**, where it looks like Christmas all year-round but especially right now. Ten percent of anything you spend today will benefit **LifeWorks**, which provides family and youth counseling and assistance for those transitioning out of crisis situations. 7-10pm. 2nd Street District, 201 Lavaca, 479-7600. www.2ndstreetdistrict.com.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR Get your quilts, ornaments, holiday cards, jewelry, decorations, toys, and other gift items here today, while helping raise money for **Connally High**. School groups will perform; break-fast and lunch food will be available. 9am-3pm. Connally High School, 13212 N. Lamar. Free.

HOLIDAY FAIRE at the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market** features a visit from Santa and a silent auction to benefit the **Capital Area Food Bank**. 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE The Austin Quilt Guild has organized a special quilt display for all to see, accompanied by arts & crafts activities and mariachi music from **Los Tres Amigos y Pepe**. 2-4pm. Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940. Free.

HOLIDAY SWING FUNDRAISER A silent auction, raffle, and lots of dancing, accompanied by music from the **Studebakers** and 22-piece big-band **The Sentimental Journey Orchestra**. Proceeds go to **Project Transitions** programs benefiting people living with HIV/AIDS. 8pm-12mid (7pm, dance lessons). Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 454-8646. \$65 (\$55, advance). www.projecttransitions.org/holidayswing.

HOMESPUN HOLIDAYS at the **Austin Farmers' Market** celebrates the influx of winter crops with old-time soap-making demos, origami workshops and a petting pen for the kids, and lots of holiday shopping. Local chefs will also be on-hand sharing their expertise, and as always there'll be live music. (See Club Listings) 9am-1pm. Don't forget: The market has moved temporarily to a new location at Cesar Chavez & Lavaca www.austinfarmersmarket.org/newsletter.

ITALIAN COOKING CLASS features a menu of *antipasto misto di formaggi e salumi, rigatoni alla Norma, pollo saltimbocca, and panettone*, followed by espresso. 6:30-9pm. Private residence www.atateofitalyinaustin.com.

Sports BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS All-stars (and TV stars) Sister Mary Jane and Miss Conduct lead the Holy Rollers into battle against the fierce Hellcats. Live music from Winchester Twin and Elvis on Speed. Sun., Dec. 3, 7pm (6pm, doors). Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. www.txrd.com.

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS DESERT RIVAL REVIVAL A rematch of the Dust Devil National Championship featuring our own Texas Rollergirls Texecutioners vs. the Tucson Saddletramps. Last time they met, the Texecutioners were crowned the No. 1 flat-track team in the nation. Also, Karaoke Apocalypse with the Dead Motley Sex Maidens with the Rollergals singing. Sat., Dec. 2, 7pm. Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann Blvd. (183 & Burnet). \$15 (\$12, advance). www.txrollergirls.com.

AUSTIN ICE BATS The Bats swept a two-game road stand versus New Mexico and look to pick up some more points this weekend even faced with an unusual home-road-home schedule. Vs. Laredo: Fri., Dec. 1, 7:30pm. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: Sun., Dec. 3, 4pm. Chapparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$15-35. www.icebats.com.

AUSTIN TOROS haven't quite fallen into their groove yet, starting the season 0-2, but look to rectify that with two at home this weekend against the Arsenal. Vs. Anaheim: Fri., Dec. 1, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 2, 7pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

AUSTIN WRANGLERS OPEN TRYOUTS Several athletes have been discovered by the Arena Football League at one of their open tryouts and have gone on to be successful in the AFL and, in the case of former beer-truck driver Michael Lewis, to get some playing time in the NFL. All Vince Papale wannabes need apply. Sun., Dec. 3, 8am. Round Rock ISD Stadium, 10211 W. Parmer. www.austinwranglers.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Southern University: Thu., Nov. 30, 7pm. Vs. UT-Pan American: Wed., Dec. 6, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center. **Men's and Women's Swimming** Texas Invitational: Thu.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 2, all day. Lee & Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. **Volleyball NCAA First and Second Rounds:** Alabama vs. Stephen F. Austin: Fri., Dec. 1, 4:30pm. UT vs. Prairie View A&M: Fri., Dec. 1, 6:30pm. TBD: Sat., Dec. 2, 6:30pm. Gregory Gymnasium, 2101 Speedway. www.texasports.com.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Millsaps: Fri., Dec. 1, 8pm. Vs. Rhodes College: Sat., Dec. 2, 8pm. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Millsaps: Fri., Dec. 1, 6pm. Vs. Rhodes College: Sat., Dec. 2, 6pm. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. UT-Tyler: Sat., Dec. 2, 3pm. **Women's Basketball** Vs. UT-Tyler: Sat., Dec. 2, 1pm. Vs. Menlo College: Mon., Dec. 4, 5:30pm. Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. athletics.concordia.edu.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Men's Basketball Vs. Houston Baptist University: Tue., Dec. 5, 7pm.

The **NCAA College Cups** – both men's and women's – are this weekend: semifinals on Friday, finals on Sunday, and every game is on ESPN2.

Friday is a **UCLA** doubleheader: the Lady Bruins take on host and top-ranked North Carolina at 2:30pm, and the guys face Virginia at 5pm. Sunday, Dec. 3 is the championship doubleheader: women at 11:30am, men at 2pm.

Dec. 5-6, it's the final games of the **Champions League** group stage. ESPN2's games of the week are **Barcelona-Bremen**, Tuesday 1:30pm (it's win-or-go-home for defending champ Barca), and **Manchester United-Benfica**, Wednesday, 1:30pm (a Man U loss would send them packing early yet again). Full schedule at austinchronicle.com/soccer. – Nick Barbaro

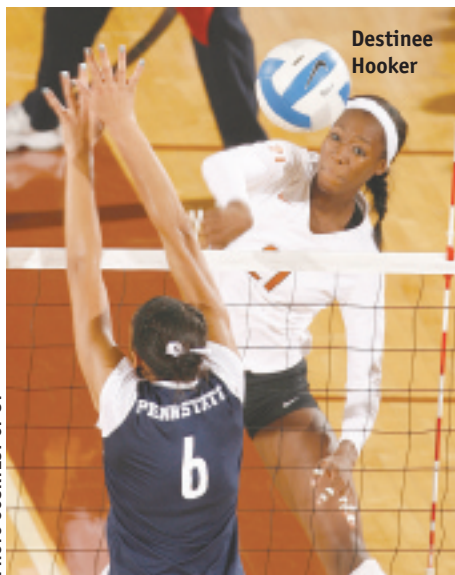


PHOTO COURTESY OF UT

UT HOSTS NCAA VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

I'm in agony. An unfortunate scheduling conflict is going to keep me from going to Gregory Gym this weekend to watch the No. 8 Texas Longhorns begin their playoff run in the NCAA volleyball tournament. But since my seat will be vacant, you should take it – if you've never been, you're missing out on one of the best-kept secrets in UT sports. See the full lineup in the listings at left. To buy tickets, go to TexasBoxOffice.com. If you can't make it to the game but can get to a computer, live (and free!) audio and video streaming will be available at TexasSports.com. – Lee Nichols

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Wed., Dec. 6, 7:30pm. **Women's Basketball** Vs. East Central (Okla.): Tue., Dec. 5, 6pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

RECREATION & FITNESS

CHRISTMAS TEE TOURNEY Hosted by the Armadillo Golf Club. Lunch, cart, green fees, etc. included with fee. Sun., Dec. 3, noon. Star Ranch, 2500 FM 685, Hutto. www.armadillogolf.com.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS MONTHLY MEET & GREET Wed., Dec. 6, 6pm. Y Bar and Grill, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.

FREE LADIES CLIMBING CLINIC Mondays, 7:30pm. Austin Rock Gym, both locations, 416-9299. Free. www.austinrockgym.com.

PROJECT GRINCH BASEBALL TOURNEY Teams from all over Texas roll into Pflugerville to compete in this tournament. Instead of paying a tournament fee, every player must donate an unwrapped toy. All the proceeds will be donated to **Brown Santa, Austin SafePlace**, and the **Texas Baptist Children's Home**. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 1-3. Northeast Metropolitan Park, 2703 E. Pecan, Pflugerville.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

LIFETIME FITNESS REINDEER RUN is a 5K fun run, with no race times recorded. Families are welcome! It's also one of the only events to feature a start by Santa with hundreds of costumed runners. Help the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots** program by bringing a new, unwrapped toy for a child in need. Sat., Dec. 2, 8am (9:15am, costume contest). Lifetime Fitness Austin, 903 Whitley Dr., 219-0909. www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1371912.

THE AUSTIN RUNNERS CLUB DECKER CHALLENGE 20K Neither wind nor rain nor snow will deter the runners of this hilly race. Sun., Dec. 3. Travis County Expo Center. www.austinrunners.org.

BROWN SANTA 5K RUN/WALK AND KIDS K Hosted by the Travis County Wellness Committee, this race benefits, what else, the Brown Santa program. A Wellness Fair and Expo will take place at 8am in the Exposition banquet hall. Volunteers needed. Sun., Dec. 3, 8:15am (5K), 10am (1K). Travis County Expo Center. www.tcsheff.org/brownsanta5k.

★ **PLANT TREES WITH TREEFOLKS** and help them reach their goal of 1 million new trees by 2026. See Web site for details. *9am-noon. Grove Boulevard, 443-5323. Free.* www.treefolks.org.

SPIRIT ECHOES FINE ART & FINE CRAFT HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW This invitational festival brings more than 60 talented artisans from around the country for two days of artist demonstrations and shopping. This year, choose among ceramics, paintings, hand-blown glass, photography, jewelry, and more. There will also be interactive arts activities for the kids. *10am-6pm. Crockett Events Center, 10601 N. Lamar, 345-0706. \$5 (\$2, kids under 7).* www.spiritechoes.com.

THE RUDE BOOK EXCHANGE Those local gods of theatre **Rude Mechanicals** are hosting a book exchange (bring a book, take a book), and any left-over volumes will be donated to the **Inside Books Project**. *10am-2pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833.*

WINTER FAIR Shopping, food, and live entertainment, plus crafts, children's plays, and three things we're very curious about: the Flying Fox Ride, Yule Fire, and Pocket Lady. Wha? *10am-4pm. Austin Waldorf School, 8702 South View, 288-5942. Free.* www.austiniwaldorf.org.

YOGA FOR BACK PAIN Call ahead to reserve your spot. *Yoga Solutions, 10008 Mount Rainier Dr., 963-8364. Donations accepted.* yogasolutions@gmail.com.

YULE FEST ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR Shopping, a silent auction, and a bake sale. *10am-4pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/219-9008. Free.* www.liveoakuu.org.

★ **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS** at Pioneer Farms, 6-10pm. *1400 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$15 per person, \$50 max per family (discounts on advance tik).* www.pioneerfarms.org/events/cct.html. (See Friday)

★ **FRIENDS OF THE BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE** *10am-4pm. Bastrop Library, 1100 Church St., Bastrop, 512/308-0063. (See Friday)*

SPONTANEOUS MEDITATION 413-4907. www.dzogchen.org/retreats. (See Friday)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
La Peña, Yard Dog Folk Art

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
A Very Brady Christmas @ Alamo Downtown, 7, 9:45pm
American Youthworks Student Film Festival @ Alamo Downtown, 3pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Plastilina Mosh, Mexican Institute of Sound *Stubb's*
Dirty Hearts *The Parlor*
The Politics, Housewife *The Mohawk*
Buttercup's Box Office Poison *Blue Theater*

Sunday 03

ADVENT ORGAN CONCERT presented by UT's Jerre Hancock. *3pm. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 476-2625.* www.fbcaustin.org.

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR boasts all the sights, sounds, and aromas of a real Arabic market and promises music, belly-dancing performances and classes, brunch, henna tattoos, face-painting, and the chance to shop for gifts imported from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. *11am-6pm. Zein's Dance Studio, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227.* www.wmdproductions.com.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR The Swedish Women's Education Association brings you traditional Swedish Christmas decorations, baked goods, and Scandinavian gifts plus kids activities, live music, and lots of holiday festivities, including a traditional Lucia procession. *1pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 826-2677.* www.chapters-swea.org/austin.

★ **CIRCLE OF LIGHT** A multicultural and multi-lingual holiday show for the whole family, featuring odes to Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Ramadan, and Christmas traditions from around the Americas. *7pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 448-3485. \$18 (\$12, kids/seniors).* www.creop.org.

GET YOUR PET'S PHOTO TAKEN WITH SANTA For one \$10 donation to the **Austin Humane Society**,

you'll receive two 4-inch-by-6-inch digital prints. *12:30-4pm. PetCo, 5601 Brodie Ln.* www.austinhumanesociety.org.

GIZMO GUYS Funny guys and juggling. *2 & 4:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470.* www.austintheatre.org.

INCONTRO ITALIANO 6:30-7:30pm. *La Dolce Vita, 4222 Duval St.* www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com.

O. HENRY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS RECEPTION Refreshments and live music at the former home of the famous twist-ending writer. *1-3pm. O. Henry Museum, 409 E. Fifth, 472-1903.* www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/ohenry.htm.

3110 GUADALUPE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL *10am-7pm. 3110 Guadalupe, 363-7642. Free. (See Saturday)*

CHRISTMAS MARKET DAYS *Noon-5pm. 1641 Hunter Rd., Gruene, 830/832-1721.* www.gruenemarketdays.com. (See Saturday)

SPIRIT ECHOES FINE ART & FINE CRAFT HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW *11am-5pm. Crockett Events Center, 10601 N. Lamar, 345-0706. \$5 (\$2, kids under 7).* www.spiritechoes.com. (See Saturday)

YULE FEST ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR *Noon-3pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido, Cedar Park, 512/219-9008. Free.* www.liveoakuu.org. (See Saturday)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Before the Music Dies @ Alamo Downtown, 4pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Parts & Labor, Ume, White Denim *Emo's Circle of Light With Tina Marsh & the Creative Opportunity Orchestra* *Mercury Hall*

Holiday Wish Lists

Every holiday season, *The Austin Chronicle* teams up with local nonprofits to present our annual Holiday Wish Lists, a guide to giving throughout the holiday season. All public service organizations are invited to participate. Simply e-mail the following information to us at features@austinchronicle.com:

Monday 04

ALL THAT GLITTERS: HOW MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TRANSFORMED A HOBBY INTO A MULTIMILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS Today is the deadline to RSVP for this Dec. 7 luncheon (*11:30am-1pm*). *Westwood Country Club, 3808 W. 35th. \$30 (\$25, members; \$16, students).* www.awicaustin.org.

AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING *7pm. Austin Int'l Youth Hostel, 2200 Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free.* www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE These night clinics offer child care and are right on the bus line. *6-7pm. Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell.*

HEALING HYPNOSIS GROUP SESSIONS meet at Zilker's rock garden picnic site: **Weight Loss Management** focuses on reaching your goal weight and increasing your fitness and energy level (*6:30-7:30pm*). **Stop Smoking Now!** helps you reduce your smoking by five cigarettes a day until you're at zero. (*7:45-8:45pm*). *Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 267-4121. \$15.* www.healinghypnosis.org.

TEXAS 42 DOMINO NIGHT *7pm. Ginny's Little Longhorn, 5434 Burnet, 458-1813.* www.austin42club.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Sound Unbound Vol. 2: Modern American Composers @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm
The Conformist @ Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
The Dixie Chicks *Frank Erwin Center*
Bound Stems *Emo's*
Honky, Billy Dee *Woody's South*

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TEXAS FURNITURE MAKERS showcases the work of some of the finest craftsmen in the state. *Through Dec. 2. Thursdays-Sundays. Kerr Arts & Cultural Center, Kerrville, 830/895-2911.*

HOLIDAY WINE TRAIL visits several Hill Country wineries where special events, wine tastings, art shows, and food await guests. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 1-3, 8-10. Various locations, 888/997-3600.* www.texaswinetrail.com.

STARS OVER PIONEER VILLAGE opens the history center to an 1850s Christmas celebration with popcorn, wassail, ginger cookies, and costumed hosts. *6-9pm. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 1-2, 8-9. Pioneer Village Living History Center, Gonzales, 830/672-2157.*

WEIHNACHTEN celebrates the season with a Christmas tree forest, gingerbread-house contest, music, German food, arts & crafts, and more. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 1-3. Marktplatz, Fredericksburg, 888/997-3600.* www.tex-fest.com.

LIVE NATIVITY & LIGHT DISPLAY *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 1-2, 8-9. North of Johnson City on U.S. 281.*

BUDAFEST starts with a morning parade, followed by an arts & crafts festival with live music, Santa, pony rides, and more. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3. Buda, 512/694-3413.*

DICKENS ON THE STRAND turns the Texas port into a Victorian village with carolers, jugglers, food vendors, artisans, and craftspeople. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3. Galveston, 409/763-7834.* www.dickensonthestrand.org.

A DICKENS CHRISTMAS includes storytellers, jugglers, clowns, pony rides, choirs, dancers, children's activities, arts & crafts, and more. *Sat., Dec. 2. Eugene Clark Library, Lockhart, 512/398-2818.* www.lockhartchamber.com.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BOYHOOD HOME takes visitors into the Johnson family parlor to see how the president's family might have celebrated the holidays in the 1920s. *Saturdays, 6-9pm. Dec. 2, 9, 16. LBJ National Historical Park, Johnson City, 830/868-7128.*

CHRISTMAS ARTISTS OPEN HOUSE offers refreshments, artist demonstrations, and music while showcasing the work of potters and glass and wood artists. *Sat., Dec. 2, 10am-6pm; Sun., Dec. 3, noon-5pm. Francis-Ainsworth House, 214 S. Pecan St., Luling, 830/875-3435.* www.ainsworthhouse.com.

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Mandola Estate Winery, outside of Dripping Springs, pairs handmade Italian-style wines with a Texas accent to an Old World-style Italian market and restaurant. Founded by the Mandola family, who also operate the popular Austin eatery under the family name, the winery announced its first release last month after more than four years of preparation.

"Food and wine are meant to be fun," says Mark Penna, the winery's winemaker as he led a small tour. "We're starting a quiet revolution here in the Texas wine industry," he says. "We want to set new trends and draw attention to Texas wines."

Starting a winery was a long-held dream of her husband, says Trina Mandola. Damian Mandola has been a fixture on the Houston restaurant scene for more than 30 years. He opened his first restaurant as a college senior in 1975. Damian's Cucina Italiana was a hit in the downtown Houston theatre district when he helped start the chain of Carrabba's Italian Grills with his nephew, Johnny Carrabba. In March 2006, Damian and Trina opened the Mandola Market at North Lamar and 47th Street in Austin.

The Mandolas partnered with their Houston neighbors, Drs. Stan and Lisa Duchman to bring the million-dollar Hill Country winery facility on line. "They keep telling me not to quit my day job yet," says Stan Duchman, a Houston cardiologist with a passion for wines.

"The really hard part of starting a winery is finding a good winemaker that you can work with," Duchman says. Penna has the rare mix of expertise and pleasant personality.

With a thick beard and glasses, Penna looks more like a college professor than a winemaker. "Don't get me started talking, or I'll bore you with the minutiae," he tells the tour group with a laugh. A 1990 graduate of Texas A&M, Penna has more than 20 years of winemaking and vineyard management experience on the High Plains south of Lubbock.

Despite the warning, Penna's winery tour is anything but boring. As he walks around the new winery, his demeanor seems to alternate from being in a cathedral to being in a play room. He's respectfully having a lot of fun, and when he starts talking about experimenting with traditional Italian blended wines, his eyes sparkle.

"We'll be working entirely in Italian varieties," he says. "Italian grapes do very well in Central Texas and on the High Plains." So far, they have planted 8 acres of Montepulciano, Moscato, Barbera, and Sangiovese grapes. Eventually, more than 20 acres of vines will surround the winery built to look like an Italian villa. Production is targeted for 20,000 cases a year.

With its high ceilings, the tasting room looks like a grand dining room. Visitors can belly up to the bar to sample the first six releases from the new winery. Using the equipment at the nearby Driftwood Winery, Mandola Estates began making wine while the vineyard and winery were being built.

The initial releases are respectable. Using grapes from California, the winery's Viognier and Pinot Grigio are excellent light wines for hot Texas weather. Penna says the Viognier



will eventually be discontinued, and that they have started buying Pinot grapes from an organic cotton, peanut, and grape farmer outside of Lubbock.

The winery's Sangiovese and Syrah are also on the light side, with the Syrah being the more interesting. Under the Canto Felice label, the winery mixes Sangiovese, Syrah, and Pinot Grigio grapes for a lightly sweet wine that is easy and fun to drink.

Penna made only 290 cases of the 2004 Nebbiolo, a classic Piedmont grape that is rather rare in the States. It is a robust wine that gives hints at the new direction the winery is taking Texas winemaking. The Nebbiolo grape can also be very difficult to work with in the field and in the fermenting tanks.

Mandola Estate Winery is down the road from the Salt Lick Barbecue on FM 150. The tasting room opens Monday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm, and on Sunday, noon to 5pm. For information, call 512/858-1470, or go to www.mandolawines.com. Trina Mandola says they hope to add a restaurant at the site by June 2007.

805th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of Day Trips 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

Tuesday 05

★ **ASA HOLIDAY MIX AND MINGLE** A festive evening of drinks, snacks, door prizes, and music; proceeds from the door, as well as 10% of bar sales, will benefit **AIDS Services of Austin** and the central Texans living with HIV/AIDS. (See Club Listings) 6-8pm. *Firehouse Lounge*, 605 Brazos, 406-6175. \$10 donation. www.asaustin.org.

★ **AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY MEETING/ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Herb Society members will have lots of herbal products, plants, crafts, gardening books, and more to choose from. Be sure to bring your own recipes, mixes, and herbal lore for sharing. 9:30-11:30am. *Zilker Botanical Garden*, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 936-1190. www.austinherbsociety.org.

★ **BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP** 7-10pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen. bikesacrossborders@riseup.net.

★ **HOME ON THE RANGE: THE EMERGING TERROIR OF THE TEXAS WINE COUNTRY** This latest installment in the **Texas Wine & Food Foundation** community education series compares the wines of Europe and California to those of Texas and shows you how to pair them with Texas cuisine (provided tonight by **Castle Hill Cafe**). 6:30-8:30pm. *Castle Hill Cafe*, 1101 W. Hill, 327-7555. \$50 (\$40, members). www.winefoodfoundation.org.

★ **LIGHTING OF THE PEACE TREE** Hang a peace ornament on the tree and enjoy the many musicians, dancers, poets, and speakers featured at this annual nonpolitical, nonsectarian holiday celebration. 6-8pm. *University Hills Library*, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551. Free.

★ **SIERRA CLUB MEETING** UT geologist Chris Bell presents **Texas: Past, Present and Future**. 7pm. *LCRA Board Room*, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

★ **SOUL TRAVEL: EXPLORING THE WORLDS OF GOD** This free four-week workshop ends Dec. 26. 7-8:30pm. *Austin Eckankar Center*, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. www.eckankar-texas.org.

★ **WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING** Jon Lebkowsky, author of *Extreme Democracy*, discusses the role of the Internet in politics. Reserve your spot online. 6pm. *Marie Callendar's*, 9503 Research Blvd. #400, 349-7151. www.centxwfs.org.

★ **COMEDY** (See Arts Listings)
★ **Mark "The Chinaman" Britten** *Cap City Comedy Club*

★ **SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)
★ **Millennium Actress** @ *Alamo Downtown*, 7pm

★ **MUSIC** (See Music Listings)
★ **Al Di Meola** *Cactus Cafe*

Wednesday 06

★ **AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET** This midweek market features local farmers, vendors, and live music every Wednesday. 4-7pm. *Whole Foods parking lot*, 525 N. Lamar www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

★ **AUSTIN FORUM SPEAKER SERIES: GET CONNECTED WITH TECHNOLOGY!** Dell senior manager Leroy Jones discusses his **Austin Black Family Technology Awareness program**, which works to bridge Austin's digital divide. 6-8:15pm. *J.J. Pickle Research Campus, Commons Center*, 0100 Burnet. Free (complimentary food/beverages provided). www.austinforum.org.

★ **FREE LEGAL ADVICE** These night clinics are open to everyone, offer child care, and are right on the bus line. 6-7pm. *Webb Middle School*, 601 E. St. Johns.

★ **INTUITIVE CIRCLE** This weekly class helps you hone your intuition and use it to help others. 7:30-9:30pm. *Private residence*, 560-5193. \$10. www.intuitivestudiesaustin.com.

★ **METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB** Litigator Carlos R. Soltero presents **Latinos in the Legal System: Landmark Supreme Court Cases**. 7-8:30am. *UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium*, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15 (members/first-time guests). www.mbcacustin.org.

★ **ROLFING DISCUSSION/DEMONSTRATION SESSION** Learn about Rolfing, a system of aligning the body for better posture, physical performance, and relief of chronic pain. 7pm. *Plum Blossom Wellness*, 1700 S. Lamar #230, 306-7344. Free. www.plumblossomwellness.com.

★ **CLASSICAL MUSIC** (See Arts Listings)
★ **Golden Hornet Project: Percussion V** *The Off Center*

★ **MUSIC** (See Music Listings)
★ **Pirates vs. Ninjas Party** *Beerland*
★ **Thomas Dolby**, *BT Elysium*

Thursday 07

★ **CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG** Christmas songs and pop stars, followed by milk and cookies and real carolling at Jackalope on Sixth. Another Henri Mazza/Owen Egerton instant classic. 7pm. *Alamo Draffhouse Downtown*, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com.

★ **DECEMBER CLASSICS** Readings from Dickens, O. Henry, and Dylan Thomas, each paired with a discussion, a lecture, and an original musical composition from bassist/composer/director P. Kellach Waddle. 8pm. *Hyde Park United Methodist Church*, 4001 Speedway, 453-4206. \$15 (\$12, advance). pkw.wyattbrand.com.

★ **Crestview RV**, 15700 S. I-35; **All Star RV**, 14605 S. I-35. *Through Fri., Dec. 15.* www.austinfoodbank.org.

★ **EVERGREEN FARMS CHRISTMAS TREES** Oh, you don't just cut down your own tree here. You take a hayride to it first, and afterward you hang out by the campfire, drink cider, paint a pine cone or three, play some games, take a walk on the nature trail, pet the farm animals ... you know, a typical afternoon in idyllic-holiday fantasyland. Nov. 24-Dec. 24. Sat.-Sun., 9am-dusk; Mon.-Fri., noon-dusk. 242 Monkey Rd., Elgin, 512/281-4833. www.evergreen-farms.com.

★ **LIFEWORKS PROJECT HOLIDAY HELP: SPONSOR A FAMILY** This program matches you with a holiday wish list from a child or a family, so that you can make sure they get gifts for the holidays this year. 735-2400. www.lifeworksweb.org, www.kintera.org/TR.asp?ID=M721461929826040637622665.

★ **STREET OUTREACH BACKPACK DRIVE** LifeWorks is providing backpacks filled with basic supplies (socks, sleeping bag, wool hat, gloves, nonperishable food, and hygiene products) to homeless youth this winter; see Web site for details. 735-2400. www.lifeworksweb.org, www.kintera.org/TR.asp?ID=M721461979826040637622665.

★ **LIFEWORKS GIFT CARD DRIVE** Donate a \$25 gift card to a young person in need this winter. Target and HEB cards are especially appreciated, for providing food and clothing. 735-2400. www.lifeworksweb.org, www.kintera.org/TR.asp?ID=M721462009826040637622665.

★ **AUSTIN HEALTH FREEDOM OXPO** Brings more than 100 vendors and 50 speakers to Austin to talk about the latest in natural-health and alternative-medicine research, legislation, and product develop-

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

★ **I WANNA TAKE U DOWNTOWN** Get ready, Austin, for your second dose of **Peaches** in one year. If you missed the summer visit of the be-satined one, you missed a frenetic folderol of prodigious, potty-mouthed proportions. The next chance to locally impeach the great one's bush will be at the **Fun Fun Fun Festival** hosted by **Emo's** and the **Alamo Draffhouse** (among others). One day, three stages, 26 bands, one of whom is Peaches! (Not to mention: Spoon, Octopus Project, Circle Jerks, DJ Mel, Quintron, Thomas from Ghostland Observatory, and more.) Early tix may be had from our fave family-friendly friends at **End of an Ear**. *Fri., Dec. 1, 8pm. Waterloo Park*, 403 E. 15th, 462-6008, 477-EMOS. www.funfunfunfest.com, www.endofanear.com, www.myspace.com/funfunfunfest.

★ **DROP DEAD GORGEOUS** Thank Geebus for the Brazilian. For exfoliation. And for **Pageant**. Praises go to **Naughty Austin** for bringing this musical comedy beauty contest back to the stage with an all-star (not to mention, all-male) cast strapping in (and a few things down) for one helluva ride. Campy and hilarious. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre*, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$25. www.artsonreal.com.

★ **FIRST FRIDAY DINNER CLUB** This group of professional gay men and women meets on the first Friday of each month. Hence the name. *Fri., Dec. 1. joshloker@prideofaustin.com, firstfridays-subscribe@yahoo.com*.

★ **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE: WORLD AIDS DAY** If you've ever (or never) been to an annual Pride Service, what with just about every faith and stripe in the spiritual flag represented, you owe it to yourself to check out this fine event. Veterans of the annual June Pride Service will have a feel for what

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

★ **INSIDE THE GREEN SCARE: AN EVENING OF SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS** Commemorating the one-year anniversary of **Operation Backfire**, when the FBI arrested environmental activists all over the country en masse, tonight's gathering features a **Know Your Rights Workshop**, a **Grand Jury Teach-In**, the **Green Scare Puppet Show**, and the screening of a film about political prisoner **Rod Coronado**. 7:30pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-MWBK. www.greenscare.org/OperationBackfire.html#top.

★ **SOUTHERN GLITTERATI SOCIETY FASHION SHOW** debuts the print graphic designs of Leigh K. Hajovsky

to expect at this truly interfaith gathering. Both are organized by **Care Communities**, née **Interfaith Care Alliance**. *Fri., Dec. 1, 7pm. St. Edward's University Chapel*, 3001 S. Congress, 459-5883. Free. www.interfaithcarealliance.org.

★ **HOLIDAY SWINGERS** Get this: **Sentimental Journey Orchestra** (22 pieces of a big-band blast) plus the **Studebakers**, a silent auction, an airline-ticket raffle, early (7pm) swing lessons, and boat-loads of queers, all to benefit **Project Transitions**. Boo to the yah. Advance tickets available at Top Drawer, BookWoman, Tapelender's, and PT's admin office. *Sat., Dec. 2, 8pm. 454-8646. \$65 (\$55, advance).* mheilman@projecttransitions.org, www.projecttransitions.org/holidayswing.shtml.

★ **TACT** Transgender Advocates of Central Texas is an advocacy group dedicated to furthering the cause of gender diverse people in Central Texas through education in both private and public forums. Call for location. *First Tuesday, each month. Tue., Sept. 5. 448-6354.*

★ **HOLIDAY MIX & MINGLE** Come meet some cool activist types from our local community college as this holiday event brings together the forces of **Austin Community College** and **AIDS Services of Austin**. There will be snacks and door prizes, and the admission gets you two drink tickets with proceeds benefitting ASA. *Huzzah! Tue., Dec. 5, 6pm. Firehouse Lounge*, 605 Brazos, 406-6175. \$10 donation. www.asaustin.org.

★ **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S DIALOGUE** helps lesbian cancer patients, families, and friends cope. *First and third Wednesdays, 5:30pm. St. David's Health Resource Center*, 3000 N. I-35, 919-1911.

★ **GAY PLACE ON MYSPACE** Your pals at Gay Place are on **MySpace**, unabashed in our quest to crack 2,000 by New Year's. We'd be proud to have you as our friend! gayplace@austinchronicle.com, www.myspace.com/gayplace.

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

and Kaywin Kubesch to benefit **SafePlace** and the **Glocosa Foundation**. 8pm. *Vicci*, 404 Colorado. \$5. www.myspace.com/southern glitteratisociety.

★ **CLASSICAL MUSIC** (See Arts Listings)
★ **Conspire: Christmas at the Carillon**

★ **ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts)
★ **Gallery Lombardi**

★ **SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)
★ **Open Screen Night: Long Form Edition** @ *Alamo Draffhouse Downtown*, 9:45pm

★ **MUSIC** (See Music Listings)
★ **Buffalo Killers** *Beerland*
★ **Carrie Rodriguez** *Cactus Cafe*

Ongoing Events

★ **THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE** For just \$10, **House the Homeless** can buy a set of thermal underwear to keep someone warm on the streets this winter. So send your \$10 donation to: *House the Homeless, PO Box 2312, Austin*, 78768. 796-4366. www.housethehomeless.org.

★ **COATS FOR KIDS** Help ensure that Texas' kids have warm coats this winter: Drop off new/gently used coats at any of Jack Brown Cleaners' 45 Austin locations, donate money online, or send a check to: 5416 Parkcrest #100, Austin, TX 78731. You can also help by volunteering to organize a school coat drive (see Web site) or help sort coats Dec. 4-8 (call 467-8982 x295). 467-8982 x231. www.jlaustin.org/coats, www.jackbrowncleaners.com/locations.htm.

★ **HOLIDAY WINE TRAIL** You'll be given a grapevine wreath to take along with you on this self-guided tour of various Hill Country Wineries, where you'll collect unique Christmas ornaments for your wreath – and drink wine, of course. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 1-3 & 8-10. \$35.* www.texaswinetrail.com.

★ **CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE** The Austin Chapter of the Texas Recreational Vehicle Association has several drop-off points for nonperishable food items. *Plflugerville: Princess Craft*, 102 N. First. *Georgetown: RV Outlet Mall*, 4500 S. I-35; *Explore USA*, 8810, N. I-35; *Walkabout RV II*, 8650 N. I-35. *Buda: Camper Clinic II*, 15855 S. I-35; *Evergreen RV*, 17600 S. I-35; *Marshall's Traveland*, 16611 I-35;

ment. Keynote speakers include, among others, actress **Diane Ladd** (author of *Spiraling Through the School of Life*), **Jay Kordich** (the "father of juicing"), and **Peter McCarthy** (author of *Adrenaline Nation*). *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 1-2, 9am-6pm; Sun., Dec. 3, 9am-4pm. Palmer Events Center*, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$25 (\$10, one day). www.healthfreedexpo.com.

★ **MEDICAID INFORMATION SESSIONS** Medicaid beneficiaries with **diabetes, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**, and/or **end-stage renal disease** may be eligible for the **Care Improvement Plus** program, which offers benefits tailored to the specific needs of people living with these ailments. Call to reserve your seat; lunch will be served. **Golden Corral North**, 9710 N. Lamar: 11:30am, Dec. 4, 7, 18, 21, & 28; 6:30pm, Dec. 12. **Golden Corral South**, 3607 S. Lamar: 11:30am, Dec. 5, 11, 14, 19, & 26. **CIP Offices**, 1016 La Posada Dr. #200: 10am, Dec. 6; 11:30am, Dec. 13, 20, & 27. 877/625-2207 or TTY: 866/679-3052.

★ **OPERATION BLUE SANTA** needs volunteers to help with sorting and wrapping toys for families who will be receiving Blue Santa gifts this year. Available hours: Dec. 1, 1-9pm; Dec. 2, 9am-1pm; Dec. 6-8, 1-9pm; Dec. 9, 9am-1pm. Volunteers for deliveries are also needed: Sat., Dec. 16. (Groups of 10 or more, call 974-4900.) You can still apply to receive Blue Santa gifts through *Fri., Dec. 8* – call or see Web site for details. 801 E. 51st, 220-BLUE. www.bluesanta.org.

★ **BROWN SANTA** serves families in need in the outlying areas of Travis County during the holidays. They're accepting donations of cash, canned goods,

and other nonperishable foods for holiday dinners, and new, unwrapped toys for infants, toddlers, and youth ages 10-16. Drop-off locations: *Brown Santa HQ*, 5555 Airport Blvd., or any HEB, *Travis County building*, or *TXDOT location*. *Through Sat., Dec. 17.* (Monetary donations accepted online all year round.) They also need volunteers for sorting and wrapping. 247-2682. www.brownsanta.org.

★ **GIVE A GIFT THAT HELPS THE LIBRARY** Holiday shopping quandaries? Try buying the **Austin Public Library** a book in honor of your special someone, and then it's like you bought that book for hundreds of people and not just one. 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

★ **OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK** Join the Dec. 9 5K to help prevent the more than 30,000 suicides in the U.S. every year. Money you raise will fund suicide-prevention research, education, and programming. *Registration: 8am; walk: 9am. Texas State Capitol*, 1100 Congress, 800/273-TALK. www.outofthedarkness.org, www.afsp.org.

★ **GEM CAPERS** This show from the Austin Gem and Mineral Society will showcase jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, and lapidary equipment. Activities include faceting and capping demonstrations, lessons in fossil cleaning and petrified wood identification, and tours of the Fluorescent Tunnel. With lots of kids activities, it's perfect for a family outing. *Fri., Dec. 1, 9am-5pm; Sat., Dec. 2, 10am-6pm; Sun., Dec. 3, 10am-5pm. Palmer Events Center*, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$5 (three-day passes and senior/youth discounts available). www.austingemandmineral.org.

The Way of the World

Brockett Theatre, through Dec. 3

Running Time: 2 hr, 40 min

Life is a complicated thing. Few things in life are more complicated than love, and few styles of storytelling have made love more complicated than Restoration comedy. If you're unfamiliar with the term, think of Restoration comedy as the style that became popular after Shakespeare's death, a comedy of manners satirizing all things courtly and all things romantic, and you won't be far off.

In *The Way of the World*, Mirabell is in love with Millamant, but Millamant's aunt, Lady Wishfort, hates Mirabell because he once pretended to love her and so refuses the match. Fainall is married to Lady Wishfort's daughter, who is a former lover of Mirabell. Fainall has a mistress, Lady Marwood, who, not surprisingly, also is in love with Mirabell. (As you can probably tell, Mirabell is a player.) In order to marry Millamant and thus receive her dowry, Mirabell must find a way to trick Lady Wishfort into consenting to the marriage.

As I said, complicated, and that's really only the beginning of William Congreve's story, one so complicated that even audiences at the turn of the 18th century had difficulty following it. Given such a difficult script, filled with what is now considered archaic language, why might you be interested in attending this UT Department of Theatre & Dance production? The reasons are myriad. From Mirabell and Fainall's first languid entrance into the chocolate shop, director Jesse Berger makes you feel as though you've been entirely transported to another time and place. While Sarah Davidson's scenic design is appropriate enough with its open stage and simple wooden set-pieces, Sarah Mosher's costumes are things of decadent beauty. Few periods outside the Restoration offer so much room for a costume designer to stretch, and Mosher takes full advantage. The men wear long, curling, flowing wigs, with hankies poking out of sleeves that seem to go on forever, legs encased in hose, and bows topping



off even their shoes. The women are encased in skirts, overskirts, and bustles, sometimes with long trains flowing outward, and feathered hats and headpieces abound. Of course, the costumes wouldn't work nearly as well if they weren't worn well, and the actors, as a group, show their accoutrements off to great effect, strutting and posing and preening throughout.

The only thing that falls down is the story, and while I'm tempted, I can't fault the actors or even director Berger for it. Congreve's script is such a mishmash of complications that I'm not sure any group of actors, or any director, could make sense of it all. As a group, the actors, from Corey Jones as the charming Mirabell to Jeremy Selim as the country bumpkin Sir Wilfull to Blake DeLong as the fop Witwould, effectively embody their characters physically and vocally. And while on occasion they move too quickly through the text, I'd much rather have actors going too quickly than too slowly. All in all, *The Way of the World* is by far the most effective UT production I've seen in years.

– Barry Pineo

Theatre

OPENING

LA PASTORELA Here's the traditional story of shepherds overcoming manifestations of evil that attempt to thwart their Christward journey. It's a lively night of theatre, music, and dance as presented by the Austin Latino Theater Alliance. Nov. 30-Dec. 17. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12 (\$8, seniors, students).* www.lapastorela.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. 15 issue is Monday, Dec. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

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

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

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

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

TIM MILLER'S 1001 BEDS The celebrated performance artist is in town to present "a raucous and rowdy exploration of his adventures in a performer's life fiercely lived in travels through love, politics, and art. From a gay teen's head-on collision with life in a sleazy hotel across the street from the Hollywood Bowl to an ecstatic vision of a sex-positive future on a mattress in a police holding cell ... here's a story about the transforming power of art and the richness of gay identity lived out loud." (See our feature "Finding Hope ... in Bed," p.44, for more.) *Thu.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30.* www.vortexrep.org.

RECKLESS Craig Lucas' hilarious Christmas fable arrives just in time for the holidays, reflecting the comically disjointed lives of our time. And to you, they're gold. Watch as the City Theatre players (of the recent *Frozen*) run this romp over the top and around the bend, friend. *Dec. 7-17. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$15 (\$10, students).* www.citytheatreAustin.org

★ **XMAS UNWRAPPED: A HOLIDAY BURLESQUE** The vivacious Jingle Belles, those lovely and barely clad ladies of Shrewd Productions, return to give you a present you'll not soon forget: A show featuring classic burlesque, sexy new moves, and your favorite holiday tunes. With Belles Elizabeth Mason, T. Lynn Mikeska, Monika Bustamante, Shannon Grounds, April Perez, Marisa Pisano, and Sarah Skelton. Ooooh, they're naughty and nice. *Nov. 30-Dec. 16. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$17 (\$14, Thursdays; ACoT discounts, too).* www.hydeparktheatre.com.

MONEYGO ON 34TH STREET The Violet Crown Radio Players give their old-timey microphones a

holiday workout with this new, live, vintage-audio adaptation by Monica Ballard. It's a funny and metafictional take on the classic *Miracle on 34th Street*, featuring holiday songs and commercials for "needlessly complicated" Moneygo products, as the players show what happens when Business tries to commandeer Art and all performative hell breaks loose. *Dec. 1-23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$15 (\$12.50, in advance).* www.violetcrownradio.com.

HARVEY ONSTAGE Theatre Company presents Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning audience favorite, featuring the lovable Elwood P. Dowd as played by Michael Stuart, just in time for your holiday happiness. Just in time to wonder what it would've been like if Mr. Dowd and Mr. Darko had traded bunnies. *Dec. 1-23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$10, students, seniors).* www.austinplayhouse.com.

CLOSING

THE WAY OF THE WORLD UT's theatre department presents William Congreve's comedy of manners circa the 1700s, powdered wigs and liveried servants and all, as directed by Jesse Berger. *Through Dec. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Oscar Brockett Theatre, Winship Drama Building, 23rd & San Jacinto. \$16 (\$13, UT faculty, staff; \$10, students).*

ONGOING

PAGEANT The drag show to end all drag shows returns to Austin to brighten your cross-dressing holidays. Who will be the winner in this beauty-

pageant parody? Will it be Miss Bible Belt? Will it be Miss Industrial Northeast? Will it be Miss Small Town? Or will it be one of the other queenly contestants giving it their unmitigated, sequin-spangled all under the direction of Blake Yelavich for Naughty Austin? You'll have to be there to find out, because you, the audience, get to vote on who provides best evidence of fabulousity. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$25.* www.naughtyaustin.com.

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS The acclaimed playwright Suzan-Lori Parks wrote a play a day for an entire year, back in 2002. Now, in 2006, every single one of those plays is going to be staged at various venues all across the U.S.: New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, and so on. But *Austin* is where this yearlong cycle will begin, so get set for 10 weeks of theatre – with short plays of only 10 minutes, perhaps, and longer ones of 20 or more – as only Suzan-Lori Parks can write it. Coming up: a presentation at the **Blanton Museum**, as part of their monthly "B Scene" shindig. *Fri., Dec. 1, 8pm. Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324. Different Stages* presents readings by Norman Blumensadt, Frank Bengé, Aleta Garcia and others at a private apartment: Seating is limited. *Call for tickets and information. Wed., Dec. 6, 8pm. 453-7943. www.zachscott.com*

MRS. BOB CRATCHIT'S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE Oooh, lordy, here come the yuletide shenanigans. This is Different Stages presenting a popular and twisted holiday farce by Christopher Durang, as directed by Karen Jambon, with musical direction by Nick Nixon. *Through Dec. 9. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. play! theatre, 1204 Cedar. \$15-30.*

THE PLIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS Take Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, which seems to be how most of these recipes start, set it in the old American West (specifically, El Paso), and sift in a bag or so of mustache-twirling melodrama. The result: yuletide wackiness and popcorn-throwing tomfoolery to delight all ages. *Through Dec. 9. Fri.-Sun., 8pm. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$15.*

PLAID TIDINGS is Stuart Ross' holiday-themed sequel to the popular *Forever Plaid*, in which the male counterparts of Zach's Beehive Girls sing and dance their way through pop music standards in sweater-vested, happy-footed harmony. Tributes to the Rockettes, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Chipmunks, Harry Belafonte, and more are performed by the fantastic foursome of Bill Akey, Charles Brown, Kevin Farr, and Steven Michael Miller. Directed by Dave Steakley, with musical direction by Allen Robertson, choreography by Robin Lewis, costumes by Leslie Bonnell, sets by Michael Raiford, and everything lit up by Jason Amato. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-37 (\$12, student rush tickets).* www.zachscott.com.

★ **THE SANTALAND DIARIES** The talented Martin Burke returns as Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy's Christmas Elf in David Sedaris' holiday comedy, as directed by Dave Steakley for maximum audience delight. Wow, it's funny, and, yes, we highly recommend it. *Through Jan 7. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Extra shows: Sat., Dec. 9, 16, 23, 5pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38. www.zachscott.com.*

A ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS is where Zach's fabulous Beehive Girls go all doo-wop and girl-group on holiday standards, mixing it up with much sassy comedy and all manner of retro-yuletide goodness. *Through Dec. 30. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. www.zachscott.com.*

DINNER THEATRE

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PASTA The Capital City Mystery Players will perform this comedy whodunit with dinner just in time for your midholiday entertainment. The plot revolves around mysticism among wacky socialites of the bluest blood (would you believe "Mary Astor Turf"?) and features a séance-interrupting murder that you get to help solve the mystery of. *Dec. 2, 3, 7, 14, 16, 21, 22, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.meatballs.com.*

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Auditions for the Hit Broadway Musical She Loves Me

Open auditions for Temple Civic Theatre's next Main Series production, *She Loves Me*, will take place on Sunday, December 3 and Monday, December 4 at 7:00pm at the theatre. Call backs will take place on Tuesday, December 5.

Those auditioning are asked to prepare a musical number not to exceed two minutes in length. Those auditioning should also come prepared to move and read from the script.

Roles are available in a variety of age ranges. Performances are February 14-18 and 22-25.

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Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge

play! Theatre, through Dec. 9

And now for something completely Different Stages. This company drives Christopher Durang's holiday spoof like a kamikaze hayride into a merry miscellany of Christmas entertainments. Lampooning the one time of year that seems to have more stories than any other season, Durang has fashioned a portmanteau of two of the most venerable (albeit not the oldest) Christmas tales: Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The playwright splits the spotlight between Scrooge and a depressed Mrs. Cratchit, adding a lot more to her and Bob Cratchit's backstory. (Turns out her capricious hubby brings in enough foundlings for a small militia but never enough money for food.) You'd have thought that Dickens would have wanted her to be the kindest of gentlewomen and as blithely spirited as her husband – and maybe he did, but this Mrs. Bob comically downs a few hasty shots and splits, threatening to throw herself off the London Bridge, but not before she falls ... in love with the scowling miser.

Dickens' three spirits are compressed into one – one with a sassy voice and penchant for Billie Holiday, no less – but in her red Converse heels the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present, and Future (Julianna Wright) walks us through the familiar steps of Dickens' tale, beginning with the young and old Ebenezers meeting one another. That, however, turns out to be the needle scratching the record, altering the story and setting the zany tone for the show. For some inexplicable reason, the ghost's magic keeps transporting the skinflint

to Mrs. Cratchit, who, as played by Nicole Marosis, sports a permanent frown, making her a well-suited battle-axe for Scrooge. Eric Porter creates a memorable Scrooge, with toadlike lip-licking, a croaking evil laugh, and enough arthritic shaking that if he put on sunglasses, he'd look like Ozzy Osbourne. A whirlwind of plot twists spin us through parodies of more Dickens (*Oliver Twist* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*), plus O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" and that Capra-esque angel "getting his wings." And Kirk German blows the show wide open with Mr. Fezziwig's song, just one of a handful of random musical numbers. It is a frenetic yet humorous mess. The props are two-dimensional. Actors occasionally call other actors by their real names. There are side-splitting moments when the collective energy of the cast of 10 seems to burst into improvisation. Wildly imaginative and off-the-wall, this production is ideal if you're looking for a Christmas story that's goofy but with a decent ending.

– Patti Hadad



Dance

BALLET EAST DANCE COMPANY: SUITE PEGGY LEE! Here's a delightful ensemble celebration of the magnificence of the female spirit, presented through the work of five leading local choreographers: Melissa Villareal, Amber Lee Anderson, Sharon Marroquin, Lyn C. Wiltshire, and Steven Ochoa; they're joined by special guest choreographer Hope Boykin of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, whose work provides the title for this collection of sassy, sophisticated dance. *Thu.-Sat., Nov. 30-Dec. 2; Sun., Dec. 3, 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 474-TIXS. \$10 (\$6, seniors, students). www.austix.com.*

1,001 NIGHTS

DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER This month's alcohol- and smoke-free event features the international Indian artist DaVid, accompanied by Bahaia, Drakon, Katiuskha, Adrienne, Zack, Sarabeth, Melissa-Amira, Troupe Amar, Brandy, Rania, and Belinda. Middle Eastern refreshments available. *Fri., Dec. 1, 8pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 750-7037. \$10 (free, kids). www.desertpassion.com.*

TWO LEFT FEET

FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Easy and fun, contra dancing'll put you in the swing of things. Live music by the Flaming Kilts (yowza!); dances called by Dale Rempert. *Fri., Dec. 1, 7:30pm (beginners lessons); 8-11pm (main dance) Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members and first-timers).*

DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER: BANGHRA & SAIDI WORKSHOP For the first time in the U.S. of A., Indian dance artist DaVid performs (that was Friday night) and, here, leads this dance workshop. *Sat., Dec. 2, 1-4pm. Body Business, 2700 W. Anderson. 750-7037. \$60. www.desertpassion.com.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm.*

DANCE INTERNATIONAL: HOLIDAY SHOWCASE AND DANCE The DI Youth Program, DanceSport groups, and Salsa Performance Team strut their stuff, followed by an open dance for everyone. *Sun., Dec. 3, 6-7pm (show); 7-8:30pm (open dance). One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD, 32-DANCE. \$20-25 (\$15, UT and St. Stephen's students). www.dancein.org.*

MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. *Tuesdays, 8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 507-B Pressler, 458-6336. \$10. www.tapestry.org.*

Classical Music

OPENING

LOS CENZONTLES (THE MOCKINGBIRDS) ArtesAméricas presents a celebration of Mexican heritage featuring this Mexican folk ensemble, which weaves centuries-old musical traditions with contemporary sounds. *Rancheras, Michoacan pircuas, and sones jarochos* (a type of traditional rural mariachi) mix it up with the combo's original compositions. *Fri., Dec. 1, 8pm. Hogg Auditorium, West 24th & Whitis, 477-6060, 800/687-6010. \$27. www.utpac.org.*

SAINT CECILIA BAROQUE FESTIVAL This year's festival presents the six cantatas of J. S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, telling the story of the birth of the Christ child. The cantatas are divided over the three nights of the festival as follows: **Cantatas I and II**, featuring the First Presbyterian Church Choral, under the direction of James A. Brown. *Fri., Dec. 1, 7pm. Cantatas III and IV* feature the combined choirs from St. David's and St. Michael's Episcopal churches, with the Austin Children's Choir, under the direction of James Morrow. *Sat., Dec. 2, 7pm. Cantatas V and VI* bring the oratorio to a close, this time with George Dupere directing the Redeemer Presbyterian Church Choir. *Sun., Dec. 3, 7pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 345-8866 ext.43. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students) per concert. All-concert festival pass: \$40 (\$30, seniors, students). www.stmartins.org.*

AUDITIONS

FRONTERAFEST: VOICES Seeking five caucasian actors for this new 25-minute piece: a female who can play a 96-year-old, a female who can play a 75-year-old, a male (ages 35-40), a female (ages 20-25), and a male who can play a 14-year-old. Actors will be compensated. Contact Allan Baker for appt. *Dec. 6. 345-4437. voicesfrontera@hotmail.com.*

BLYTHE SPIRIT Thais Hardison is going to direct this Noel Coward comedy for the Way Off Broadway Community Players, but is looking for several men and women to perform. *Mon., Dec. 4, 7pm. Crystal Falls Playhouse, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966. www.wobcp.org.*

I AM NOT TARTUFFE Yellow Tape Construction Co. seeks actors, movers, singers, and "kickass performers" of all kinds for their March production of this updated and twisted (and musical) Moliere adaptation, to be directed by Jonathon "S.F.T." Morgan. *Wed., Dec. 6, 6:30-9:30pm; Sat., Dec. 9, 10:30am-2pm. play! theatre, 1204 Cedar, 466-5221. www.yellowtape.org.*

DEARLY BELOVED This comedy, in which wedding plans go awry in a small Texas town, will be directed by Karen Jambon for the Paradox Players in February. Right now they're looking for several men and women (ages 20-50). E-mail for appt. *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 5-6, 7pm. The Unitarian Universalist Church, 4900 Grover. blyfordweeks@aol.com.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FRONTERAFEST 2007: NOW HIRING FronteraFest is searching for fun-loving, dedicated people for the following positions: Box Office Manager and attendants, House Managers, Stage Managers, ASMs, Venue Managers, and Board Operators. All positions paid. Send resume and letter of interest to: *Hyde Park Theatre 511 W. 43rd, Austin, TX 78751. Or via e-mail to: fronterafest@hydeparktheatre.org.*

THEATRE ACTION PROJECT This educational theatre company seeks volunteers for their afterschool program and for First Night Austin's New Year's Eve Kids Festival. 442-8773. www.theatreactionproject.org.

HYDE PARK THEATRE: AVAILABLE FOR RENT HPT currently has three slots available for four-week rentals in 2007: Move in Feb. 18 with a Feb. 22 - March 17 run; move in July 1 with a July 5-28 run; and move in July 29 with an Aug. 2-25 run. E-mail or call Ken Webster for details. 479-7530. kenwebster@austin.rr.com.

Fierce improvisers Parallelogramophonograph go all Afterschool Special at Coldtowne Theatre.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Mark "the Chinaman" Britten Coming on stronger than some ancient Chinese secret, Britten's one of those comics who's funny even before he breaks out the vocal impressions for which he's garnered such acclaim. *Dec. 5-9. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Patton Oswalt *Entertainment* magazine's "It" comedian for 2002? Fuck that. Fuck *Entertainment*, the year 2002, whatever: This is Patton Oswalt, OK? Patton "King of Queens" Oswalt. Patton "contributor to DC Comics' Bizarro World" Oswalt. We mean, listen, *Evany Thomas thinks he's funny*, and we'll trust that as reason enough to recommend the man's show. Steve Burr opens. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

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

This place? Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv:

Get Up is Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin's hilarious long-form improv, followed by **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, weaving stories that are equal parts poignant and absurd. *Thursdays, 8pm. The Plurals* mix video and live sketch comedy. **You're Fat** features the sketch comedy of *Onion* writer Jill Morris and Second City alum Rachel Madorsky. *Fridays, 8pm. Whirled News Tonight* is where the news is real, but everything else is improvised by a crack team of performers. Emphasis, perhaps, on "crack." *Saturdays, 8pm. ColdTowne* The mighty house troupe rocks your



AUSTIN SYMPHONY: ANTON NEL Youth and the young at heart are served by ASO and the exquisitely talented Anton Nel as the pianist guest solos on Dohnanyi's *Variations on a Nursery Song*, *Op. 25*; the symphony continues its childlike musical enthusiasm with Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, *Op. 34*. Also on the bill: Beethoven's *Symphony No. 2 in D*, *Op. 36*, the second in the series (collect all nine!). For an in-depth look at the night's composers and selections, arrive early for Bob Buckalew's "Concert Conversations." *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 1-2, 8pm (pre-performance "Concert Conversation," 7:10pm)*. Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$19-42 (Student rush tickets available 20 minutes prior to performance for \$5 cash). www.austinsymphony.org.

THE AUSTIN VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE: HOLIDAY CONCERT FOR CHILDREN Julia Clark leads the choral group in this holiday concert for children and families, featuring traditional children's songs, as well as songs from diverse countries and cultures. Plus there's the audience fave: an interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas." *Sat., Dec. 2, 2pm*. Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves. 719-3300. Free. www.chorusaustin.org.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR: CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE Gloria Quinlan conducts the chorus in traditional holiday carols and jazz favorites for the entire family. Proceeds benefit the HT Music Department. *Sun., Dec. 3, 6pm*. King-Seabrook Chapel, 900 Chicon. 505-3000. \$10. www.htu.edu.

SALON CONCERTS: PIANIST'S PREFERENCE Guest artist Rick Rowley selects works by Mozart and Schumann for piano and strings to perform with the Salon Concerts trio (Robert Rudié, violin; Bruce Williams, viola; Douglas Harvey, cello). A Ginastera sonata for piano and cello rounds out the evening. Sunday and Monday concerts include catered receptions. *Sun., Dec. 3, 4:30pm; Mon., Dec. 4, 7:30pm*. A private home (directions given with reservation). \$35. *Tue., Dec. 5, 6pm (one-hour excerpt)*. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Free. 342-2785. www.salonconcerts.org.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY ORCHESTRA: CIRCLE OF LIGHT An astonishing array of multiethnic and multitalented performers celebrates a multitude of winter holidays in this family program. Music, dance, language, and history help illuminate the various celebrations of a variety of world cultures during the winter season. *Sun., Dec. 3, 7pm*. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 448-3485. \$18 (\$12, seniors, children). www.creop.org.

★ **GOLDEN HORNET PROJECT: PERCUSSION V A** A throbbing and titillating evening of music composed for percussion ensemble is promised in this, the fifth such composition by Golden Hornet founders Peter Stopschinski and Graham Reynolds. This bang-up event features percussionist Chuck Fischer and will debut paint-still-wet compositions and improvisations for percussion by P Kellach Waddle, Josh Robins, David Wyatt, Stopschinski, and Reynolds. Highly recommended. *Wed., Dec. 6, 8pm*. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$5-15. www.goldenhornet.org.

★ **CONSPIRARE: CHRISTMAS AT THE CARILLON** "Conspire" may mean "to breathe together," but the intricacies of this group's choral work will leave you breathless. This year's Yuletide outing features a new collaboration with award-winning New Orleans vocalist John Boutte. (Note that Friday is the *gala* concert; prices reflect the gala-ishness of the event.) Although this is "Christmas at the Carillon," the event is nomadic, pitching its tent at a variety of Austin venues during its run. *Thu., Dec. 7, 8pm; Fri., Dec. 8, 6pm*. The Carillon, 2630 Exposition. *Sat., Dec. 9, 2:30pm*. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. *Sat., Dec. 9, 8:30pm*. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th. *Sun., Dec. 10, 2:30 & 8pm*. The Carillon. *Wed., Dec. 13, 7pm*. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa. 476-5775. \$30-60 (\$175-315, *gala tickets*). www.conspire.org.

At the Bouldin Creek Studio Tour, the artists might even be the subjects, as in this Stella Alesi portrait of her husband, the photographer Brian Alesi.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

BOULDIN CREEK STUDIO TOUR offers the community a rare glimpse inside the creative work-spaces of local artists. No, some *really* awesome local artists. Featured studios include those of Brian Bowers, Stella and Brian Alesi, Stephanie Lindsey, Leslie Bonnell, and many more. Recommended? Yes, highly. *Sat., Dec. 2, 10am-2pm*. Glitzkrieg Studio, 1608 S. Third. www.bouldincreekstudiotour.com.

MARY SLEDD: OPEN HOUSE Photographer Mary Sledd's newest exhibition happens in a space that is, itself, for sale. The talented shutterbug has joined with Skyline City Home to display a series of images that, in addition to pleasing the eye and mind, also complement their literally preferred background. *Sat., Dec. 2, 6-10pm*. 5412 McCandless.

THE MESSAGE Artist Johnny Walker's work for First Night Austin heralds the year-end event. 1,152 images documenting "gratitude" will be exhibited in the construction walkway across from the Austin Children's Museum. www.firstnightaustin.org.

TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL Enjoy the delightful neighborhood of Travis Heights as you shop for art and unique gifts in the studios and homes of Austin artists. Featuring sculpture, ceramics, photography, woodwork, fiber art, painting, and more. See their Web site for a map. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3, 11am-5pm*. www.travisheightsart.com.

SPIRIT ECHOES HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW Kids activities, live music, and educational demonstrations throughout this two-day event. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3*. Crockett Center, 10601 N. Lamar. 345-0706. \$5 (\$2, children). www.spiritechoes.com.

THE B SCENE Held on the first Friday of every month, the B Scene is the perfect opportunity to check out the Blanton Museum and mingle with friends. This night features live performances from Suzan-Lori Parks' 365 days, 365 Plays project. *MLK & Congress, 471-7324*. \$10 (\$5, members). www.blantonmuseum.org.

THORNTON ROAD STUDIOS HOLIDAY SALE This South Austin holiday tradition, now in its 14th year, boasts more than 30 artists with a range of works to choose among. Handmade art objects are gifts to be remembered! *Dec. 1-2, Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 10am-5pm*. 2309 & 2311 Thornton, 474-9400.



WOMEN & THEIR WORK: HOLIDAY PARTY Shopping, spirits, and celebration with music by DJ Katastrophik. *Thu., Nov. 30, 6-8pm*. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

OPENING

ARTSPOKEN: 12 BUY is a juried exhibition featuring works in a 12-foot-by-12-foot format. Reception: *Fri., Dec. 8, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Dec. 1-30*. 1507 W. Koenig.

LA PENA: MI RAZA DE BRONCE Traditional symbols of Mexican life are rendered in colorful mosaic windows by Jorge Castro and Eduardo Rosas. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 2, 6-9pm*. Exhibition: *Dec. 2-23*. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610. www.lapena-austin.org.

YARD DOG: NORTHERN HOUSES New paintings from Toronto's Jennifer Harrison. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 2, 7-9pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31*. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.

JCAA: LOLI KANTOR'S PHOTOGRAPHS A series of photographs addressing today's Jewish cultural landscape in Central and Eastern Europe. Reception: *Sun., Dec. 17, 6pm*. Exhibition: *Dec. 6-Jan. 25*. 7300 Hart Lane.

GALLERY LOMBARDI XMAS EXPO This 50-artist show offers more original brilliance than you could possibly buy your loved ones for the holidays. Well, unless you're Bill Gates. And, in any case, there's plenty of affordable artistic goodness on display – from the likes of Alejandra Almuelle, Marc Silva, Sun McColgin, Rory Skagen, and 46 others – with a partyish opening reception featuring visuals by Lori 16mm Varga. Reception: *Thu., Dec. 7, 6-10pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 13*. 910 W. Third, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.

CLOSING

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: BENJAMIN BUTLER These colorful and energetic abstractions of landscapes feature portraits of trees imbedded in pulsating lines and dashes of color. *Through Dec. 2*. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

CRL: INTERSECTIONS This group show focuses on mentoring and spotlights the junction between students and faculty at UT. *Through Dec. 2*. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.

★ **RUSSELL COLLECTION: AMSTERDAM TO AUSTIN** Prints by dead Dutchman Rembrandt van Rijn paired with paintings by live Austinite Ray

Donley? As an idea, it's nothing short of inspired. As an exhibition? Ibid, art lover. *Through Dec. 2*. 1137 W. Sixth, 342-0747.

DAVIS GALLERY: NATURAL SELECTIONS New oil paintings by Laurel Daniel, Chris De Dier, and William Wahlgren. *Through Dec. 2*. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.

ONGOING

ADAMS AVENUE GALLERY: THE NOVEMBER PROJECT Thirty photographs of Austin, taken each day of November 2004 by photographer David Keenan. *Through Dec. 30*. 5601 Adams, 453-7788.

★ **AMOA: RADICAL NY!** Radical NY! is a two-par exhibition presenting "The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984" and "Abstract Expressionism: 1940s-1960s," with works by more than 200 groundbreaking artists, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Willem de Kooning, Cindy Sherman, and hundreds of paintings, sculptures, drawings, videos, and photographs. First Hand Accounts with Sarah Canright, Michael Smith, and Mel Ziegler. *Thu., Nov. 30, 7pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 28*. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

ART PALACE: FAIR Envision a Damien Hirst inches away from an Elizabeth Murray; now imagine it hung precariously on top of a toilet. "Fair" is a delightful version of the cash-and-carry tradition. Auction: *Sat., Dec. 16, 8-11pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 23*. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaoadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE: E-FLUX VIDEO RENTAL is a free video rental service, a public screening room, and an art film and video archive, as curated by Anton Vidokle and Julieta Aranda. Nothing but the best of arty videos (docs and experimental films, a shitload – we reckon – of Stan Brakhage, a handful of Matthew Barney, that sort of visual goodness). It worked well in NYC; it'll probably soar like an eagle with a jet pack here. *Through Jan. 7*. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.athousetexas.org.

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Rembrandt's 400 The Blanton celebrates the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt van Rijn's birth, with works by the artist and his peers. *Through Dec. 10*. **16th Century Genoese Master Luca Cambiaso** Here's a rare opportunity to see more than 60 paintings and 80 drawings by this fascinating artist. *Through Jan. 14*. *MLK & Congress, 471-7324*. www.blantonmuseum.org.

TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: MISS IMA'S QUILTS Ima Hogg was a visionary collector, preservationist, and philanthropist; this exhibition presents an extraordinary selection of Miss Ima's quilts, ranging from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. 1800 Congress, 936-4600. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt*. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeapaustinweird.com.

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

D BERMAN: WEEDS No, it's not that dope-alicious show on cable. This exhibition is the delicate and stunning bronze sculpture of Beverly Penn, intricately arranged and based on plants from roadsides and her own Austin garden. Gallery talk: *Sat., Dec. 2, 1pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 23*. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

ELISABET NEY: HOMES AND STUDIOS features an exhibition depicting six homes and studios that artist Elisabet Ney established in Portugal, Bavaria, Georgia, and Texas from 1863 to 1902. Ney's last studio-home, in Austin, is, today, the Elisabet Ney Museum, a national, state, and local historic landmark. 304 E. 44th, 458-2255. www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney.

GRAVITY CONSTANT STUDIOS: TERRY BEUTLER The gallery's grand opening presents new paintings by Beutler, depicting an autobiographical journey. 301 Chicon St., Unit F, 415/254-5222.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER: FELIKS TOPOLSKI In 1959, the center commissioned this Polish-born British artist to create 20 portraits of the 20th century's greatest living British authors, including W.H. Auden, T.S. Eliot, Graham Greene, and Edith Sitwell. This is the first time Topolski's complete

“Testsite 06.5: I Want to See My Skirt”

Testsite, through Dec. 14

There is art, and then there is Art. While art can hang on our walls and match our sofas, Art redefines the space it is in and questions its relationship to its viewers and its surroundings. While art can be colorful or black-and-white, three-dimensional or paper-bound, Art operates to rethink the medium itself. With all this in mind, “Testsite 06.5: I Want to See My Skirt” is decidedly Art with a capital “A.” Its work in film, poetry, and bean-bag sculpture is beautiful in itself, but it exists primarily as a form of questioning that revitalizes lives, not just rooms, and makes us into people ready to rethink, revisit, and reinvent, as well.

For Testsite’s current and characteristic collaborative pairing of writer and artist, filmmaker Cauleen Smith began with two black-and-white photographs taken by Malick Sidibé (Mali, 1935-), best-known for his images capturing popular culture in the the Niger Valley during the 1960s. From Sidibé’s image of a little girl, topless yet beaming in her apparently new gathered skirt and

large hoop earrings, “I Want to See My Skirt” takes both its impetus and its name. Drawing from these images, poet A. Van Jordan has written a group of short texts that serves as the literary foundations for this collaboration. In Jordan’s able wording, the young girl of Sidibé’s photograph grows into a young woman, whose life, culture, and attitude were visible, if nascent, on the day she asked a photographer to “please, help me see my skirt.” And in Smith’s breathtakingly rich filmic imagination, this girl and her journey into womanhood trace the impact of that skirt and its significations across continents, across growth stages, across generations.

For anyone who is lucky enough to arrive at Testsite’s space at night, both the beauty and provocative questioning of “I Want to See My Skirt” begins before the opening of the gallery door. In shadows on the grass outside, one of Cauleen’s most stunning film contributions reflects off the gallery windows and echoes its images on host Laurence Miller’s lawn. While this crossing of interior and exterior boundaries is simple, its beauty and significance are a preview to the work within: where bean bags shaped as the oceans dividing Europe, Africa, and North America stack into a sensuous, spirited fabric heap and where Smith’s richly colored films and Jordan’s descriptive poetry set up a world that is both vintage and modern, that is both placed and placeless, that is both beauty and questioning. As the work of these collaborators illustrates the flow of pop cultures in



music, fashion, and ideas among the United States, Europe, and Africa, it also illustrates the thin line of cohesion between objects and identities, between skirts and self-understanding, and between a tailor and a generation of the early globalized and the soon-to-be multicultural. Through the eyes of Sidibé’s camera, Smith’s cinematography, and Van Jordan’s poetry, we see not only a pretty little girl on the verge of womanhood but the way we see ourselves and how those visions influence who we will become.

– Nikki Moore

set of paintings have been presented together. *Through Dec. 31. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC.*

MASS GALLERY: HOUSE PAINTING An immersive painting installation by Erin Curtis upends the familiar confines of the home with disturbing and alluring views into an anonymous suburban house. *Through Dec. 9. 916 Springdale Rd. www.massgallery.org.*

MITCHELL’S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA The ongoing exhibition in this intimate, quirky gallery is a perfect example of the more charming and enjoyable side of Austin’s weirdness. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.*

OKAY MOUNTAIN: STAFF INFECTION Features the work of the gallery’s eight partners and founders: Sterling Allen, Tim Brown, Peat Duggins, Justin Goldwater, Nathan Green, Ryan Hennessee, Josh Rios, and Michael Sieben. *Through Dec. 9. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B. www.okaymountain.com.*

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961. www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.*

STUDIO 107: HOLIDAY PUNCH 3 highlights emerging artists that continue to push the possibilities of beauty and design. *Through Jan. 1. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092. www.studio107.com.*

TESTSITE: I WANT TO SEE MY SKIRT Cauleen Smith and A. Van Jordan’s collaboration, featuring both film and poetry, takes its title and inspiration from the photographs of Mali’s Malick Sidibé. *Through Dec. 14. 502 W. 33rd. www.fluentcollab.org/testsite.*

THE DONKEY SHOW: BUSTER GRAYBILL Blending the aesthetic languages of Marfa minimalism with the twangy drawl of rural East Texas, Buster Graybill draws upon the diverse and often conflicting vernaculars that define our state’s visual culture. *Through Dec. 10. 1706 Poquito, 740-2824. www.thedonkeyshow.org.*

SERIE PROJECT continues its mission to promote Latino culture. *Through Dec. 31. West Mall Building 5.102, UT Campus, 471-4557. www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: DEGREES OF SEPARATION, solo exhibition by Heather Johnson. Using a variety of media, from shredded maps to transferred text to embroidery, Johnson’s work draws attention to the world within our world that often gets overlooked. *Through Dec. 23. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

SPACES

GUTTERKITTY SUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT a group show of figurative paintings done by some of Austin’s best painters. *102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.*

FAIRHURST GALLERY Features paintings by Ava Sharifian, woodcrafts by Coleman Kelly, and jewelry by Sasha Murphy. *5453 Burnet Rd., 323-0650.*

TEXAS FOLKLIFE: TEXAS ZYDECO Twenty-one black-and-white digital prints by photographer James Fraher, from his new UT Press book with author Roger Wood. *Through Dec. 22. 1317 S. Congress. www.texasfolklife.org.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CITY HALL: PEOPLE’S GALLERY CALL FOR WORKS The Cultural Arts Division is now seeking 2-D and 3-D, installation, and digitally created artwork by regional visual artists for the 2007 Austin City Hall Exhibition. The exhibition will be installed in February and will remain on display for one year. Applications available online as of Dec. 1. Deadline: *Jan. 5, 2007. www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/apply.*

ART PAD STUDIO: CLASSES THAT ROCK Photography, Fabric Improv, Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain, Mosaics, Pop Art Bags, and more! Call now to register for classes through December. *1403 W. 47th, 323-0802. www.artpadstudio.com.*

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

LIZ CARPENTER knows D.C., and she knows the funniest stories ever about our presidents. Tonight she dishes and signs her *Presidential Humor*. *Wed., Dec. 6, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

KINKY FRIEDMAN leaves the politickin’ behind to present his kosher-as-a-cloven-mofo book, *Christmas Pig*. *Wed., Dec. 6, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

RACHEL GUNNER walks *Beyond These Walls: The True Story of a Lost Child’s Journey to a Whole Life*. Co-authored by Hanna Gabriele, a woman with 26 personalities. *Thu., Nov. 30, 7pm. Your Living Room, 220 S. Congress, 320-9909. Wed., Dec. 6, 4:30pm. Follett’s Intellectual Property Bookstore, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007.*

THE UTTER READING SERIES *Tue., Dec. 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

XENOGA SPOKEN WORD COLLECTIVE in partnership with Uprise Productions and the Vortex presents a youth series featuring members of the Changing Lives Theater Company, a teen theatre company created from a partnership with SafePlace and Theater Action Project. Conscious lyrics, innovative verse, and pure undulated truth. Still hosted by Zell Miller III. *Mon., Dec. 4, 6:45-9pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 423-9614. \$3 (\$1, readers). www.vortexrep.org.*

FEARLESS CRITIC RESTAURANT GUIDE debuts, with food from Cafe Josie. Take a bite. *Sun., Dec. 3, 2pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ALTERNATIVE RADIO Arundhati Roy, author of the Booker Prize-winning novel *The God of Small Things*, and Eduardo Galeano, author of the recent book *Voices of Time: A Life in Stories*, talk about writers and resistance. David Barsamian hosts. *Fri., Dec. 1, 2pm. 91.7 KOOP-FM. www.koop.org.*

THE TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR is presented with editors Scott Wiggerman and David Meischen and other fine poets featured in this year’s block of dates. *Sat., Dec. 2, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

PEOPLE UNITED features Owen Egerton, author of *Marshall Hollenzer Is Driving*, and Rachel Portnoy of the Ashera Project, the teen-pregnancy prevention program at Reagan High School, discussing the humor inherent in unwanted pregnancy and Ashera’s benefit (*Fri., Dec. 1, 6pm; Ruta Maya*), where Egerton’s boy band, Cedar Fever, will be performing. Allan Campbell hosts, with a weekly commentary from Rahul Mahajan. *Fri., Dec. 1, 1pm. 91.7 KOOP-FM. www.koop.org.*

ANA-MAURINE LARA The AfroDominican-American writer presents her *Erzulie’s Skirt*. Lara is a Harvard grad whose poetry and short fiction has appeared in *Tongues Magazine*, *Blithe House Quarterly*, and elsewhere. Definitely recommended. *Fri., Dec. 1, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

THE RIO REVIEW The literary journal written and edited by ACC students celebrates its fall issue with a party and reading. *Thu., Nov. 30, 6:30pm. Austin Community College Gallery Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3245.*

★ **LES MCGEEHEE** improvises his way into your heart with his *Les McGehee Plays Well With Others, A Grown-Up Handbook of Improvisation and Play*. In an amazingly straightforward style, he gives the lowdown on how to be in the moment and improve your life, love, and business while having fun doing it. *Thu., Nov. 30, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

JOE NICK PATOSKI AND PHOTOGRAPHER LAURENCE PARENT flash the scene again with another signing of *Big Bend National Park*. *Thu., Nov. 30, 4pm. Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, 471-1604. www.texasmemorialmuseum.org.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

POETRY IN THE ARTS features poets Carlyn Reding and Dr. Andre de Korvin at its Christmas Party. *Sat, Dec. 2, 2pm. The home of Barbara Johanson, 1101-B Gaston, 469-7616.*

WELL-READ WOMEN peek in on *George and Martha* by Karen Finley. *Mon., Dec. 4, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

OPEN MICS

SASHA’S RUSSIAN MARKET with your hosts Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. *Tuesdays, 7-9pm. 7817 Rockwood. 459-1449.*

NEO-SOUL is a certified slam venue. *Wednesdays. Antonio’s Tex-Mex Cafe & Cantina, 522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070. \$6. www.antonioستextmex.com.*

EXPRESSIONS FIRST SATURDAYS features Wassail with Deb Akers, Herman Nelson, Kathleen Romana, JohnniZanni, John Berry, Howie Richie, Darrel Myers, Chris Van Loan, Phillip Abbott, and more, including Miniature Mundi! Hosted by Bob Hutchcroft. Admission is cans of food for the Poets Pantry and plate of food for the pot luck at interval. *Sat., Dec. 2, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.*

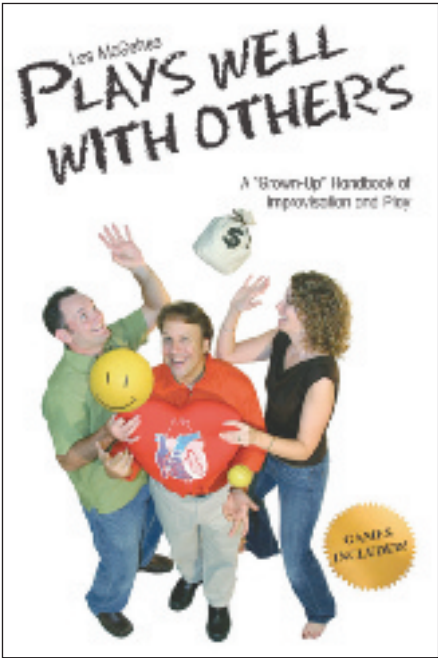
CAFFEINATED POETRY is open to musicians and poets. Hosted by Thom the World Poet. *Every Wednesday, except the first Wednesday when they all go to Vinny’s, 7-9pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. Plus the 112!3!4! Slam is joining them starting this week. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic precedes the main event. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego’s, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.*

MONDAY NIGHT POETRY is hosted by Justin Parker. *Mondays, 8-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

HIDEOUT MIC is an Open Universe event with your newest host, Marty Lloyd. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.thehideout.org.*

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets



Pantry. Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

RUTA MAYA is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Somebody great is featured next. Hosted by Aaron and maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. \$5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets). poetryat@yahoo.com.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Next featured poet is Miss Cleo. Hosted by Kathleen Romana. Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! 3 seed bearing stems black roots loosely clinging the north spins away into winter fields she tells me the red berries fall first & then the blue then the black the piano drowns in dust cracked window panes thin blue white skin a watery face wrap the cloth with twine tightly lonely she sails north grieving summer fire - the round kiln emptied Namaste. Vaya con dios.

RED SALMON ARTS BENEFIT NIGHT! Do your holiday shopping and support the nonprofit cultral arts group Red Salmon Arts (RSA) at the same time! Ten Thousand Villages will donate a percentage of their proceeds from the night's sales to RSA - and it's all Fair Trade! Thu., Nov. 30, 5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440. www.tenthousandvillages.com.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

the money flows like oil in a pipeline across continents into the tanks of hatred purified in the refinery of religion pumped into the vessels of youth who ship it back to us in a suicide manifest

- glosso, "oil money"

upcoming events:

- dec 2 backpack campout
- 3 capture the flag
- 5 mexican bingo
- 10 wild cave tour

"Best outdoor events."
- The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll



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BROWN SANTA 5K Run/Walk and Kids K

Presented by
The Travis County Wellness Committee
in association with the **Austin Runner's Club**

Sunday, December 3, 2006

Travis County Expo Center

5K: 8:15 a.m.

Kids K: 10:00 a.m.

Vendor and Wellness Expo 7:30 a.m. until Noon

Come out and see Santa Claus!

Regular Registration: \$18 - Chip Timed; \$15 - Fun Run (postmarked by November 25)

Late Registration: \$20 - Chip Timed; \$18 Fun Run (November 30 through Race Day)

Kids K: \$10

Registration available online at www.runtex.com/events

Registration forms available at all Run/Tex locations.

For information about Brown Santa, visit www.brownsanta.org or call 512-24-SANTA

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F*ck

D: Steve Anderson. (NR, 90 min.)

Like the very word on which this documentary sheds light, *F*ck* is all over the place – sometimes a verb, sometimes a noun, adjective, or expletive; a word with fascinating ramifications in the realms of history, culture, politics, religion, and linguistics. Anderson's documentary attempts to marshal the far-flung uses, abuses, excuses, and muses of this loaded word, and present his findings for our edification. Some viewers are bound to find his film a means to cheap exploitation, titillation, or gratuitous smut. Be advised, this film is not for those who are

offended by the word “fuck”: This profanity is uttered more than 800 times throughout the course of the film. However, everyone else is likely to take away some revelatory nuggets of historical information, cultural perspective, and political ammunition. Commentators as varied as Hunter S. Thompson, Miss Manners, Steven Bochco, Sam Donaldson, Bill Maher, Alan Keyes, Kevin Smith, Pat Boone, Ice-T, Alanis Morissette, various linguistics scholars, and many more, weigh in with their thoughts on the subject. Some, obviously, are more enlightening or entertaining than others. Deft editing frequently creates the illusion that one speaker is responding to the comments of another – as when it appears as though Judith Martin (Miss Manners) has taken off her microphone and walked off in response to something said by porn star Ron Jeremy. The “profaners” definitely outnumber the “prudes,” who nevertheless maintain a good-natured attitude toward the film. Animated sequences by Bill Plympton also help keep the presentation lively, as does footage of the patron saints of profanity's freedom of expression: Lenny Bruce and George Carlin. *F*ck* divides its survey into sections which examine the word's impact in various segments of our culture. The organization ebbs and flows in its content and focus, and viewer interest is likely to



wax and wane in response. Anderson's sections on politics and movies are the strongest. He shows the distance our culture has traveled from the first use of the word in a Hollywood studio film in 1970 in *MASH* to its use 182 times in *Scarface* just 13 years later. By 2001, Kevin Smith can brag of using the word 228 times in *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, while HBO's *Deadwood* can count 861 mentions in its first season. *F*ck* works best when it directs its focus to the hypocrisies engendered by the word: the prevalence of near-smut titles such as *Meet the Fockers* and Fuddruckers restaurant chain, and the inconsistencies of the Federal Communication Commission rulings and its former chief Michael Powell. *F*ck* manages to strip some of the mystique from the forbidden word, and in the end, despite some road bumps, is a satisfying f*lm. (Plays Monday-Wednesday only.) – Marjorie Baumgarten ★★☆☆ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

New Reviews

DECK THE HALLS

D: John Whitesell; with Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, Kristin Chenoweth, Alia Shawkat, Dylan Blue, Sabrina Aldridge, Kelly Aldridge, Jorge Garcia, Fred Armisen. (PG, 95 min.)

What's interesting about typical Hollywood Christmas movies is that regardless of how crass, vulgar, or mean-spirited they may be, by the last scene they will inevitably try to wrap viewers in a blanket of warm seasonal cheer. There isn't a man alive, these movies argue, “be he ne'er so vile,” whose condition wouldn't be gentled by a little Christmas spirit. *Deck the Halls* is as crass, vulgar, and mean-spirited as Christmas movies come, but the last thing its protagonists have to worry about is a lack of enthusiasm; on the contrary, their sins are the result of overabundance. When boorish used-car salesman Buddy Hall (DeVito) moves in across the street from mild-mannered optometrist Steve Finch (Broderick), he's unaware that his new neighbor is the local “Christmas guy,” a man who prides himself on being in charge of the town's winter carnival, wearing reindeer sweaters, and growing his own fir trees, etc. In fact, Finch is so consumed

with the idea of creating the “perfect” Christmas for his family, he's blind to the fact that his obsession is driving them to bitterness. Meanwhile, Hall, who's suffering through an epic midlife crisis, comes across a Web site where one can view satellite images of one's own house – provided the house is big enough, of course, which Hall's isn't. In this omission Hall sees a cruel metaphor for his entire meaningless little life, and he decides right then and there that he's going to create a Christmas light display on his property of such garish magnitude that it will be visible from outer space, thereby granting him some small recognition from the world and filling the lingering hole in his heart. And so begins a Yuletide battle of pranks, tricks, and assaults on property and person that leaves both men broken, humbled, and alone on Christmas Eve – a time, commercials tell us, when every man should be with the ones he loves. Luckily for Finch and Hall, it's also the time in every Christmas movie when salvation swoops in on its golden sleigh, accompanied by carols, candles, and fresh snowfall. *Deck the Halls* jumps clamorously from scene to painful scene without any concern for plot development or consistency, and with the single aim of scoring only the

basest comedic points. Why, for example, if Hall is only interested in his house being seen from space, would he concern himself with a live manger scene? Surely the satellites on MyEarth can't pick up a baby in swaddling cloths, not even if that baby is the light of the world. The answer can only be that it provides director Whitesell an opportunity to cover Broderick in sheep feces and camel spit later in the movie. And what could be more Christmas-y than that? – Josh Rosenblatt ★☆☆ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DREAMLAND

D: Jason Matzner; with Agnes Bruckner, Kelli Garner, John Corbett, Justin Long, Gina Gershon, Chris Mulkey. (PG-13, 98 min.)

It's got a good creative pedigree and confident execution – as well as nifty design, down to its Hammond-organ Photek soundtrack and desert chic – but this ensemble piece set in a rural mobile-home park steps off the trail into melodrama from time to time. First-time director Matzner's assured visuals (shot by Jonathan Sela, videographer to J. Lo and La Lohan) create a shimmering, miragelike atmosphere of Big Sky, convenience stores, and cracked-leatherette shotgun seats – a refuge for broken-down people in the sun. Audrey (Bruckner) is a recent high school graduate living with her father (Corbett, who seems young for the part but is excellent), an agoraphobic widower who won't leave the park. Audrey's best friend (Garner), who has recently renamed herself Calista, has been arrested in girlhood by a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis; she fantasizes about being Miss America and flounces around in a tiara and ball gown. Enter Mookie (Long), a college ballplayer with a blown-out knee and a retired rock & roll mom (Gershon, who ups the quirk as *Twin Peaks* bad guy Mulkey accompanies her on pedal steel). As they move in like the Joads, Calista sees Mookie first. But Audrey loves him, too, despite the ready attentions of a convenience-store beatnik (the fine Brian Klugman). The script (by Tom Willet, of *The Cassidy Kids*) is bigger-than-life at times – dangerous bees, boyfriend ex machina, voiced-over poetry, and a ball-gown Vespa accident to rival that of *Wild Things 2* – and it's probably meant more winkingly than Matzner renders it. Though its mood swings are too forcibly dramatic, the film's emotional center is also very solid, with thoughtful meditation on Audrey's role as community enabler. The performances are all fine, with Bruckner and Corbett the standouts as a parent and child with roles reversed after a death in the family. Bruckner has a starlet quality – she used to be on *The Bold and the Beautiful* – but she's also very ordinary and authentically teenage, like Claire Danes as Angela Chase. Plain and conventional from some directions, and pretty from others – kind of like the movie itself. – Marrit Ingman ★★☆☆ Dobie



HEADING SOUTH

D: Laurent Cantet; with Charlotte Rampling, Karen Young, Ménothy Cesar, Louise Portal, Lys Ambroise, Jackson Pierre Olmo Diaz.

(NR, 105 min., subtitled)

I definitely have the wrong travel agent. In *Heading South*, which is set in the late Seventies in Haiti, North American women of a certain age are sex tourists at the seaside resorts, where strapping young rent-boys are a tacit part of the summer package. French filmmaker Cantet – whose previous films *Time Out* and *Human Resources* revealed to U.S. audiences the director's proclivity toward issues of class and money – uses this setup to coax out the comparisons, contradictions, and mutual exploitations between black and white, rich and poor, power, reality, and delusions. It's a wonderful story, and one I can't recall having been told in just this way ... and that's why it hurts that this isn't an even better movie, one that perfectly nails (rather than dances around) its subject matter and invents characters capable of expressive depths. *Heading South* is provocative and prodding, but apart from its queen bee Ellen (the marvelous Rampling), the characters are representational types instead of fleshed-out human beings. Furthermore, when a little bit of dramatic suspense is introduced midway through the story, it seems both too little and too much. Monologues about themselves that the central female characters deliver directly to the camera also seem to convey an embarrassing excess or aimless little. Still, there's the glorious Rampling, whose sharp tongue and unleashed libido make her the planet around which all the others revolve. These women from the United States and Canada vacation in their island paradise completely oblivious to the rampantly murderous regime of Haiti's strongman Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier (which would be overthrown in just a few more years). We also see bits of indigenous perspective from the viewpoint of hotel concierge Albert (Ambroise), who is the son of Haitians who fought the American invasion in 1915 but now resents his tourist guests for coming armed with weapons more dangerous than the guns of the previous invaders: These tourists come with dollars. Of Legba (Cesar), the obvious favorite among the women's lovers, we learn very little, even though the story's dramatic crisis concerns his welfare. Though Ellen and newcomer Brenda (Young), who is returning to the resort she once visited with her ex-husband, would be reluctant to admit it, each harbors unvented illusions about her importance in Legba's emotional life. *Heading South* opens up a fascinating world of complexities, some of which are there on the screen although others open up only once the horizon line moves past the screen's edge. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor

Openings

Dreamland (PG-13)

*F*ck* (NR)

Heading South (NR)

National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj (R)

The Nativity Story (PG)

Turistas (R)

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF TAJ

D: Mort Nathan; with Kal Penn. (R, 95 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Van Wilder's former assistant, Taj (Penn), travels to England to continue his education, where he becomes involved with a whole new set of party guys and gals. – Marjorie Baumgarten
AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE NATIVITY STORY

D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Keisha Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac, Giarán Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Hiam Abbass, Shaun Toub. (PG, 101 min.)

Hollywood does love an epic. Try this on for size: A teenage girl learns she's giving birth to the son of God; a king so fears the coming of God incarnate that he orders the slaughter of newborn babies; and a trio of astrologers travels more than 1,000 miles to see the realization of centuries-old prophecies. Yes, it's the story of the birth of Jesus. And religious affiliations aside, the setup has potential for some badass epic filmmaking. Sadly, the tale is presented with a yawn-inducing neutrality more reminiscent of a community-center Christmas pageant than an epic story of divine humanity. Best known as a director of troubled-teen movies, Hardwicke (*Thirteen*, *Lords of Dogtown*) paints her picture from the perspective of young Mary

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Dreamland

Fri: (4:30) 7:00, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:30, 4:30) 7:00, 9:50;
Mon-Thur: 7:00, 9:50

SHUT UP & SING

Fri: (4:10) 7:20, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:10) 7:20, 9:30;
Mon-Thur: 7:20, 9:30

BABEL

Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:40; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:40;
Mon-Thur: 6:50, 9:40

BORAT

CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

Fri: (4:20) 7:10, 10:00; Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:10, 10:00;
Mon-Thur: 7:10, 10:00

SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, DEC. 1 – THURS, DEC. 7

Bargain Showtimes in ()

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BRIBING THE GRIM REAPER? SO WHAT
WOULD MR. INGMAR BERGMAN HAVE TO SAY?

FOCUS FEATURES PRESENTS
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No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission. Rated PG.



Opens Nationwide Friday, December 15

austinchronicle.com/contests

Pack a full week of **Chronicle** Film Listings
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austinchronicle.com/ipod

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. Seating begins one-half hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.

American YouthWorks Student Film Festival: Sat, 3:00pm
Before the Music Dies: Fri, 4:00pm; Sun, 4:00pm
The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along: Thu (12/7), 7:00pm
Terror Thursday: Devil's Fetus: Thu (12/7), 12mid
F'ck: Mon, 7:00pm; Tue, 9:45pm; Wed, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: The Losers: Wed, 12mid
AFS: Millennium Actress: Tue, 7:00pm
Open Screen Night: Long Form Edition: Thu (12/7), 9:45pm
Repo Man: Fri, 12mid
Secret Fishgirl Sing-Along: Sun, 7:00, 9:45
Music Monday: Sound Unbound Vol. 2: Modern American Composers: Mon, 9:45pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5: Wed, 9:45pm
Sinus Show: A Very Brady Christmas: Fri-Sat, 7:00, 9:45

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK
13729 Research, 219-8135.
Borat: 12:45, 3:40, 7:30, 10:45
***Déjà Vu:** 12:25, 3:45, 7:25, 10:10
The Departed: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 7:00, 10:30; Tue-Thu (12/7), 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm
The Fountain: 12:40, 3:35, 7:35, 10:15
Stranger Than Fiction: 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:35
***Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny:** 12:10, 3:00, 7:05, 10:00
***Turistas:** 12:15, 3:10, 7:10, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.
Babel: Fri-Sat, 3:35, 7:10, 10:20; Sun, 12:00, 3:35, 7:10, 10:20; Mon, 3:35, 10:20; Tue, 12:00, 3:35, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/7), 3:35, 7:10, 10:20
Borat: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20; Mon, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20; Tue, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20; Wed-Thu (12/7), 4:30, 7:05, 9:20
Casino Royale: Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:25, 7:00, 10:15; Mon, 3:25, 7:00, 10:15; Tue, 12:05, 3:25, 7:00, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/7), 3:25, 7:00, 10:15
***Déjà Vu:** Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:40, 7:30, 10:30; Mon, 3:40, 7:30, 10:30; Tue, 12:45, 3:40, 7:30, 10:30; Wed-Thu (12/7), 3:40, 7:30, 10:30
***For Your Consideration:** Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55; Mon, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55; Tue, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55; Wed, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55; Thu (12/7), 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00; Mon, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/7), 4:00, 7:20, 10:00

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old. AFS events are all ages.
TV Party: Battlestar Galactica: Fri, 12mid
Coen Bros. Retrospective: The Big Lebowski: Fri-Sat, 9:45pm
Borat: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Mon, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Tue, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/7), 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
Casino Royale: Fri, 12:00, 3:25, 7:00, 7:05, 10:15, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:25, 3:30, 7:00, 7:05, 10:15; Mon, 3:25, 3:30, 7:00, 7:05, 10:15; Tue, 12:00, 3:25, 7:00, 7:05, 10:15; Wed, 3:25, 7:00, 10:15; Thu (12/7), 3:25, 3:30, 7:00, 7:05, 10:15
Fast Food Nation: Fri, 12:05, 3:30; Sat, 12:30, 10:20; Sun, 12:10, 10:20; Mon, 3:30, 10:20; Tue, 12:10, 3:30, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/7), 3:30, 10:20
TV Party: The Gilmore Girls and Veronica Mars: Tue, 7:30pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny: Fri-Sat, 4:10, 4:10, 7:30; Sun, 1:30, 4:10, 7:30, 9:55; Mon, 1:30, 7:30, 9:55; Tue, 1:30, 4:10, 7:30, 9:55; Wed-Thu (12/7), 4:10, 7:30, 9:55

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Babel: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Bobby: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
The Departed: 2:50, 9:45
For Your Consideration: 12:20, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:00
Heading South: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15
The Prestige: 11:50am, 6:50pm
The Queen: 11:40am, 12:45, 2:20, 3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:20, 10:10pm
Shut Up and Sing: 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) Highway 360 and Walsh Tartton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm.
Babel: 6:30, 9:40
Bobby: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
Borat: Fri, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:25, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:25, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:25, 9:55
Déjà Vu: Fri, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/7), 3:40, 6:50, 9:50
Flushed Away: Fri, 1:45, 4:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:45, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:45, 4:00
Happy Feet: Fri, 1:30, 2:00, 4:10, 3:30, 7:05, 14:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:05, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon, 1:30, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:45, 10:20; Tue-Thu (12/7), 1:30, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:05, 7:45, 10:20
The Nativity Story: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
The Queen: Fri, 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; Sat, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:20, 10:00pm; Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
Turistas: Fri, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm.
Casino Royale: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 11:05, 12:05, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:15, 5:15, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:30, 10:15pm; Sun, 11:05am, 12:05, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:15, 5:15, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:30, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
***Deck the Halls:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 11:15, 12:20, 1:30, 2:35, 3:45, 4:50, 6:05, 7:05, 8:15, 9:20, 10:30pm; Sun, 10:00am, 11:15, 12:20, 1:30, 2:35, 3:45, 4:50, 6:05, 7:05, 8:15, 9:20, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
The Departed: Fri, 10:50am, 2:05, 5:20, 8:30pm; Sat, 1:00, 4:05; Sun, 2:05, 5:20, 8:30; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
Fast Food Nation: Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50pm; Sun, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
***For Your Consideration:** Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55pm; Sun, 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
***The Fountain:** Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20pm; Sun, 10:30am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
A Good Year: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05pm; Sun, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
Marie Antoinette: Fri-Sat, 10:55am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
***National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:35, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35, 10:55pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:35; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50pm; Sun, 10:15am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes
***Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/7), call for showtimes

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 1-800-PANDANGO.
***Bobby:** 6:35, 9:15
Borat: Fri, 12:10, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:10, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25
Casino Royale: Fri, 3:15, 3:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 12:15, 3:15, 3:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/7), 3:15, 3:30, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20
***Deck the Halls:** Fri, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
***Déjà Vu:** Fri, 1:10, 4:30, 7:40, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:10, 4:30, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:10, 4:30, 7:40, 10:35

Facing the Giants: Fri, 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20
Flushed Away: Fri, 1:20, 4:00; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:20, 4:00
The Fountain: 1:35, 7:05
Happy Feet: Fri, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10
***National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj:** Fri, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:30
The Nativity Story: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:50, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 10:35am, 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55
***Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny:** Fri, 4:40, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 4:40, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 4:40, 9:40

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Babel: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/7), 6:50, 9:40
Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan: Fri, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/7), 7:10, 10:00
Dreamland: Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/7), 7:00, 9:50
Shut Up and Sing: Fri, 4:10, 7:20, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/7), 7:20, 9:30

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Fri. & Sat after 7pm without an adult.
Borat: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/7), 11:45am, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45pm
Casino Royale (in DLP digital): 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
Deck the Halls: Fri-Sat, 12:20, 2:25, 4:25, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15; Sun-Thu (12/7), 12:20, 2:25, 4:25, 7:05, 9:10
***Déjà Vu (in DLP digital):** 11:35am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm
Flushed Away: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 1:40, 3:35, 5:25, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/7), 11:45am, 1:40, 3:35, 5:25, 7:15, 9:15pm
Happy Feet (in DLP digital): 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55pm; Sun-Thu (12/7), 11:40am, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55pm
***The Nativity Story:** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30; Sun-Thu (12/7), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (in DLP digital): Fri-Sat, 9:30, 11:15; Sun-Thu (12/7), 9:30pm
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: 11:40am, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30pm
***Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny:** Fri-Sat, 12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35, 11:35; Sun-Thu (12/7), 12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.
Borat: Fri, 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:45; Sat, 12:40, 5:25, 7:40, 10:45; Sun, 3:00, 5:25, 7:40; Mon, 3:00, 5:25, 10:45; Tue-Thu (12/7), 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:45
Borat (open captioned): Fri, 12:40pm; Sat, 3:00pm; Sun, 12:40, 10:45; Mon, 12:40, 7:40
Casino Royale: 11:55am, 12:25, 12:55, 3:05, 3:45, 4:30, 6:40, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:25pm
Deck the Halls: 12:10, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
Déjà Vu: 12:15, 12:45, 3:20, 3:50, 6:55, 7:25, 10:05, 10:35
The Fountain: 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
Happy Feet: Fri-Mon, 11:50am, 12:20, 2:15, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20pm; Tue, 11:50am, 12:20, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20pm; Wed, 12:20, 2:15, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:45, 10:20; Thu (12/7), 11:50am, 12:20, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 10:20pm
Happy Feet (open captioned): Tue, 2:15, 9:45; Wed, 7:15pm, 11:50am; Thu (12/7), 2:15, 9:45
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:55
The Nativity Story: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 12:35, 3:10, 6:45, 9:30; Sat, 12:35, 3:10, 10:00; Sun-Thu (12/7), 12:35, 3:10, 6:45, 9:30
Tenacious D In The Pick of Destiny: 12:05, 2:50, 5:10, 7:55, 10:15
Turistas: 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:35, 10:40

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.
Deep Sea 3D: 1:00, 6:00
Happy Feet: **The IMAX Experience:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00; Mon-Thu (12/7), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am; Mon-Thu (12/7), 10:00am

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Bobby: 7:00, 9:45
Casino Royale: 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:30, 10:05
Deck the Halls: 11:40am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50pm
Flushed Away: 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm
Happy Feet: 11:30am, 12:20, 12:50, 2:10, 3:00, 3:50, 4:50, 6:40, 7:40, 10:15pm
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
The Nativity Story: 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.
Babel: 7:05, 10:25
Bobby: 12:40, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
Borat: 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 8:05, 10:35
Déjà Vu: 12:10, 1:10, 3:20, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:30
Flushed Away: 12:30, 2:50, 5:10
For Your Consideration: 7:25, 10:00
Happy Feet: 12:20, 1:15, 2:00, 3:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:10, 7:50, 10:05, 10:40
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
The Nativity Story: 11:55am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:05, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:15pm
The Queen: 12:35, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 12:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat, 12:45, 4:05, 10:20; Sun-Thu (12/7), 12:45, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
Turistas: 12:25, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.
How to Eat Fried Worms: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:15, 4:30pm; Wed-Thu (12/7), 10:30am, 1:15pm
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Fri-Sat, 2:00, 6:15, 8:45; Wed-Thu (12/7), 4:15pm

ROUND ROCK 8 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
The Ant Bully: Fri, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20; Sat, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20pm; Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:10, 4:30, 6:50
Baywatch: The Original Party Animals: Fri, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; Sat, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
The Black Dahlia: Fri, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; Sat, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:15, 5:00, 7:45
Gridiron Gang: Fri-Sat, 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20; Sun-Thu (12/7), 1:50, 4:45, 7:35
The Grudge 2: Fri, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Sat, 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Sun, 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40; Mon-Thu (12/7), 2:40, 5:10, 7:40
The Guardian: Fri, 3:20, 7:00, 10:05; Sat, 12:20, 3:20, 7:00, 10:05; Sun, 12:20, 3:20, 7:00; Mon-Thu (12/7), 3:20, 7:00
The Illusionist: 2:00, 7:20
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Fri, 3:15, 6:40, 9:50; Sat, 12:00, 3:15, 6:40, 9:50; Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 6:40, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/7), 3:15, 6:40
School for Scoundrels: Fri, 4:40, 10:00; Sat, 11:40am, 4:40, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:40am, 4:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 4:40pm

TEXAS UNION THEATRE UT Campus, 476-6666. Cinematheque: **The Conformist:** Mon, 7:30pm

► **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.**

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 989-8540.
Babel: 6:35, 10:00
***Bobby:** Fri, 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:25
Borat: Fri, 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 9:30am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05
Casino Royale: Fri, 12:10, 3:05, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 9:55, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:10, 3:05, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 9:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/7), 12:10, 3:05, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 9:55, 10:25
***Deck the Halls:** Fri, 12:00, 1:00, 2:35, 3:35, 5:10, 7:40, 1



four yanquis led by level-headed siblings Alex and Bea (Duhamel and Wilde), two British lager louts (Askew and Brown), and Aussie Pru (George), the only one among them who speaks Portuguese. After a calamitous bus accident, the group discovers a beachfront paradise populated by many supermodel types and one ingratiating local named Kiko (Steib), who charmingly practices his ESL skills on them before leading them into the jungle, through an underwater cavern system, and into the iso-

lated bed-sitter of the aforementioned physician (very well played by Miguel Lunardi), where, as they say, the magic happens. *Turistas* is being tagged as a down-market version of Eli Roth's *Hostel*, but that's lazy criticism and obscures the fact that, if anything, this is the more compelling film, commingling as it does echoes of everything from Ruggero Deodato and Umberto Lenzi's ultrarealistic green hell horrors, the spelunking aspects of *The Descent*, and Marino Girolami's scalpel-happy *Cannibal Holocaust* aka *Doctor Butcher, M.D.* Very believably acted throughout and featuring a literally breathless underwater sequence of cat-and-mouse, *Turistas* is, surprising, given its lousy marketing campaign and thankless release date, a solidly visceral piece of work. Socialized health care never sounded so good.

— Marc Savlov
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm, Tuesday, December 5.

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SUN, DEC 3	THE SECRET FISHGIRL SING-ALONG •	7:00, 9:45
MON, DEC 4	FUCK: THE DOCUMENTARY MUSIC MONDAY: SOUND UNBOUND 2: Modern Composers	7:00 9:45
TUES, DEC 5	AFS ESSENTIAL: MILLENNIUM ACTRESS FUCK: THE DOCUMENTARY	7:00 9:45
WED, DEC 6	FUCK: THE DOCUMENTARY SUPER HAPPY FUN MONKEY BASH 5 WEIRD WEDS (FREE) THE LOSERS	7:00 9:45 MIDNIGHT
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★ BABEL

D: Alejandro González Iñárritu; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Rinko Kikuchi, Kôji Yakusho, Said Tarchani. (R, 142 min.)
The sheer volume of linguistic and societal back-spatter promises discontinuity that only ends in one of two ways: silence or babble. Working in one of the few media that resist geographic and cultural borders, Iñárritu and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga (*Amores Perros*, *21 Grams*) have woven together four disparate, interrelated stories amidst this overarching theme and in doing so have crafted an eloquent and electrifying depiction of mankind's increasingly fractured state, where small acts of kindness are freighted with unpredictable and often disastrous repercussions and desperate hours are never more than minutes away. Exquisitely crafted from its jarring musical score (by Argentinian composer Gustavo Santaolalla) to its famous faces (here scrubbed clean of the protective veneer of the West) and legions of unknown and nonprofessional actors (revelation upon revelation), *Babel* is an incendiary piece of cinematic ordnance, backlighting incipient chaos and the random yet infinitely complex nature of human events. Arriaga confounds expectations throughout. (11/10/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Dobie, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

BOBBY

D: Emilio Estevez; with Harry Belafonte, Nick Cannon, Estevez, Laurence Fishburne, Anthony Hopkins, Helen Hunt, Ashton Kutcher, Lindsay Lohan, William H. Macy, Demi Moore, Martin Sheen, Christian Slater, Sharon Stone, Elijah Wood, Freddy Rodríguez. (R, 120 min.)
The story of Bobby Kennedy would make one hell of an epic melodrama. But writer/director Estevez chooses to forgo biopic convention with *Bobby*, instead focusing on the lives of 22 other people who happened to be in the Ambassador the night of June 5, 1968, when Kennedy was assassinated – everyday people whose own private dramas are playing out in the shadow of impending historical tragedy. The movie isn't about Kennedy; rather, Kennedy is the sun around which all the other planets of the film revolve. And like some epic Louis B. Mayer picture from the Thirties, *Bobby* has a thousand stars in its galaxy, some of them great (Fishburne, Rodríguez), some of them not (Wood, Hunt), and one of them brilliant (Hopkins). Estevez has a surprisingly sure hand both as a writer and director, and he manages to broach the most pressing issues of the day – drugs, Vietnam, racism, poverty – with a subtle touch. (11/24/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN

D: Larry Charles; with Sacha Baron Cohen, Ken Davitian, Anthony Hines, Peter Baynham, Don Mazer. (R, 84 min.)
First unleashed on the world in a series of BBC comedic sketches on the Cambridge alumnus Cohen's *Da Ali G Show* and later picked up for domestic consumption by HBO, alleged Kazakh newsman Borat Sagdiyev is the ugly American (or Brit) from elsewhere: a clueless, gangly, mustachioed moron prone to anti-Semitic tirades so subversively over-the-top that the only serious reaction is giggles. This feature-length expansion of Cohen's deliciously ridiculous character is, on the face of it, a mockumentary. It follows the titular clod and his producer, Azamat (Davitian), from their backwater Kazakhstan hovels to America on an ostensible mission of discovery and cultural growth. Instead, what we witness are some of the most fearless acts of transgressive comedy in years. This is shockingly blunt comedy and shockingly funny, too. Cohen and Davitian are utterly fearless, poking fun not only at Americans but at the stereotype of the foreign Other, as well. (11/03/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ CASINO ROYALE

D: Martin Campbell; with Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Mads Mikkelsen, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini, Isaach De Bankolé, Caterina Murino. (PG-13, 144 min.)
This is the origin story wherein we get to discover, along with incoming blond Bond Craig, where 007 got his Walther PPK, his love of fast cars and suave daredeviltry, vodka martinis, and highest-stakes cardsharperry. The good news is Craig is mesmerizing; you can see Sean Connery in his future, and it looks just about spot-on. Craig carries *Casino Royale* with gutsy aplomb, and if his Bond carries more than a hint of streetwise rough trade, it only adds to the film's edgy, grim demeanor. Bond purists will rankle at this film's extended – but necessary for future character development – backstory, which until now is not a phrase I'd have used to describe 007. Unlike the other Bonds, this one feels pain, lots of it, and bleeds a lot of blood. Those who always hoped the series would morph into something approaching realism (if only cinematic) will find their wait justly rewarded. Craig, simply put, is Bond. (11/17/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DÉJÀ VU

D: Tony Scott; with Denzel Washington, Paula Patton, Val Kilmer, Jim Caviezel, Adam Goldberg, Bruce Greenwood, Elden Henson, Erika Alexander. (PG-13, 128 min.)
Déjà Vu links up time travel, explosive terrorist actions, and solid detective work with rapid-fire techno-jargon, dexterous visual displays, and the anchoring prowess of leading man Washington. If the science fiction in *Déjà Vu* has more to do with fiction than science, it's not as though the movie ever pauses long enough for that realization to fully take hold. This can be both a good and bad thing. The film's science has more in common with the kind seen on producer Jerry Bruckheimer's ever-popular, ever-metastasizing *CSI* TV programs. The first 10 or so minutes of the film are a taut, terrific bit of filmmaking, as is the film's climactic car chase, which occurs in both the past and the present. *Déjà Vu* has enough style and forward (or is it backward?) momentum to keep viewers aroused. It's only after you leave the theatre that your head starts to throb. (11/24/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ THE DEPARTED

D: Martin Scorsese; with Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, Ray Winstone, Martin Sheen, Vera Farmiga, Alec Baldwin. (R, 149 min.)
Watching this new film by Scorsese is tantamount to falling in love with the director all over again. Scorsese was (and now confirms he still is) the most red, white, and blue filmmaker since Frank Capra washed up on Ellis Island. Which makes it all the more interesting that *The Departed* is a remake of the 2002 Chinese film *Infernal*



A Very Brady Christmas

A Very Brady Christmas (1988) *D: Peter Baldwin; with Florence Henderson, Robert Reed, Ann B. Davis, Maureen McCormick, Eve Plumb, Jennifer Runyon, Barry Williams, Christopher Knight, Mike Lookinland.* (NR, 94 min.) **Sinus Show.** You can count on the Sinus boys to mock this 1988 TV movie in which the famous TV clan gather for a Christmas reunion. As a special treat, Barry Williams, aka Greg Brady, will appear live at the two shows on Saturday. For tickets see www.originalalamo.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Friday-Saturday, 7, 9:45.



Affairs. Working from William Monahan's deeply layered, immensely satisfying script, Scorsese's film expands on the (already excellent) original, moving the action from the director's home base to the not-dissimilar mean streets of Boston. This is a dream cast for both Scorsese and the viewer. Scorsese doesn't have much to say about the Irish mob, or how their immigrant experience echos that of their Italian counterparts in New York, but this isn't *Gangs of New York*, or even gangs of South Boston: It's Them vs. Us, with no I to speak of. (10/06/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

DHOOM 2

D: Sanjay Gadhvi; with Abhishek Bachchan, Uday Chopra, Hrithik Roshan, Aishwarya Rai, Bipasha Basu, Rimi Sen. (NR, 152 min., subtitled)
Not reviewed at press time. New Bollywood sequel pits a supercop against a high tech superthief, who meets his match in a thief of the opposite gender. (11/24/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

FACING THE GIANTS

D: Alex Kendrick, Stephen Kendrick; with Alex Kendrick, Shannen Fields, Tracy Goode, Bailey Cave, Jason McLeod, Steve Williams, James Blackwell. (PG, 111 min.)
Like a modern-day Job, Grant Taylor (Kendrick) – high school football coach, loyal husband, and all-around *shlemazl* – just can't seem to catch a break. His team is incapable of winning; he doesn't have the money to fix his car; and, to top things off, he's infertile. But, like they say, with God all things are possible, and once Taylor opens his heart to Jesus, all it takes is a little late-night Bible study, a few thoughtful walks through gauzy pastures, and a couple of well-placed prayers, and – presto! – he's got a winning football team, a brand-new truck, and sperm of incomparable potency. *Facing the Giants* makes no secret of its evangelical agenda – it was funded by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., and directed by two of the church's associate pastors – but its feel-good storyline, shopworn message, and bottomless sermonizing would have played better in Sunday school than on the big screen, which is – let's face it – Babylon's turf. (11/17/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★ Cinemark Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

FAST FOOD NATION

D: Richard Linklater; with Greg Kinnear, Bobby Cannavale, Patricia Arquette, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Ashley Johnson, Esai Morales, Lou Taylor Pucci, Ethan Hawke, Luis Guzmán, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, Wilmer Valderrama. (R, 116 min.)
Using Eric Schlosser's bestseller as its background, director Linklater and the author have fleshed out a multilayered narrative that rips the protective veil of high-dollar marketing campaigns from the fast-food industry and all of its attendant social ills: the undeniably horrific plight of the undocumented Mexican workers who daily ebb and flow across the border to work in one of the four major meat-packing plants in this country, the sexual harassment, the rampant methamphetamine use among workers desperate to keep up with the impossible pace of the mechanized inspection lines, and the daily loss of life and limb to the ominously grinding machinery of the meat industry. It's a real horror show on the so-called "kill floor," but what's most shocking about this film is how little it shocks. *Fast Food Nation's* characters come off as randomly generated ciphers whose only purpose is to illustrate the assorted societal and industrial dysfunctions of the fast-food biz. (11/17/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square

★ FLUSHED AWAY

D: David Bowers, Sam Fell; with Kate Winslet, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis, Bill Nighy, Shane Richie, Susan Duerden, Jean Reno. (PG, 86 min.)
Flushed Away, the new feature from Aardman Animations reveals in its British-ness. The film's hero, a domesticated rat named Roddy (Jackman), is the perfect comic embodiment of upper-class English propriety: effete, pampered, and exceedingly well-dressed. But when a rough-and-tumble cockney sewer rat named Sid (Richie) comes crashing into Roddy's posh, comfortable little world, our hero is sent kicking and screaming down the toilet bowl and into the harsh sewer world below, where rats, frogs, and slugs have re-created a tiny London beneath the real city's surface and where an ill-prepared and ill-equipped Roddy must quickly learn to fend for himself. *Flushed Away* has a wicked, smart, and subtle sense of humor, and unlike so many kids movies these days, its characters are living, breathing parts of a small ecosystem, rather than just caricatures created to spout out one-liners and sell Happy Meals. (11/03/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

D: Christopher Guest; with Bob Balaban, Guest, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Harry Shearer, Fred Willard, Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Coolidge. (PG-13, 86 min.)
The new comedy from Guest and his loyal troupe of improv actors is about a Hollywood movie production that's turned upside down when rumors surface that one of its cast members is maybe, possibly, being considered for an Academy Award nomination – which in turn engenders an ocean of theatrical self-satisfaction and painted modesty, disdain from jealous co-stars, and the delight of the army of publicists, agents, and studio heads. Soon, that tiny acorn of a rumor grows into a mighty oak of overblown publicity, and that's when *For Your Consideration* begins its descent into broad, mean-spirited satire. Unlike the best movies of this loose-knit group of comedians, *For Your Consideration* doesn't have even a drop of affection for its characters. Everyone in the film is a grotesque, a caricature formed almost entirely out of his or her basest, most unlikable qualities, and it makes for a remarkably unpleasant movie experience. (11/24/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan

THE FOUNTAIN

D: Darren Aronofsky; with Hugh Jackman, Rachel Weisz, Ellen Burstyn, Sean Patrick Thomas, Mark Margolis. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Like some epic figure of yore, writer/director Aronofsky has allowed his hubris to get the better of him. He has gathered a jumble of grade-school metaphysics, history, and myth and tossed them onto the screen with nary a hint of character, plot, or reason. "Death is the road to awe," is something the characters in each of the movie's three different time periods are fond of saying. But why then do the characters all search for the Tree of Life (or fountain)? His characters can't even be certain if it's life or death that they seek – and Aronofsky wants us to invest in their outcomes? Okay, so the movie doesn't make too much sense, and the characters are only shells, but at least (thanks to Aronofsky's regular director of photography Matthew Libatique) *The Fountain* is a stunner to look at, even if the narrative entryways into each of the three time periods can prove rough passage. (11/24/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

A GOOD YEAR

D: Ridley Scott; with Russell Crowe, Albert Finney, Marion Cotillard, Abbie Cornish, Didier Bourdon, Isabelle Candelier, Freddie Highmore. (PG-13, 118 min.)

It's difficult to reconcile this ode to livin' la vie en Provence with the director who made the bleak confections *The Duelists*, *Alien*, and *Blade Runner*. (None of these films, to my memory, featured such a languid pace, so much gustatory deliciousness, or Crowe in a sleeveless V-neck pullover with navy blue piping.) There's nary a trace of doom throughout. When Max Skinner (Crowe) – a louche, selfish, entirely unsympathetic trader of bonds, prone to duplicity – inherits a château in Provence, he flies to France to sell it for a quick million or 5. Once there, he ends up falling in love (with Cotillard's brilliantly named bistro owner, Fanny, and good God, man, what's not to love?) and coming to realize the error of his Western, pedestrian ways. As it stands, there are precious few surprises in *A Good Year* – its story, like its garden paths, is well-trod and familiar. (11/10/2006) – Marc Savlov

★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

HAPPY FEET

D: George Miller; with Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, Anthony LaPaglia. (PG, 108 min.)

Who knew that we'd turn out to be a nation hooked on penguins? *Happy Feet* treads material common to kids films and cartoons: A young animal stands out because of his inability to perform like the other animals, although he seemingly compensates for this defect by demonstrating a certain skill that sets him apart from the others, who ostracize him for his weirdness. Mumble, the young penguin, spontaneously tap-dances like, well, like Savion Glover (whose acclaimed footwork was filmed with motion-capture techniques and grafted onto the penguin's body). This film's prominent ecological themes steer clear of more complex questions but are refreshing nevertheless. The constant singing and dancing is charmingly presented, and the CGI re-creations are stunning. The chase sequences might prove a bit scary for some of the younger viewers, and the opening and closing sections of the film are a little bumpy. Still, you'll most probably find yourself raising your flippers in praise of these flightless fowl. (11/17/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HARSH TIMES

D: David Ayer; with Christian Bale, Freddy Rodríguez, Eva Longoria, Chaka Forman, J.K. Simmons, Tammy Trull, Michael Monks, Samantha Esteban. (R, 120 min.)

Ayer's latest screenplay and his directorial debut is a violent, phantasmagoric trip through the urban hellhole that L.A. likes to imagine it's become: It's *Training Day* without the possibility of redemption or the hope of a hero. Bale plays Jim Davis, a former Army Ranger who drifts back into a life of petty crime and degeneracy after getting rejected for a job with the LAPD. Like a sinister Don Quixote, Jim drives through the darkest parts of Los Angeles with his Sancho, Mike (Rodríguez), riding shotgun, getting into all kinds of trouble – drinking, drugging,

fighting, tormenting shop-owners, robbing drug dealers – and spiraling deeper and deeper into an abyss of moral vacancy and societal derangement. Ayer's writing outpaces his skills as a director, but *Harsh Times* wins in the end by keeping its fingers wrapped tightly around its viewers' throats. Bale plays Jim as a raw nerve, and Rodríguez is excellent as Mike. (11/17/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Tinseltown South

LET'S GO TO PRISON

D: Bob Odenkirk; with Dax Shepard, Will Arnett, Chi McBride, David Koechner, Michael Shannon, Dylan Baker. (R, 84 min.)

Co-written by Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon, and Michael Patrick Jann, who have a hand in Comedy Central's often brilliant cop comedy *Reno 911!*, *Let's Go to Prison* has the look and feel of a much shorter bit of sketchy shenanigans brought up to feature running time; it's not so much funny as sporadically amusing. For long stretches of time, however, it's just a flat-out bore, milking prison gags that were ancient when Alcatraz was new and never connecting with the audience's funnybone. Shepard's always been something of a comedy cipher (see *Zathura*), operating in either sleazy or puppy-dog mode with little middle ground, but here he's the best of a bad bunch. Arnett, with his generic looks, delivery, and spotty comedic timing, makes about as much of an impression as a moth hitting macadam, and McBride takes the wacky clichés of prison rape and does absolutely nothing with them. Consider this one disarmed and extremely pointless. (11/24/2006) – Marc Savlov

★ Tinseltown South

MARIE ANTOINETTE

D: Sofia Coppola; with Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Rip Torn, Judy Davis, Asia Argento, Marianne Faithfull, Danny Huston, Molly Shannon, Steve Coogan, Rose Byrne, Shirley Henderson. (PG-13, 123 min.)

"Dear God, guide us and protect us," whispers Louis XVI (Schwartzman) upon his coronation. "We are too young to reign." Thus does writer/director Coppola render the story of his bride, the famous Marie-Antoinette (Dunst), and her court as a sort of 18th-century teenage riot, replete with a shopping montage set to Bow Wow Wow. There's nothing terribly problematic about Coppola's anachronistic New Wave needle-dropping, which halts before the Bastille falls and the tumbrels start rolling, but for a simple excess of it. As motherhood transforms Marie-Antoinette into a more sympathetic figure, Dunst transforms as well – from a callow pleasure-hound to a grave and haunted woman. It's a fine performance, a true star turn. Don't fear the film's early reviews from Cannes, which too often slighted *Marie Antoinette* for being fluffy (it isn't, though its heroine is) or ahistorical (it isn't, though it is contemporary). (10/20/2006) – Marrit Ingman

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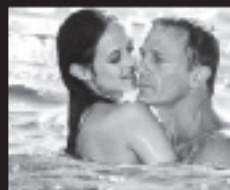
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Repo Man

Repo Man (1984) *D: Alex Cox; with Harry Dean Stanton, Emilio Estevez. (R, 92 min.)* Punk rock sentiments amiably collide with science fiction scenario in this instant cult classic produced by former Monkee Mike Nesmith. Circle Jerk and Alex Cox regular, Zander Schloss, will appear in person to reminisce about his experiences on the film. (Combo tickets with Fun Fun Fest are also available; see www.originalalamo.com.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Friday, 12mid.



THE PRESTIGE

D: Christopher Nolan; with Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Piper Perabo, Rebecca Hall, Scarlett Johansson, Samantha Mahurin, David Bowie, Andy Serkis. (PG-13, 135 min.)
Nolan's adaptation of Christopher Priest's novel is a film front-loaded with borderline sociopathic characters, personal tragedies that only fuel the fires of an already wildly ambitious rivalry, and some of the most bizarre cross and double crosses since George Smiley came in from the cold. Obsessed with being the best at their craft, two magicians find themselves on increasingly slippery slopes, with, as the film begins, one of them in the dock, accused of the murder of the other. Nolan is more regimented than ever – the various hairpin twists and triple-turns in the the story demand it – but unlike his most recent film, the operatically darker *Batman Begins*, there's a noticeable surfeit of passion on display here. Bale and Jackman are fine as narrative doppelgängers, and they both work their features into acute images of incipient madness, but *The Prestige* still lacks an emotional center that the audience can identify with. (10/27/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North

THE QUEEN

D: Stephen Frears; with Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Sylvia Syms, Alex Jennings, Helen McCrory, Roger Allam, Paul Barrett. (PG-13, 97 min.)
The *Queen* provides a glimpse of the British monarchy at a contemporary crossroads between supreme dominance and utter irrelevancy. Frears' movie is something of a backstage palace drama, a work of speculative history in which we are privy to some of the thoughts and conversations that might have occurred in the palace's inner chambers in 1997 during some particularly chaotic and unrehearsed moments of Queen Elizabeth II's rule following the death of Diana, the "people's princess." The screenwriter Peter Morgan is also responsible for another movie out currently, *The Last King of Scotland*, and curiously, *The Queen* succeeds in its speculative history in ways that Morgan's Idi Amin drama never does. This story's tension derives specifically from the royal family's responsibility to show a public face at all times – a responsibility that grows ever more cumbersome and unrealistic in this electronic age. It also helps that Mirren is magnificent in the role. (10/27/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan

THE RETURN

D: Asif Kapadia; with Sarah Michelle Gellar, Peter O'Brien, Sam Shepard, Kate Beahan, Brent Smiga. (PG-13, 85 min.)
Sarah Michelle Gellar – the scream queen for the new millennium – puts her slightly blank expression to good use in the locally filmed *The Return*, a supernatural thriller in which she plays a young woman living in a waking dream that is somehow connected to an unsolved murder that happened many years ago near her hometown of Luling. (Yes, *that* Luling.) Haunted by psychic visions that are part nightmare and part déjà vu, Gellar's perplexed Joanna goes through most of the movie as if in a fugue state, a condition shared by the audience as it also tries to figure out what the hell is going on. Because *The Return* melds the past and the present when Joanna has her out-of-body experiences, most confused moviegoers will conclude, at least at the outset, that more time should have been spent in the editing room to make the movie seem less disjointed. (11/17/2006) – Steve Davis
★★ Tinseltown South

THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE

D: Michael Lembeck; with Tim Allen, Martin Short, Ann-Margret, Alan Arkin, Elizabeth Mitchell, Eric Lloyd, Wendy Crewson, Judge Reinhold, Liliana Mumy, Spencer Breslin. (G, 98 min.)
Director Lembeck, working from a script by Ed Decter and John J. Strauss, has delivered a stilted, manipulative, and altogether unfun film in this third entry in the *Santa Clause* franchise of flaccidly feel-good, winter nostrums. Nothing Ebenezer Scrooge witnessed on his black night of reckoning compares for sheer awesome dreadfulness to the sight of Short's Jack Frost cavorting and scheming against Allen's ponderous depiction of St. Nicholas. Let's mince neither words nor meat: Walt Disney Pictures is looking to lighten the family coffers with this soulless monstrosity, and parents who give in to their young charges in the interest of being good moms and dads would be far better off renting something slightly less soul-deadening, like, say, *The 400 Blows* or *Shoah*. Bah, humbug. (11/10/2006) – Marc Savlov
🔞 AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

SAW III

D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Shawnee Smith, Angus Macfayden, Bahar Soomekh, Dina Meyer, Donnie Wahlberg, Stefan Georgiou. (R, 107 min.)
Serial madman Jigsaw (Bell) is back for more Rube-Goldbergian Grand Guignol with protégé Amanda (Smith), a holdover from *Saw II*. This time out the cancer-ridden Jigsaw is literally on his deathbed, and his chief target of abuse is Jeff Reinhart (Macfayden), a parent mourning the death of his young son. Jigsaw's conceit is that Jeff has lived his post-trauma life consumed by ruinous vengeance and must now confront not only his child's killer but also a series of seemingly random people whom Jigsaw and Amanda have kidnapped and placed throughout an abandoned warehouse, nestled inside various hyper-elaborate torture devices. Blood, gore, and viscera of an almost unprecedented level in an R-rated film follow. In the context of the *Saw* franchise, the third time's the proverbial charm, with oodles of backstory ladled atop the proceedings, and bringing the whole series full circle, back to the first *Saw*, and in the case of the Jigsaw killer himself, beyond even that. (11/03/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



Millennium Actress

Millennium Actress (2003) *D: Satoshi Kon; with the voices of Miyoko Shōji, Mami Koyama, Fumiko Orikasa, Shōzō Ōizuka. (PG, 87 min.)* **Austin Film Society: Sublime Lines**
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★ SHUT UP AND SING

D: Barbara Kopple, Cecilia Peck. (R, 100 min.)
The statement heard round the world was really an offhanded bit of stage banter delivered by Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks during a 2003 concert in London. Instead of a passing event, the incident sparked years of fallout, during which the band who, up until that point, had been the bestselling female group in history, was subject to death threats, hate mail, and nonexistent record sales and touring opportunities. This documentary reveals the behind-the-scenes story of what occurred in the band's life during those three years. Lucky for all of us that Maines and her bandmates decided to stick to their principles and not be browbeaten into surrendering their freedom of speech. The Dixie Chicks' struggle with the seemingly conflicting demands of art and commerce is ready-made for Kopple's camera. This episode helped the band members turn from chicks into women, and the fact that they're still "not ready to make nice" offers inspiration to us all. (11/17/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

STRANGER THAN FICTION

D: Marc Forster; with Will Ferrell, Emma Thompson, Dustin Hoffman, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Queen Latifah, Tony Hale, Tom Hulce. (PG-13, 113 min.)
Harold Crick – IRS auditor, milquetoast, and poster child for obsessive-compulsive disorder – wakes up one morning to the rather unsettling realization that he has the voice of an Englishwoman narrating his life. A good movie but not a great one, *Stranger Than Fiction* is reminiscent of the films of Charlie Kaufman (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) but lacks that writer's conceptual rigor and imaginative power. Too often the movie gets lost in the thicket of its own ideas and fails to tackle the juiciest questions those ideas raise. As Harold, Ferrell is deadpan almost to the point of lifelessness. Unable to fall back on his trademark frat-boy boorishness and chronic nudism, the former *Saturday Night Live* star retreats into somnolence. Thompson, on the other hand, is excellent, and Hoffman is clearly having a ball as the unflappable professor who helps Harold get a handle on the sudden literary significance of his meager little life. (11/10/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY

D: Liam Lynch; with Jack Black, Kyle Gass, Tim Robbins, Ben Stiller, Amy Poehler, Jason Reed, John C. Reilly, Dave Grohl, Ronnie James Dio, Meat Loaf. (R, 93 min.)
Robbins is a highlight but not as high as Sasquatch, who turns up in this exponential adaptation of Jack Black's and Kyle Gass' story after egos, JB and KG, after poor JB (who only wants to rock your socks off, baby) ingests some funny mushrooms. JB's hallucinatory romp with the furry one is classic Tenacious D weirdness: It's stoner comedy of the most absurd kind. If you're not familiar with the cult of Tenacious D, I'll just say it's a fictional, attitudinal rock & roll duo consisting of the portly, manic Black and the portly, bald, chill-monkey Gass, who are the self-proclaimed "greatest band in the world." The film has the amiable feel of the duo's early, odder HBO shorts, but doesn't quite hit the highest bizarre notes that fans are used to. How much you'll love (or loathe) JB and KG's passion for the power chord will depend, most likely, on your familiarity with the duo beforehand. (11/24/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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The Conformist

THURSDAY 3 0

Effects (1980) *D: Dusty Nelson; with John Harrison, Susan Chapek, Tom Savini. (R, 87 min.)*
Terror Thursday. A film director hopes to make a snuff film about the demise of an actual film crew working on a horror shoot. Understandably, his crew is less-than-thrilled about their involvement. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid; free.

Next: A Primer on Urban Painting (2005) *D: Pablo Aravena. (NR, 95 min.)* **Route 06: Scion Independent Film Series.** Documentary reveals the worldwide culture that has developed around graffiti art. Music from local DJs entertains patrons prior to the movie, and Q&As with the filmmakers follow each screening along with a VIP reception. The “Retail Mafia Documentary” screens prior to the feature. For more info, see www.scion.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:30pm; free.

Schoolhouse Rock! Sing-and-Learn-Along Sing and learn with Henri and Owen. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The Big Lebowski (1998) *D: Joel Coen; with Jeff Bridges, Sam Elliott, John Goodman, Ben Gazzara, Jon Polito, Tara Reid, Steve Buscemi, John Turturro, David Huddleston, Philip Seymour Hoffman. (R, 117 min.)* **Coen Brothers Retrospective.** A case of mistaken identity embroils the supremely go-with-the-flow character of the Dude (Bridges) in an intersecting mix of kidnapping, pornography, German nihilists, sultry women, gumshoes, missing money, and missing toes. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) *D: Henry Selick; with the voices of Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Danny Elfman, William Hickey, Paul Reubens. (PG, 76 min.)* Tim Burton's animated holiday classic returns with a 3-D makeover. See Showtimes. @Highland.

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2007 SXSW Film Festival: Call for Entries They're looking for feature-length films and shorts of all kinds to screen at the international conflagration in the spring: narrative, documentary, animation, music video, and experimental. Check their Web site for details. Final deadline: Dec. 8. www.sxsw.com/film.

Austin School of Film and Motion Media Arts: Holiday Discount Classes Here are two free introductory seminars to give you a taste of Final Cut Studio. Hell, ASF'll even provide lunch! *Sat., Dec. 2 & 9, 10am-noon.* And they've also got some highly prized and heavily discounted classes: Motion, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Soundtrack Pro, Dec. 4-5. Final Cut Pro, Dec. 6-8. Check their Web site for more. www.austinfilmsschool.org.

Call for Entries: Cine las Americas International Film Festival This 10th annual festival, scheduled for next April, invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. See their Web site for details. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2007. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Classes at Austin School of Film? Yes: Precisely what you need to learn what it takes to get that filmic masterpiece in the can and distributed. All aspects of the industry covered and presented by professionals for your edification and artistic progress. See their Web site for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org.

Club de Ville Fall Film Series: Entries Requested Submit your shorts (no longer than 15 minutes) in DVD or VHS formats, any genre, no submission fee. Selected films will show at Club de Ville, with cash prizes for audience favorites. Include a phone number, e-mail, a brief bio, and a statement asserting ownership of your film. **Do it now.** Deliver to: *Club de Ville, 900 Red River, 457-0900.* www.myspace.com/clubdeville.

Don't Let the Bastards Put It Down! is a writing class with Jill Chamberlain of the Screenplay Workshop. You'll learn everything you need to know to write a screenplay that doesn't join the 99.9% that are tossed in the recycle bin. See the Reel Women site for details and reservations. *Sat., Dec. 2, 1-4pm.* \$40 (\$25, RW & AFS Filmmaker Level). www.reelwomen.org.

Indie Music Video Festival The sixth annual shindig shifts into high gear in all its cross-continent, cross-genre glory, looking for independent music videos of fewer than six minutes, on VHS, DVD, DV Codec (high res), and mini DV. (Screenings in 2006 included Vancouver, Victoria, Baltimore, Calgary, Toronto, Los Angeles, Austin, New York, Tel Aviv, London, and Chicago.) See their Web site for details. www.imvf.com/submissions.html.

My Gay Movie Challenge Submit your 10-minute short film with a queer sensibility, and see it on the big screen. The best films will be submitted to film festivals across the globe. Don't have a camera? Never made a movie? No problem. Take a PACT Workshop, and get filming now! Check their Web site for more. Deadline: Dec. 22. www.agliff.org/filmmakers_mgm.php.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a new, state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they're opening it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, a surround-sound system, and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a “break room” suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

Seeing Film Afresh Hey, film buffs, view and discuss a film a week using fresh perspectives on the visual, audio, dramatic, and thematic aspects of movies. Led by Richard Cutler, Ph.D. *Jan. 7-Feb. 27. Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* *Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458. \$135.* www.doughertyartscenter.org.

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 3.0 Submit your short films to the *Austin Movie Show* for possible screening on local access TV at 6-8pm on Sunday nights, with a live screening to follow. Drama, comedy, docs – you name it. For submission details, check their Web site. www.austinmovieshow.com.

The Network Austin Mixer will *not* meet in November, due to those pesky turkeys; instead, the party where “people in the entertainment industry can meet, forward their careers, and share ideas and information” will return in December. *Wed., Dec. 13, 6:30pm.* *Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747.* www.motheregansirishpub.com.

SPACES

I ♥ Huckabees (2004) *D: David O. Russell; with Jason Schwartzman, Isabelle Huppert, Dustin Hoffman, Lily Tomlin, Jude Law, Mark Wahlberg, Naomi Watts, Ger Duany, Talia Shire, Bob Gunton, Jean Smart, Tippi Hedren, Shania Twain. (R, 105 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

illuminating Angels & Demons (2005) *D: Dan Hall and Geof Petch; with Domenick Dicce, Dave Hoffman. (NR, 70 min.)* Free @The Space (4803 Airport), 8pm.

My Name Is Tanino (2002) *D: Paolo Virzi; with Corrado Fortuna, Rachel McAdams. (NR, 124 min.)* **Il Cicolo Italiano.** A summer idyll between an Italian native and an American tourist cannot withstand the scrutiny of the following season. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm; free.

FRIDAY 0 1

A Very Brady Christmas (1988) See p.92.

Battlestar Galactica *D: Ronald D. Moore; with Edward James Olmos, Mary McDonnell, Jamie Bamber, Katee Sackhoff. TV Party.* Two TV episodes – back-to-back. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

Before the Music Dies (2006) *D: Andrew Shapter. (NR, 90 min.)* The SXSW favorite examines the music industry's pursuit of profits at the expense of its artists and fans and also features interviews with Erykah Badu, Dave Matthews, Eric Clapton, and many others. For more info, see www.beforethemusicdies.com. The filmmakers will be in attendance. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 4pm.

Repo Man (1984) See p.94.

The Big Lebowski (1998) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30, 11:15. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Poetry in Motion (1982) *D: Ron Mann. (NR, 91 min.)* Free. @The Space (4803 Airport), 8pm.

The Royal Tenenbaums (2001) *D: Wes Anderson; with Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow, Luke Wilson, Danny Glover, Owen Wilson, Bill Murray, Kumar Pallana, Seymour Cassel, Alec Baldwin. (R, 108 min.)* Free. (*) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 9pm.

SATURDAY 0 2

A Very Brady Christmas (1988) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45. (See Fri., 12/01)

American YouthWorks Student Film Festival *D: Various.* The short films in this festival were created by American YouthWorks video classes and deal with teen issues from a youth perspective. The proceeds will help support the continuation of the video classes. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 3pm; \$6.50, \$5 students.

The Big Lebowski (1998) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30, 11:15. (See Thu., 11/30)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin Rocky Horror fans have been dressing up and doing the “Time Warp” thing live for 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

New York in the Fifties (2001) *D: Betsy Blankenship. (NR, 72 min.)* Free. @The Space (4803 Airport), 8pm.

SUNDAY 0 3

Before the Music Dies (2006) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 4pm. (See Fri., 12/01)

Secret Fishgirl Sing-Along They're not mentioning the title of this film – but it's a musical about someone who is part girl and part fish and an animated personality. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Battle Royale and Battle Royale II Free. @Opal Divine's, 8:30pm.

MONDAY 0 4

Sound Unbound Vol. 2: Modern American Composers (2006) *D: Anne Heller. (NR, 87 min.)* **Music Monday.** Documentary examines the contributions of modern American composers from the 1940s to 1980s who have broken with tradition to follow their own muses by creating their own theories of musical composition and using unusual instrumentation, with an emphasis on those who collaborated with filmmakers, dancers, and other artists. Featured composers include John Cage, Philip Glass, Bruce Haack, Terry Riley, Angus MacLise, and Ornette Coleman. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$2, \$1 students/seniors/AFS; tickets available at www.originalalalamo.com.

The Conformist (1971) *D: Bernardo Bertolucci; with Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Dominique Sanda, Pierre Clementi, Pasquale Fortunato. (R, 115 min.)* **Austin Cinematheque.** Bertolucci's greatest film – and, indeed, one of the greatest films of all cinema – is

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices, call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM, or see www.thestoryoftexas.com. See showtimes for dates and times

Deep Sea 3D (2006) *D: Howard Hall; narrated by Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet. (G, 40 min.)* Fabulous underwater footage complements this educational documentary geared toward kids. Instead of using the dog-eat-dog approach common to nature docs, Deep Sea 3D emphasizes the harmonious balance of the underwater ecosystem.

Happy Feet: The IMAX Experience (2006) *D: George Miller.* Digitally remastered version of the new animated musical.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

a knotted story of fascism and sexual desire, id and superego locked in a last tango in Italy. This is the recently released extended edition. (*) @Texas Union Theatre, 7:30pm.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Blue D: Krzysztof Kieslowski; with Juliette Binoche, Benoît Regent, Florence Pernel, Charlotte Verly, Helene Vincent, Hugues Quester, Emmanuelle Riva. **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

The Da Vinci Code (2006) D: Ron Howard; with Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Paul Bettany, Jean Reno, Alfred Molina, Jürgen Prochnow, Etienne Chicot, Jean-Yves Berteloot. (PG-13, 149 min.) Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

The Royal Tenenbaums (2001) @Austin Java Co. (1206 Parkway), 9pm. (See Fri., 12/01)

TUESDAY 05

Millennium Actress (2003) See p.94.

The Gilmore Girls and Veronica Mars TV Party. New episodes. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:30pm.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (1998) D: Guy Ritchie; with Jason Fletmyng, Dexter Fletcher, Nick Moran, Jason Stratham, Sting. (R, 106 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 06

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5 This all-new collection of bizarre Japanese video oddities includes bawdy situation comedies, unexpected nudity, extreme pro-wrestling, bizarre anti-flatulence products, nonsensical English phrases, and supreme goofiness. Also highlighted in this

program are Japanese torture and humiliation game shows. A Japanese menu will be served. See www.originalalamo.com for more info and reservations. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

The Losers (1970) D: Jack Starrett; with William Smith, Adam Roarke, Paul Koslo, Vic Diaz. (R, 95 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A biker gang is in Vietnam during the war with a license to kill. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Amélie (2001) D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Audrey Tautou, Mathieu Kassovitz, Rufus, Yolande Moreau, Artus de Penguern, Dominique Pinon, Serge Merlin, Isabelle Nanty, Jamel Debbouze. (R, 122 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) D: Gore Verbinski; with Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jack Davenport, Geoffrey Rush. (PG-13, 150 min.) Free. (*) @Beerland, 7pm.

Return to Oz (1985) D: Walter Murch; with Nicol Williamson, Jean Marsh, Fairuza Balk, Piper Laurie, Matt Clark. (PG, 110 min.) **Avant Garde Night.** Free. @The Space (4803 Airport), 8pm.

THURSDAY 07

Devil's Fetus (1983) D: Hung-Chuen Lau; with Ngai Dik, Sau-ling Lui, Liu Pui-pui. (NR, 88 min.) **Terror Thursday.** Hong Kong supernatural film. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Open Screen Night: Long Form Edition D: Various. (NR) **Two Note Solo.** Something along the lines of an open-mic night, Open Screen invites people to come and show their best videos on the big screen. These can be self-made movies, favorite moments from home videos, bloopers, training films, or whatever you'd like to share with an audience – and these tapes can be up to 20 minutes long. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded for the favorite clip of the night. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

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. 15 issue is Monday, Dec. 4.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D (2006) @Highland, 9:30pm. (See Thu., 11/30)

SPACES

Good Bye, Lenin! (2003) D: Wolfgang Becker; with Daniel Brühl, Katrin Sass, Chulpan Khamatova, Maria Simon, Florian Lukas, Alexander Beyer. (R, 118 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Zapatista! D: Benjamin Eichert, Richard Rowley and Ståle Sandberg. (NR, 54 min.) Free. (*) @The Space (4803 Airport), 8pm.

Enter for your chance to attend an advance screening

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All entries must be received by 4pm
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Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission. Rated PG-13.

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Fan Club

K-Tel Hit Machine & Tosca Strings' ELO Experience

ANTONE'S, FRIDAY 1

Kier-La Janisse, the Alamo's Music Monday programmer and ELO fanatic:

When I was a kid, my dad bought me the ELO album *Time*. It was a space concept album, and I dreamt that when I grew up, I was going to make a feature-length animated film based on it, sort of like *Rock & Rule*. I think I listened to it nonstop for years before realizing that ELO also had other albums I could buy and love. Most ELO fans probably dis *Time*, but it will always be my favorite, even though its only hit was well-known due to use in a coffee commercial ("Hold on Tight"). Because of the cheese associated with ELO's disco years, I think Jeff Lynne hasn't been appreciated critically as much as he should be. He's a friggin' genius.



Ziggy Marley LA ZONA ROSA, FRIDAY 1

The oldest son of Bob Marley, Ziggy, has gotten his groove back on the new *Love Is My Religion*. After a singer-songwriter detour from his Rasta roots, he returns on a more solid reggae sound and a penchant for African beats. Whatever the riddims, Ziggy always travels with a first-rate band. Skye Edwards, the alluring voice of Morcheeba, opens.

— Jay Trachtenberg

Buttercup's 'Box Office Poison'

BLUE THEATER, SATURDAY 2

It's been almost 18 months since Austin avant-garde haven Church of the Friendly Ghost closed. San Antonio creative pop troupe Buttercup immortalizes the DIY venue — and their residency there — with a performance art/musical show deemed *Box Office Poison*. Buttercup turns the Blue Theater into an intimate den of nothing but ideas and inspiration, cocktails, schnapps, and Kool-Aid served on paddles. Fortunately, crooner Erik Sanden is no Jim Jones.

— Darcie Stevens

Parts & Labor

EMO'S, SUNDAY 3

Brooklyn noise-mongering trio Parts & Labor took a page from a childhood of banging pots and pans on their *Stay Afraid* (Jagjaguwar), a crash-bam-boom concoction that sits between chaos and form. Explosive Austin trio Ume adds to the blasphemy with early Sonic Youth intonations of power and rock. And that's just the sticky end: Local growlers Camp X-Ray, local Gorilla vs. Bear favorite White Denim, and Brooklyn pop duo Matt & Kim start the party.

— Darcie Stevens



Al Di Meola CACTUS CAFE, TUESDAY 5

From his 1974 debut in jazz fusion juggernaut Return to Forever to his platinum pairing with fellow six-string virtuosos John McLaughlin and Paco de Lucia in the 1980s, Al Di Meola's axe has splintered international stages at the highest level, including Bass Concert Hall. In the intimate folds of UT's listening booth, expect the electric elegance of *Consequences of Chaos* (Telarc). Two sets, 7 & 9:30pm.

— Raoul Hernandez

Of all the bands playing the inaugural Fun Fun Fun Fest, Negative Approach may be the most elusive. The seminal Detroit-bred hardcore act, led by John Brannon, who later formed the Laughing Hyenas and Easy Action, released only a fistful of songs — like nine-second manic meltdown "Pressure" — before disbanding during its *Tied Down* tour in 1983, one week before a planned three-city run of Texas with the Big Boys. Like Scratch Acid, NA recently reformed for Touch and Go's 25th Anniversary Celebration, spurring a series of one-off gigs. The *Chronicle* tracked down Brannon to see what it's like tapping into his 19-year-old self.

Austin Chronicle: Do you find it difficult now to tap into the *Negative Approach* of 20 years ago?

John Brannon: Back in the day, we didn't know what the fuck we were doing, only that we wanted to do it. There's still a lot I can relate to. Our whole thing was about just standing up for yourself and self-expression, not getting sucked into all the bullshit, and you can apply that to how you live your life today. I guess I'm still pissed off.

AC: You once said *Negative Approach* is a lifestyle. What does that entail?

JB: The whole thing with NA was just not worrying about what was the norm. I wrote lots of the lyrics when I was young, so a lot of that shit was my attitude towards people I went to school with, ex-girlfriends, whatever. We wanted to have our say, and we wanted it to be our way. We didn't want people telling us what to do. We always had that around us, people saying, "You can't do this; you can't do that." And we're like, "Fuck you, we're gonna do this shit," and we did it. Look at where we are today. It's finally accepted.

— Austin Powell

Read more with Brannon online. See also www.funfunfunfest.com.

Thomas Dolby, BT ELYSIUM, WEDNESDAY 6

You know "She Blinded Me With Science," maybe "Hyperactive," but how about this: Cairo native Thomas Dolby played on Def Leppard's *Pyromania*, wrote Whodini's million-seller "Magic's Wand," and developed the Beatnik audio technology now used in most of the world's cell phones. *The Sole Inhabitant* of a 2006 Chicago-recorded live LP, he's back behind the synths with progressive house innovator BT riding shotgun.

— Christopher Gray

Buffalo Killers BEERLAND, THURSDAY 7

Go ahead, give 'em three steps. Cincinnati, Ohio's Buffalo Killers sure know how to handle the blues, forcing years of Skynyrd, Sabbath, and Springfield (Buffalo, not Rick) to tangle on a dirty barroom floor. These Buffalos feature the bearded Gabbard brothers, formerly of Fat Possum group Thee Shams, and their self-titled debut goes for the kill. For the love of God, no "Free Bird" requests.

— Audra Schroeder



IN-STORES

Friday: **Herman the German**, **Tom Vandenavond**, **Pink Nasty**, Cheapo Discs, 5pm; **Rotary Downs**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Saturday: **Million Year Dance**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Sunday: **Bill Baird**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Negative Approach



Fun Fun Fun Fest

WATERLOO PARK, FRIDAY 1

Austin Fuzion Stage: **Prefuse 73** (9pm), **DJ Mel** (7:50), **Quintron & Miss Pussycat** (6:50), DJ set by **Thomas Turner** (5:35), **Learning Secrets** (4:30), **Dirty South Ravens** (3:25), **Whitey** (2:50), **DJ Ceeplus** (2)

Indie Stage: **Spoon** (8:50pm), **Peaches** (7:30), the **Black Angels** (6:30), **Lucero** (5:30), **Dead Meadow** (4:30), **Octopus Project** (3:30), the **Oranges Band** (2:45), **Drag the River** (2)

Punk Stage: **Circle Jerks** (8:55pm), **Negative Approach** (7:55), **Riverboat Gamblers** (6:55), **Electric Frankenstein** (5:55), **Lower Class Brats** (5), the **Applicators** (4:15), **Krum Bums** (3:30), **Iron Age** (2:45), **ADHD** (2)

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

OCTOPUS PROJECT

Blanton Museum, Friday 1

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Mohawk, Saturday 2

Fair and unbalanced.

PLASTILINA MOSH

Stubb's, Saturday 2

The Mexican Institute of Sound opens.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT

Mercury Hall, Sunday 3

Tina Marsh, Oliver Rajamani, Alex Coke, and more.

THE DIXIE CHICKS

Erwin Center, Monday 4

See "TCB," p.67.



Plastilina Mosh

BOUND STEMS

Emo's, Monday 4

Chicago janglers offer *Appreciation Night*, with Frenchkissers Rahim and locals the Shells.

PIRATES VS. NINJAS PARTY

Beerland, Wednesday 6

With Jolly Garogers.

THE BAND OF HEATHENS

Momo's, Wednesday 6

Rootsy rock from Momo's favorite Heathens.

CARRIE RODRIGUEZ

Cactus Cafe, Thursday 7

City girl, country girl.

live music VENUES ▶ p.100

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▶ p.104

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tix @ HEBs, ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE, 477-6060, texasboxoffice.com or tix @ the door!

Sat ★ Dec 2 in concert
JOHN GORKA
guest star amelia k spicer

Mon ★ Dec 4 7:30pm sign up
hosted by GRAHAM WEBER & ABIA TAPIA **OPEN STAGE**

Tue ★ Dec 5 2006 electric tour live @ the cactus!
consequence of chaos
AL DI MEOLA
7pm & 9:30pm tix @ HEBs, erwin center box office, 477-6060 or texasboxoffice.com

Wed ★ Dec 6 8:30pm songwriter extraordinaire
MALCOMB HOLCOMBE

Thurs & Fri ★ Dec 7 & 8 **CARRIE RODRIGUEZ**

Fri ★ Dec 8 MIDNIGHT SHOW! \$5 **TWANG TWANG SHOCK-A BOOM**

Sat ★ Dec 9 guest star STEPHEN CLAIR
DARDEN SMITH

Sun ★ Dec 10 **JOE ELM** texasboxoffice.com

Wed ★ Dec 13 ADAM CAROLL ★ SAM BAKER
ROMMIE MAYES ★ GURF MORLIX

Thurs & Fri ★ Dec 14 & 15 **RUTHIE FOSTER**

Sat & Sun ★ Dec 16 & 17 **ELIZA GILKYSON**

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★ CACTUS 2007 ★	
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1/13 ★ TOM RUSH	2/10 ★ TROUT FISHIN'
1/18 ★ AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'	2/17 ★ TERRI HENDRIX
1/19 ★ RHETT BUTLER	3/03 ★ RICHARD THOMPSON
1/25 ★ JEFF DANIELS	3/23 ★ TOM RUSSELL
	4/26 ★ SOLAS

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union. Happy Hour 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted. 23rd & Guadalupe. 475-6515.
www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus



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Friday, Dec. 1, 2pm

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Sunday, Dec. 3, 6pm

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live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194

311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508

AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777

ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR, 16410 Stewart, 266-0331

AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461

AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 445-4455

B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake Blvd., 795-9000

BACK ROOM SPORTS BAR, 2015 E. Riverside, 441-4677

BASS CONCERT HALL, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 471-1444

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907

BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943

BECK'S ON CONGRESS, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441

BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK

BEN HUR SHRINERS' BALLROOM, 7811 Rockwood, 263-9574

BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART, MLK & Congress, 471-7324

BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809

THE BLUE THEATER, 916 Springdale, 927-1118

BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200

BORDERS SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974

'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339

BRENTWOOD TAVERN, 6701 Burnet Rd., 420-8118

BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189

BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330

CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515

CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634

THE CARILLON, 2630 Exposition

CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790

CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669

CENTRAL MARKET CAFE, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300

CHEAPO DISCS, 914 N. Lamar, 477-4499

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-7777

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666

CIPOLLINA, 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211

CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR, 2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900

CLUB 973, 104 W. Carrie, Manor, 512/350-8724

COFFEE CREATOR, 9402 Parkfield Dr., 719-4544

CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444

COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010

COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002

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CROCKETT EVENTS CENTER, 10601 N. Lamar, 288-7288

CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822

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DELI WERKS, 7500 Lohman Ford Rd., Lago Vista, 512/267-0065

THE DETOUR BAR & GRILL, 1113 RR 620 N., 266-2279

THE DIRTY DOG, 505 E. Sixth, 236-9800

DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336

THE DRISKILL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860

EGO'S, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091

EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE, 1302 S. First, 447-7445

EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770

ELEMENT, 301 W. Fifth, 480-9888

ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279

ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979

EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS

END OF AN EAR, 2209 S. First, 462-6008

EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586

FADO, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172

FINN & PORTER, 500 E. Fourth, 493-4900

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE, 605 Brazos, 478-3473

FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646

FRANK ERWIN CENTER, 1701 Red River, 471-7744

FRENCH LEGATION MUSEUM, 802 San Marcos, 472-8180

FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193

GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576

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GUERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688

HABANA CALLE 6, 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252

HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617

HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188

HI-LO, 301 W. Sixth, 480-9433

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473

HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300

HOGG AUDITORIUM, West 24th & Whitis, 471-1444

IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE, 4005 W. Parmer Ste. A, 833-5858

IT'S ITALIAN, 14735 Bratton, 252-1444

JACK'S BACKYARD, 6901 N. I-35, 451-5008

JO'S HOT COFFEE, 242 W. Second, 469-9003

JO'S HOT COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800

JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825

LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729

LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293

LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889

LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399

MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541

MANUEL'S, 310 Congress, 472-7555

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261

MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326

MERCURY HALL, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL, 14106 N. I-35

MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE, 8108 Mesa Ste. C-100, 853-9480

THE MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 457-8884

MOMOS, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848

MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood Springs, 512/264-2064

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747

MOTHER'S CAFE, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994

MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305

NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349

NAT'S PUB, Lakeway Plaza, Lakeway, 512/263-2855

NUOVO LEON, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097

NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133

NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648

THE OAKS, 10206 N. FM 973, 278-8788

THE OASIS, 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442

THE OFF CENTER, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833

THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137

PARADOX, 311 E. Fifth, 469-7615

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, 713 Congress, 472-5470

PARDNERS, 1110 Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/244-1204

THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474

THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965

PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer, #1, 339-0663

THE PEACOCK, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979

PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318

POODLE DOG LOUNGE, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468

THE PUB, 1826 Mays, Round Rock, 512/246-8007

RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577

RADISSON, 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 478-9611

RAIN ON 4TH, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150

RANCH 616, 616 Nueces, 479-7616

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115

RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100

RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120

RED'S SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 320-0004

REDRUM, 401 Sabine, 275-6575

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977

RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK, 2120 N. Mays #100, Round Rock, 246-9444

RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132

RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 301 San Jacinto, 476-8300

ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813

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ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997

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SUN DEC 3

GOSPEL BRUNCH
BELLS OF JOY

THU DEC 7
THE BIG FIXX
WITH O.A. AND HELLAPENO
FRI DEC 8

ANAGEN
WITH TWO GUY TRIO
MON DEC 11

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FRI DEC 15

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MR. GNOME
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- 6) DON WALSER
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- 7) SHAWN COLVIN
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SAT 12/2 > SUPER HEAVY GOAT ASS, THE LIFTERS, 3 BAD JACKS (P), RHODES DIABLO & THE DEVIL RIGHTHAND, ZOMBIE GHOSTRAIN (P), MA SHOT PA
SUN 12/3 > SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS, TOPAZ ALLSTARS, SKARIOKE KARAOKE
MON 12/4 > MNFOOTBALL "FREE CHILDRENS & KRAUT"
TUE 12/5 > DAREDEVIL JANE (ON TOUR W/BUCKCHERRY), CRASH KENNEDY, GUNS OF DETROIT
WED 12/6 > LONESOME HEROS, TEXAS SAPPHIRES, ROBERT SOCIA, SKARAOKE (P), SOME SAY LELAND
UPCOMING SHOWS: 12/18 BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, DUKE (P), CARBIDE, BLOOD SHOT PYRAMID (P), REND, HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY (P), BLOOD OF PATRIOTS, 12/19 MORE FIRE, RODGERS PORN COLLECTION (P), SWEET SKULL, QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE, BENT GENTS, STREET LIGHT SUSIE (P), CALBAKES

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MONDAY-DECEMBER 4 RX FAMILY KEVIN JACKS CLARK PERRY COCKLES	TUESDAY-DECEMBER 5 TELEVISION ENDS UNDER THE WIRE WAX DART NATHAN'S STUPID DRAMA
WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 6 THE UNBEARABLES THE STEED A FIVE & DIME SHIP THE BLACK & WHITE YEARS	THURSDAY-DECEMBER 7 ROCK-A-BILLY NIGHT HOTROD HILLBILLIES AND SPECIAL GUESTS
FRIDAY-DECEMBER 8 SOUNDS UNDER RADIO THE MIDGETMEN THE BOXING LESSON LABILE ME THIS	SATURDAY-DECEMBER 9 CRASH GALLERY DREAMT THE END SHARPEN, ALEXANDER! MIR. AND MRS. WAYS

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12-12 PSYCHOTICK, TEABAG, & SPECIAL GUEST
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12-18 HONER, TICKETS, POWDERBURN
12-22 LIVING JAZZ, FRIEDLARS, DETROIT BY A RISK
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FRI 12.1
ROCKLAND EAGLES
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ADRENALINE FACTOR
AUTO-EROTICS

SAT 12.2
GENTLEMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB
THE URGENCIES
ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION
SUMMER OF BLOOD

SUN 12.3
OPEN IN IT TO WIN IT

MON 12.4
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM
KAOS Radio Presents...
A.D.A.
AQUADUCT POCKET
D.J. Mofa and more...

TUE 12.5
GRINDING WHEELS
CHRIS TOAST and more

WED 12.6
UPCOMING SHOWS
12.7 Neylon Gin, Devola, Manilewa, Ancient Road Lines 12.8 Arnelcon Graveyard, Larry 12.9 Grand Champases, The New Village (Winn)

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Saturday's Radar 10pm

FRI LIVE! DEC 1
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The Hot as Shits 12am
Darling New Neighbors 11pm
Many Birthdays 10pm

SAT HAVEN DEC 2
goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHEATHER

SUN retro 80's DEC 3
REGRESSION
DJs AMERYKAH & BOBA FETT

TUE lesbian night DEC 5
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & GUEST

WED LIVE! DEC 6
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BT & Thomas Dolby

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Thu Dec 7 *Live! Demontuary, When Life Has Ceased, Exulcerate
Fri Dec 8 *KINGS N' THINGS
Thu Dec 14 *Live! Turbo 350, Shinola, A Crack in the Wall

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BEER LAND TEXAS

Who is RiO RiTA?

th 30 Chili Cold Blood record release, Black Joe Lewis & Cool Breeze, Topsy Turvy

fr 1 Youngmond Grand, Rotary Downs, Low Line Caller

sa 2 Flametrick Subs, Satan's Cheerleaders, Blarney Street Hooligans

su 3 closed for repairs

mo 4 Rock and Roll Karaoke with host- Nathan Black 1000+ songs--no cover

tu 5 closed for more repairs

we 6 Pirates vs. Ninjas dress as a pirate or ninja=get in free Black Molly, Jolly Garogers, Teeners 7pm Pirates of the Caribbean 2

th 7 Buffalo Killers (Thee Shams), Deadly Companions, IKillcars

fr 8 Rescue Mission, Dynah, Ivory Class, Cassette

8pm Blitzens play your Christmas favorites

sa 9 will rhodes birthday- li'l cap'n travis, moonlight towers, til we're blue or destroy

preview bands @ eventjourney.com
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club listings

Thu 30

- 219 WEST** Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Karen Abrahams (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR David Holt (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Abi Tapia (12:30)
ANTONE'S The Steps, Meridian West, Damesviolet CD Release (8:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Kerry Polk
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer
BEAUTY BAR Brownout! w/ DJ Tats
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brent Adair (7:00)
BEERLAND Black Joe Lewis & the Cold Breeze, Chili Cold Blood CD Release
- BENNIGAN'S** Andy Fiegall (7:00)
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Mike Clifford (6:30)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CACTUS CAFE Jim Lauderdale
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Hummingbirds, Dollar Dan & the Change
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), Hayes Caril w/ Corb Lund (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Two Timin' Three, Deke Dickerson & the Ecco-Fonics (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE George Enslé

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

THE DETOUR BAR & GRILL Bike Night Open Mic w/ the Wildcards (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Liz Morphis, John Fremgen (6:00)

roadshows

NOVEMBER

THU 30

Jim Lauderdale, Cactus Cafe
Deke Dickerson & the Ecco-Fonics, Two Timin' Three, Continental Club
Eugene Mirman, Emo's
Corridors, Jacob Green, End of an Ear
Pitbull, Paradox
Dave Brubeck, Ramsey Lewis, Paramount Theatre

DECEMBER

FRI 1

Anton Nel, Bass Concert Hall
Jim Lauderdale, Cheatham Street Warehouse
Outside: Cannibal Corpse, Dying Fetus, Necrophagist, Unmerciful; Inside: O'Doyle Rules, Emo's
Lee Ann Womack, Gruene Hall
Los Cenzontles, Hogg Auditorium
Ziggy Marley, Skye, La Zona Rosa
Dressy Bessy, the Mohawk
Harald Thune Band, the Oaks
Tingstad & Rumbel, University Presbyterian Church
Fun Fun Fun Fest Indie Stage: Peaches & the Herms, Lucero, Dead Meadow,

Oranges Band, Drag the River; Punk Stage: Circle Jerks, Negative Approach, Electric Frankenstein, ADHD; Austin Fuzion Stage: Prefuse 73, Quintron & Miss Pussycat, Dirty South Ravers, Whitey, DJ Ceeplus, Waterloo Park
The Cheatin' Hearts, Woody's South

SAT 2

Anton Nel, Bass Concert Hall
Blarney Street Hooligans, Beerland
Buttercup, the Blue Theater
John Gorka, Cactus Cafe
Two Tons of Steel, Cheatham Street Warehouse
The Billy Joe Show, Continental Club
Inside: Baboon; Outside: Bouncing Souls, Street Dogs, Whole Wheat Bread, Left Alone, Emo's
Million Year Dance, End of an Ear
The Meditations, Flamingo Cantina
Plastilina Mosh, Mexican Institute of Sound, Stubb's
Flamin' Hellcats, Trophy's

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

SUN 3

Inside: Parts & Labor, Matt & Kim; Outside: Mates of State, Asobi Seksu, Emo's
Adam Hood, Gruene Hall
Fall Out Boy, Gym Class Heroes, La Zona Rosa
Strange Boys, Red's Scoot Inn

MON 4

Wade Bowen, Cheatham Street Warehouse
Bound Stems, Rahim, Emo's
The Dixie Chicks, Pete Yorn, Frank Erwin Center
Jo Hell & the Red Roosters, Nuno's on Sixth

TUE 5

Al Di Meola, Cactus Cafe
Daredevil Jane, Headhunters

WED 6

Malcolm Holcome, Cactus Cafe
Thomas Dolby, BT, Elysium
The Archibalds, the Parlor
Butch Hancock, Ruta Maya

THU 7

Buffalo Killers, Beerland
Carrie Rodriguez, Cactus Cafe
Atomic Bitchwax, Pearls & Brass, Emo's
El Paso Hot Button, the Mohawk
Chief Death Rage, Red's Scoot Inn

for your benefit

THU 30

UT Dance Marathon Fall Benefit w/ Danny Malone, Smile Smile, the Downside Up, the Parish

Jennifer Williams Benefit w/ Infinite Partials, Bill Jerram Band, Ruta Maya

FRI 01

Inside Books Benefit w/ Many Birthdays, Darling New Neighbors, the Hot as Shits, Elysium

French Legation Museum Benefit, Evening Under the Oaks w/ Rachel Lynn, French Legation Museum

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

SAT 02

Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Pete Rodriguez, Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center

Whip-In Tunes & Brews, Groundwork Music Project w/ the Asylum Street Spankers, the South Austin Jug Band, Barrelhouse Dogs, the Groundwork Music Orchestra, Ruta Maya

SUN 03

Groundwork Music Project Benefit w/ Barrelhouse Dogs, South Austin Jug Band, Continental Club

MON 05

AIDS Services of Austin Holiday Mix & Mingle, Firehouse Lounge

WED 06

Democracy for Texas Benefit w/ Butch Hancock, Ruta Maya



DIXIE CHICKS
The Accidents & Accusations Tour

with special guest **Pete Yorn**

**DECEMBER 4
THIS MONDAY!**

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INCLUDING CENTRAL MARKET AND H-E-B STORES,
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Sunday Music starts at 12:30 pm

Free Live Music
WESTGATE
Wednesdays & Thursdays 6:30 - 9pm
Sundays 12:30 - 3pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 1
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
scary hot jazz

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30
CIENFUEGOS
cuban

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2
DALE WATSON
country

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3
C.M. ALLSTARS
jazz

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3
EPHRAIM OWENS
jazz

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6
DAMIAN GREEN BAND
western swing

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8
SEU JACINTO
brazilian

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7
WENDY COLONNA
singer-songwriter

UPCOMING SHOWS AT BOTH CENTRAL MARKET LOCATIONS
AT NORTH LAMAR:
Dec 9 - **ELANN JAMES**
Dec 10 - **DAMIEN GREEN**
Dec 15 - **JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ**

AT WESTGATE:
Dec 10 - **HUDSON'S**
Dec 13 - **BLUES SPECIALIST**
Dec 14 - **ABI TAPIA**

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café open 7AM - 9PM Sunday - Thursday
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free music • great food
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7AM-10PM Friday and Saturday
free music • great food

★ **UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY** ★
• THURSDAY • 10PM
PARIS 49 ★ ★ ★
• FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY • 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO ★
• TUESDAY • 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE ★ ★
• WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL AND FRIENDS ★ ★

THUR NOV 23
HAPPY HOUR
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
12AM

Dale Dickerson

FRIDAY DEC 1
H. H. THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONE STARS
10PM

SUNNY SWEENEY
10PM
SATURDAY DEC 2
MATINEE 3-7PM
GIANT CITY W/ **ERIK HOKKANEN**

THE WEARY BOYS

THE JUNGLE ROCKERS
The Billy Joe Show
10:30PM

SUNDAY DEC 3
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT AND ERIK HOKKANEN**

MON DEC 4
HAPPY HOUR 6:30
PARIS '49

TUESDAY DEC 5
HAPPY HOUR
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONE STARS

TONI PRICE + DOAK SHORT TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD
WED. DEC 6
HAPPY HOUR
JAY MOELLER AND THE SOPHISTICATES
11PM

JAMES McMURTRY
12AM

DAVID GARZA
THURSDAY DEC 7
H. H. THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

JESSIE DAYTON
10PM

HONKY
FRIDAY DEC 8
H. H. THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
L'I CAP'N TRAVIS
12AM

THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
SATURDAY DEC 9
DIAMOND SMUGGLERS HONEYPOT

COMING SOON • DEC. 15 • **SKUNKS** DEC. 23 • **PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS**

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LISTEN & PREVIEW ABOVE ACTS @ EVENTJOURNEY.COM

club listings ◀ ◀ FROM THURSDAY

ELYSIUM Matches for Memories, DAX
EMO'S Tacks, the Boy Disaster; Lemurs; Eugene Mirman; IV Thieves; Sound Team
END OF AN EAR Jacob Green, Corridors (6:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Tounge (7:00)
FADÓ Patrick Fleming Power Duo (10:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sharpen, Alexander!; Blackholicus; Exeter; Lower Fourth
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Songwriter Trio: Johann Wagner, Melissa Greener, Greg Klyma, the Mockingbird (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Rosie Flores
GREEN MUSE CAFE Open Mic w/ Black Molly (8:00)
GRUENE HALL David Insley (7:30)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HEADHUNTERS Mike Davis & His Broken-Hearted Band
HILL'S CAFE Ben Danaher
JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ fStar
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Gil Breyer
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Aston Teague (10:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Todd Phelps Band (7:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery (6:00)
THE MOHAWK AUX, the Always Already, the Fall Collection
MOMOS The Hudsons (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
THE OAKS Rascal Red & the Possum Posse (7:00)
PARADOX Pitbull
PARAMOUNT THEATRE Ramsey Lewis, Dave Brubeck (8:00)
THE PARISH UT Dance Marathon Fall Benefit w/ Danny Malone, Smile Smile, the Downside Up (9:00)
THE PARLOR Seven-Inch Stitch, Abigail & Hansel, the Dreadful Sorry
THE PEACOCK The Shells, Real Live Tigers
PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)
RED'S SCOOT INN The Stags, Evildoers
REDRUM Screaming at the Sky, Sounds of the Silent, By a Long Shot, Ending Silence
RILEY'S TAVERN Steve Tenpenny Band
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Tank Engine, Peter Elliot & the Sellouts
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson, Cotton Inks
RUTA MAYA Jennifer Williams Benefit w/ Infinite Partialis, Bill Jerram Band (8:00)
SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy Dee
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Walt Wilkins Band (9:00)
SPEAKEASY JJ Usher Band (9:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Carley Wolf, Hard Luck Heroes, Turbo 350 (6:00)
TROUBADOUR SALOON Eurphoria, Party Booby Trap, Portal (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sean Russell (6:30)
WHISKY BAR Quien 'es, Boom!, Ian Orth, Ben Craven
WOODY'S SOUTH Mike Cross & Natalie Zoe (7:00), Cade Baccus & Whiskey Tango (9:30)
ZTEJAS Kat's Meow

Fri 01

AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Fabulous Chevelles (8:00)
ANTONE'S David Rice; ELO Tribute w/ K-Tel Hit Machine, Tosca String Quartet
ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Byrd & Street w/ Garbanzo (6:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer
BACK ROOM SPORTS BAR Stone Free (7:30)
BASS CONCERT HALL Anton Nel w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)
BEERLAND Rotary Downs, Youngmond Grand
BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART The Octopus Project
BOAT HOUSE GRILL The Moonhangers
BORDERS SOUTH Mani Sierra (8:00)
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BROKEN SPOKE Cornell Hurd Band
CACTUS CAFE Joe Ely (9:00)



MINGO FISHTRAP

SATURDAY 9:30

	HAPPY HOUR 5-8	HEADLINERS 9:30
THU 30	ANYTHING FOR TIPS	KINGS
FRI 1	SHAWN & PHIL	LES & THE FUNK MOB
SAT 2		MINGO FISHTRAP
SUN 3		LES & THE FUNK MOB
MON 4	HIGHLY LIKELY	JUKEBOX HEROES
TUE 5	SEELA & FREINDS	ROCKSTAR
WED 6	TRENT DAVE	SPAZMATICS

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6TH AND LAMAR

Each Thursday, 6-9pm
HAPPY HOUR WITH
TROUBLESOME TRIO

FRI. DEC. 1
UT Afro POP
10PM, \$3 COVER

SAT. DEC. 2
Graham WEBBER 10PM

FRI. DEC. 8
Bill RICE 10PM, \$3 COVER

SAT. DEC. 9
Rhett BUTLER 10PM, \$5 COVER

38TH AND MEDICAL PARKWAY

6PM **WILL DUNLAP** EVERY TUES.

7PM **PTARMIGAN** EVERY WED.

6:30PM **Sean RUSSELL** EVERY THUR.

FRI. DEC. 1
Clay JEFFREY

SAT. DEC. 2
Catch A Sweet DREAM

SAT. DEC. 9
Sweetest DAY

Emo's

alternative lounging

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603 RED RIVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

FREE
ONION LAUNCH PARTY
SOUNDTEAM
IV THIEVES • EUGENE MIRMAN
LEMURS • TACKS, THE BOY DISASTER
PLUS DJS ON THE INSIDE STAGE
DOORS 8PM, SHOW 9PM
\$5 FOR MINORS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

OUTSIDE:
CANNIBAL CORPSE
DYING FETUS
NECROPHAGIST • UNMERCIFUL
DOORS 8PM, SHOW 8:30PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE: ONLY \$5 WITH FUN FUN FUN TICKET STUB
CRUISERWEIGHT
RORY AND THE ARTIFICIAL HEART
CASSETTE • O'DOYLE RULES

FUN FUN FUN FEST
@WATERLOO PARK, DOORS 1PM, SHOW 2PM
3 STAGES/25 BANDS TICKETS @
WWW.FUNFUNFUNFEST.COM, WATERLOO RECORDS,
END OF AN EAR, AND SOUND ON SOUND

INDIE STAGE:
SPOON • PEACHES
BLACK ANGELS, LUCERO, DEAD MEADOW, OCTOPUS PROJECT,
THE ORANGES BAND, DRAG THE RIVER

PUNK STAGE:
CIRCLE JERKS • NEGATIVE APPROACH
RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS, ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN, LOWER
CLASS BRATS, APPLICATORS, KRUMBUMS, IRON AGE, ADHD

AUSTIN FUZION TENT:
BROUGHT TO YOU BY AT&T
PREFUSE • DJ MEL
QUINTRON AND MISS PUSSYCAT, DJ SET BY THOMAS OF
GHOSTLAND, OBSERVATORY, LEARNING SECRETS,
DIRTY SOUTH RAVERS, WHITEY, DJ CEEPLUS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
1/2 PRICE WITH FUN, FUN, FUN TICKET STUB
OUTSIDE: DOORS@8, SHOW@9
BOUNCING SOULS
STREET DOGS • WHOLE WHEAT
BREAD • LEFT ALONE
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE:
BABOON • LALALAND
THE MERCERS • THE LAST GASP
LOUNGE:
LAPTOP DEATHMATCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

OUTSIDE:
DOORS @8, SHOW @9
MATES OF STATE
ASOBI SEKSU
FACELESS WEREWOLVES
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE:
PARTS & LABOR • UME
CAMP X-RAY • WHITE DENIM • MATT & KIM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

BOUND STEMS • RAHIM
THE SHELLS • QUIET COMPANY
BELLO RAGAZZO
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:
FREE SHOW / 21+
MOONLIGHT TOWERS • THE ALICE ROSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6
CLOSED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

ATOMIC BITCHWAX
PEARLS AND BRASS
DIXIE WITCH • THE FLOOD
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE: THE GATHERING / FREE, 21+

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

INSIDE:
CENTRO-MATIC
THOSE PEABODYS
PINK NASTY
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:
TUNA HELPERS • CONFUZATRON
RUBBER ROBOT • NOVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

NIGHT OF 100 LAUGHS*
*GUARANTEED
FEATURING COMEDIANS:
ROSS BROCKLEY
ANDREW WILSON
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:
COLD BLOCKIN' IT 2
YPPAH (NINJA TUNE) CD RELEASE SHOW
BIRD PETERSON (JAMTRON, TX)
DAYTA (NANACHILL, TX)
DR. KNUCKSTABLE (JAMTRON, TX)
& SUPRISE GUEST DJ!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

RUSTED SHUT
GREY DATURAS
(FROM AUSTRALIA)
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

DOORS 8PM, SHOW 9PM
BLIND GUARDIAN
LEAVES EYES
TICKETS AVAILABLE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

THE TRANSGRESSORS
HELLO LOVERS RECORD RELEASE
THE DRESSES
FORMERLY CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE
SILKY (COMEDIAN)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

SHAPES & SIZES
ASTHMATIC KITTY
WEIRD WEEDS
THE LOVELY SPARROWS • BENKO

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THUR 30 - SongWriters in the Triangle: Johann Wagner,
Greg Klyma, and Melissa Greener • The Mockingbirds

FRI 1
Nakia
Amara Grace

SAT 2
Consumption
Hooks • Mirabai
Plumtucker

SUN 3 - Craig Marshall • Justin Rosolino
MON 4 - Sunjay Devarajan • Christopher Leavitt • Jenni Lord
TUE 5 - Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
WED 6 - David Hamburger "S2 Beer Humpty Hump Night!"
THU 7 - Rokkatone: CD Release • Avenue Elle • Abi Tapia
FRI 8 - The Archibalds • Fancie (Germany)
SAT 9 - Stayton Bonner

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irish pub

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Best Pub Grub by AustinCitySearch.com 2004

THU., NOV. 30
The 4 4 Thursday
Beer Special
Fireman's #4 for \$4

FRI., DEC. 1
Guinness Day
\$3 20-oz. imperial pints
ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT

SAT., DEC. 2
College Game Day
ON ALL SCREENS

SUN., DEC. 3
Traditional Irish Brunch with brunch
The Tea Merchants Noon 'til 3pm

MON., DEC. 4
MATT POWELL & FRIENDS
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 7:30pm
LIVE ON ALL SCREENS
\$1 Hotdogs • \$3 Miller Lite 20 oz. pints

TUE., DEC. 5
JOIN US FOR
the all new Tuesday Night Trivia Quiz
Qualify for the finals & an opportunity to win
FOUR ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO IRELAND
No cover. Over 21. Great Beer Specials.
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parties on Wed., Thu., & Sat.
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• 12/21 THE UGLY BEATS • 12/23 EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE HOLIDAY BASH • 12/30 GANG GREEN/HICKOIDS*
• 12/31 OCTOPUS PROJECT / STARLIGHT MINTS* (OUT) / FLAMETRICK SUBS AND SATAN'S CHEERLEADERS (INSIDE)*
• 1/2-1/7 EMO'S FREE WEEK

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TRAVIS COUNTY SMOKING ALLOWED

KARAOKE 8PM
WIN A TRIP FOR 2 TO VEGAS
\$5 COVER/DISCOUNTED
LIVER DOG 7:30PM
RED SPADE
FEATURING **MALFORD MILLIGAN** 10PM
STONE FREE
JIMI HENDRIX
TRIBUTE BAND 10PM
BIG BALLS
AC/DC TRIBUTE BAND 11:30PM
FREE POKER 5 & 8PM
JAY DIRKS BAND 8PM
PETE BENZ & KEVIN HAVRON 8PM
DAVID BALLOU 9PM
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Sahara Night
Dec. 9th / 9pm
ATASH
Dj Avatar
Sabaya
Bellydance

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Fri & Sat | 9pm
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cut club
dat politics
jana hunter
and many more...

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club listings << FROM FRIDAY

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mad Cowboys the Generals
CEDAR STREET Shawn Phillips (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE White Ghost Shivers (6:30)
CHEAPO DISCS Pink Nasty, Tom Vandenavond, Herman the German (5:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30), Jim Lauderdale (8:30)
CIPOLLINA Cienfuegos (8:00)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Jeff Daily, Cellar Door (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Sunny Sweeney, Dale Watson & His Lonestars (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Kalico Kings
COTTON CLUB Bubba Cox & Billy Dee
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Michael Ballew
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Abra Moore (8:00)
EGO'S Yarmigos, Sado-Massachusetts, Bellevue Jubilee (8:30)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Crash Bam Boom (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Mark Rubin's Ridgetop Syncopators, the Brew (6:00)
ELYSIUM Inside Books Benefit w/ Many Birthdays Darling New Neighbors, the Hot as Shits (10:00)
EMO'S Outside: Unmerciful, Necrophagist, Dying Fetus, Cannibal Corpse; Inside: O'Doyle Rules, Cassette, Rory & the Artificial Heart, Cruiserweight
END OF AN EAR Rotary Downs (6:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (10:00)
FINN & PORTER Benny Ignacio (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Verneshot, Upside, Fullservice, Slider
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Nakia, Amara Grace
FRENCH LEGATION MUSEUM Evening Under the Oaks Benefit w/ Rachel Lynn (7:30)
GRUENE HALL White Ghost Shivers (1:00), Lee Ann Womack w/ Cody Canada, Stoney LaRue, & Wade Bowen (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR LeRoi Brothers (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS Ghoststory, Boxspring Hogs, Livends, Concombre Zombi
HI-LO DJ Honeycomb (11:00)
HILL'S CAFE Glen Collins
HOGG AUDITORIUM Los Cenizontles (8:00)
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Jana Pochop (7:00)
JOVITA'S Melancholy Ramblers, Shelley King (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Skye, Ziggy Marley
LUCKY LOUNGE Matt White (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
THE MOHAWK Cartwright, the Laughing, Red Monroe, Dressy Bessy
MOMOS Ryan Holley & John English, Lisa Richards, Jennifer Ellen Cook, Levi Smith, Facing Fiasco (6:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
NAT'S PUB Jabarvy
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Nutty Idol Karaoke
THE OAKS Harald Thune Band (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Jimmy Lee Jones
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RED 7 Outside: Drag the River, A.N.S., Idle Kids, the Bread, Saw Wheel; Inside: The Addictions, Hellapeno, Octane 7, Ameritrash
RED'S SCOOT INN The Daily Beat, Big Black Smoke, Chalk Outlines
REDRUM Manifesto, Lokey, Vows in Ashes, Azoth, Mevyn, Shrapnel
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Mr. Fabulous (8:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Brandon Raines, Karaoke w/ Billy D. (9:00)
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Auto Erotics, Adrenaline Factor, High Divers, Rockland Eagles
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dale Allen & Genuine Cowhide
RUTA MAYA The Ashera Project, Cedar Fever, the Lovely Sparrows (6:00), E.O.T.O (10:30)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Gypsy Cowgirls (9:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Lisa Hayes, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS The Accused (9:00)
SIX/TAP ROOM DJ Skot Kees (9:00)
SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR Aux Armes (8:00)
TAMBALEO DJ Jah Mighty (6:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL 8 Ball Down
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Susanna Sharpe & Catavento w/ Shirley Johnson (7:30)
TROPHY'S Federal Cinema, Fires Were Shot, Paper South, Baby Robots (10:00)
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Acoustic Series w/ Tingstad & Rumbel (8:00)
VENTANA DEL SOUL Steve Power (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Clay Jeffreys
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH UT Afro Pop (10:00)
WATERLOO PARK Fun Fun Fun Fest Indie Stage: Drag the River, Oranges Band, Octopus Project, Dead Meadow, Lucero, Peaches & the Herms, Spoon; Punk Stage: ADHD, Iron Age, Krum Bums, the Applicators, Lower Class Brats, Electric Frankenstein, Riverboat Gamblers, Negative Approach, Circle Jerks; Austin Fuzion Stage: DJ Ceeplus, Whitey, Dirty South Ravers, Learning Secrets, Quintrón & Miss Pussycat, DJ Mel, Prefuse 73 (10:00)
WHISKY BAR DJ Tats, DJ Hannibal
WOODY'S SOUTH The Cheatin' Hearts (7:00), Shootin' Pains (9:30)

Sat 02

311 CLUB Kontrol, Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ANTONE'S Guy Forsyth, Breedlove Reunion
ARTZ RIB HOUSE CTBA Night w/ Blactop Bend
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson
BASS CONCERT HALL Anton Nel w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

Pack a full week of **Chronicle Music Listings** into your iPod, PDA, or phone!
austinchronicle.com/ipod

BROKEN COUNTRY
PHOTO BY M. DAPRA
3201 South Lamar • 442-6189

THU, NOV 30 8-9PM **COUNTRY DANCE LESSONS**
CHAPARRAL W/ JEFF HUGHES 9PM
CORNELL HURD
FRI, DEC 1 **ALVIN CROW**
SAT, DEC 2 **HARDCORE COUNTRY WITH**
ALVIN CROW & JAMES WHITE NO COVER
TUE, DEC 5 **BLUE SANTA** 6AM-10AM WITH SAM & BOB
WED, DEC 6 & KVET RADIO 7PM PRIVATE CHRISTMAS PARTY - RESTAURANT OPEN

DRAUGHT HOUSE PUB & BREWERY
VOTED* BEST* PUB* 2003

M 2.75 Guinness & Murphy's Pints
T 2.75 ALL PINTS
W Free Pizza
TH 2.25 House Beers
F 2.75 Independence Ale
S Free Bratwurst
S 1.75 Domestic Pints

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CALL 47-PARTY

THURSDAY, NOV. 30 **JJ USHER BAND** 9:30PM
FRIDAY, DEC. 1 **SAUCE** 9:30PM
SATURDAY, DEC. 2 **FONDU MONKS** 9:30PM
SUNDAY, DEC. 3 **"SUNDAY SOCIAL"** 9:30PM
TUESDAY, DEC. 5 **TEXAS TUESDAYS** **THE WAYNE HUBBARD BAND** 9:30PM
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6 **LATIN WEDNESDAYS** **THE BREW** 9:30PM
FREE SALSA LESSONS @ 9PM

412-D CONGRESS AVE. • 476-8017 (entrance in the alley) • speakeasyaustin.com
GIRARD DIVERSIFIED INTEREST



Winter Jam

no cover

with live music from **Antones** and **Alpha Rev**

Sunday, Dec. 10

Doors at 8pm 213 W. 5th Street

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Bar And Restaurant Employee New Years Eve

Pre-Party EVERYONE WELCOME

speakeasy 59

featuring the sounds of
VEHICULAR & BOOM BOX

Countdown at midnight, drink specials, balloon drop,
party favors, prizes, & a champagne toast.

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Warehouse District 412-D Congress Ave (alley entrance)



Hi-Lo

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Thursday
Chadd Thomas & The Crazy Kings
10:30-1:30

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8 PM - 2 AM

SUNDAYS
VINTAGE ATARI NIGHT

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TEXAS TUESDAYS

DOORS @8:00PM

SPEAKEASY MUSIC LOUNGE

NO COVER

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

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www.speakeasyaustin.com

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Downtown Austin Warehouse District 412-D Congress Ave (entrance in the alley)
www.speakeasyaustin.com 47-PARTY



RED FEZ

NIGHTLY MUSIC

THU Muslim of Now All-Stars 10:00-2:00
FRI An Arabian Night 8:00-11:00 DJ In/Verse 11:00-2:00
SAT Vehicular 8:00-11:00 DJ Kury 11:00-2:00
SUN DJ Kung 10:00-2:00
MON DJ Tark 10:00-2:00
TUE Twist Up with DJ Money 10:00-2:00
WED Redfex 10:00-2:00

Friday, December 1st
8:00 - 11:00 pm

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Check out DJ updates, event listings and photos.

No Bad Days



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SUN., & MON.**

Tuesdays
The Troubadillos
Pool Tournament Night

Wednesdays
Open Mic
w/ Jimmy Lee Jones
“the Singing Bartender”
\$2 Domestic Longnecks

Thursdays
\$2.00 Longnecks
Ladies Night

Friday, Dec. 1
JIMMY LEE JONES

Saturday, Dec. 2
JOSH GRIDER

Tuesday, Dec. 5
THE TROUBADILLOS

Wednesday, Dec. 6
**OPEN MIC WITH
JIMMY LEE JONES**

Thursday, Dec. 7
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Saxon Pub

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Thurs. Nov. 30
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm
George Devore 11pm
Hhr. Rob Roy Parnell 6pm

Fri. Dec. 1
South Austin Jug Band 11pm
GRAHAM WILKERSON 9:30pm
Lisa Hayes 8pm
Hhr. The Regulars 6pm No Cover

Sat. Dec. 2
Carolyn Wonderland 11pm
OMAR & THE HOWLERS 8pm

Sun. Dec. 3
WALTER TRAGERT 8pm
BERNIE CALCOTE 12am
JAY THOMAS 10:30pm

Mon. Dec. 4
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 11pm
Adam Hood Twanguero 7pm
ROCKY STEIN 12:30am

Tues. Dec. 5
HAYES CARLL & FRIENDS 8pm
Amelia White 10:30pm
Will Sexton 12am
Hhr. Beth Black 6pm No Cover

Wed. Dec. 6
PAULINE REESE 6pm
MONTE MONTGOMERY 8pm
Red Spade w/ Malford Milligan 10:30pm
UNCLE LUCIUS 12am

COMING TO THE SAXON:
Fri. 12/15 - **Guy Forsyth**
Sat. 12/16 - **Bug Henderson**
Sat. 12/16 - **Jon Dee Graham**
Sat. 12/23 - **Terry Allen**

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

BEERLAND Blarney Street Hooligans, Flametrick Subs
BEN HUR SHRINERS' BALLROOM St. Andrew's Ball w/ John Taylor, David Mostardi, Lyle Ramshaw (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
THE BLUE THEATER Buttercup's "Box Office Poison" (8:00)
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Lonesome County
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
CACTUS CAFE John Gorka
CAROUSEL LOUNGE 2 Hoots & a Holler
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Dale Watson (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Two Tons of Steel (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), the Billy Joe Show, Jungle Rockers, the Weary Boys (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Sprung
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Deryl Dodd (9:00)
CRICKET EVENTS CENTER Spirit Echoes Fine Art Holiday Show w/ India Taylor (1:00)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Texas Renegade
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
DELI WERKS George Gusman Jr. (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)
EGO'S San Saba County, Shane Bartell
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Chinampa (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Living Proof (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, DJ the Gothfather
EMO'S Inside: Last Gasp, the Mercers, Baboon; Outside: Left Alone, Whole Wheat Bread, Street Dogs, Bouncing Souls
END OF AN EAR Million Year Dance (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Meditations (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Plum Tucker, Mirabai, Consumption Hooks

GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Primitive Noise (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Flyin' A's (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Dave Jorgenson, Jason Boland & the Stragglers (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS Ma Shot Pa, Zombie Ghosttrain, Rhodes Diablo & the Devil's Right Hand, 3 Bad Jacks, the Lifters, Super Heavy Goat Ass
HILL'S CAFE Deek Moore
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Wayward Pony (7:00)
JOVITA'S Imbibe (3:00), Boxspring Hogs, Dedrangers (7:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE The Stags (9:00)
THE MOHAWK Housewife, the Politics
MOMOS Thani Handal, Corb Lund, Dave Madden, Steamroller (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (11:00 am)
NAT'S PUB Graham Wilkinson
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Michael Myers
THE OAKS Paul Robert Band (8:00)
THE PARLOR Dirty Hearts
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Josh Grider
RADISSON Kent Mayhew
RED 7 Al Shire
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)
RED'S SCOOT INN Bliss Out w/ MeJetAirliner, Operator, Serious Daters (8:00)
REDRUM Desinence, Blood of Patriots & Force Fed, Angerkill, D.I.D.L.Y., Meet Fist
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Kevin Ahart (8:30)
ROMEO'S Kirk Hale
ROOM 710 Summer of Blood, Roger's Porn Collection, the Urgencies, Gentlemen's Social Club
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glen Collins & Son Geezinslaw
RUTA MAYA Groundwork Music Project Benefit w/ the Barrelhouse Dogs, Groundwork Music Orchestra, South Austin Jug Band, Asylum Street Spankers (5:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Clayton Adams (9:00)
SÃO PAULO'S Phillipe Vieux w/ 3 Jazz Collective (7:30)

SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)
SAXON PUB Omar & the Howlers, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Diamond Simon & the Roughcuts
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Will Arnold (10:00)
SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR Loy Bones, DJ EE (7:00)
ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH Conspire w/ Craig Hella Johnson Children's Choir (7:00)
STUBB'S Mexican Institute of Sound, Plastilina Mosh
TAMBALEO DJ Kurupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Digital Juke
TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod's HiFi (7:00)
TROPHY'S Suns of Sultans, Flamin' Hellcats, Amplified Heat
WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Pete Rodriguez (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Catch a Dream
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Graham Weber (10:00)
WHISKY BAR Move Somethin' w/ DJ Chicken George, DJ Gibb
WOODY'S SOUTH The Washingtons, Gravyboat (7:00)

Sun 03

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings
AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER TXRD Lonestar Rollergirls Bout w/ Winchester Twin, Elvis on Speed (6:00)
B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Boomer Bray, Joe Gee (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BEERLAND Tonewheel Collective
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Ephraim Owens Quartet (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Sean Hopper Trio (12:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Grant Mazak (8:30)

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<< Monday >>

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<< Wednesday >>

Break Away Party w/ Ter'ell and Inverse ----- **10:00**

<< Friday >>

Friday nights w/ DJ's Mike Swing and Esoteric ----- **10:00**
\$2 domestics and \$3 wells until 11:00

<< Saturday >>

Saturday nights w/ DJ's Kurupt & Inverse ----- **10:00**
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12/3 JO HELL AND THE RED ROOSTERS 10P JIMI LEE AND THE UNSUNG HEROES 8P

12/4 OPEN MUSICIAN JAM 10P LITTLE STEPH 8P
12/5 ALAN HAYNES 10P SWAMP SAUCE 8P
12/6 JO HELL AND THE RED ROOSTERS 10P ZAK PERRY 8P

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THURSDAY, NOV. 30
PATRICK FLEMING & AMANDA KEY 10PM
FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 10PM
DAYZ LATER
SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 10PM
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
SUNDAY, DEC. 3
BRUNCH & BLOODY MARY BAR 'TIL 3
MONDAY, DEC. 4
SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT
DRINK DISCOUNTS
TUESDAY, DEC. 5
WHISKEY TASTING NIGHT
TEA MERCHANTS 8PM
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
PUB QUIZ 8PM

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THURSDAY, NOV. 30
8-11PM **\$5 PITCHERS OF ZIEGENBOCK**
\$1 KAMAKZI SHOTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 1
7:30 IN BEER GARDEN W/
STONE FREE
7:30-10:30PM
\$1 WELLS & \$2 DOMESTIC BOTTLE BEER

SATURDAY, DEC. 2
OPEN TO CLOSE
\$5 PITCHERS BUSCH
8-11PM **\$2 WELLS**
BIG 12 7PM
SPURS VS. SACRAMENTO 8PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 3
OPEN TO CLOSE **\$2 WELLS**
\$1.50 MILLER HIGHLIFE & LONESTAR BOTTLES
COWBOYS VS NEW YORK 1PM

MONDAY, DEC. 4
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - HERE
\$1 DRINK SPECIALS DURING THE GAMES

TUESDAY, DEC. 5
8-11PM
\$2 WELLS & \$5 PITCHERS ICE HOUSE
10PM-12AM **DJ GRIP** FROM THE BEAT 104.5 SPINNING IN BEER GARDEN

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
COME BEAT THE REIGNING CHAMP
KITSUNE & THE SOUL CALIBUR III TOURNAMENT
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8-11PM **BUD BEER SPECIALS**
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THURS, NOVEMBER 30 — 8PM

**DJ FRANKIE
PERRONE**

SAT, DECEMBER 2 — 4-6PM

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JOIN THE 2ND STREET DISTRICT AS
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SUN, DECEMBER 3 — 12:30PM

**ANDREW
NAFZIGER TRIO**

MON, DECEMBER 4 — 8PM

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TUES, DECEMBER 5 — 8PM

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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

THE HUDSONS 8
THE WILL EVANS PROJECT 10:30
FRIDAY DECEMBER 1 / \$5

LEVI SMITH 12
FACING FIASCO 1
JENNIFER ELLEN COOK 10:30
LISA RICHARDS 9:10
**1ST FIRDAY HAPPY HOUR W/
RYAN HOLLEY & JON ENGLISH**
6-9 (NO COVER BEFORE 8:15)
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

STEAMROLLER 12
DAVE MADDEN 10:30
CORB LUND 9
TAHNI HANDAL 8
SUNDAY DECEMBER 4 / \$5

WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30
THE PHOEBE JEEBIES 8
HOMEGROWN 12:30
MONDAY DECEMBER 5 / \$5

SHAWN FUSSELL 11
CARSON AUNE 9:30
MERGAN TUBB 8
TUESDAY DECEMBER 6 / \$5

TED HADJI 12
ELIZABETH DONTHOO 8
BARCELONA 9
STARTING TUESDAY 8
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7 / \$5

THE *band of* **Heatheng**
9:30
AMELIA WHITE 8
SIDEHILL GOUGERS 12
UPCOMING SHOWS

ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS 12/08
UT ENSEMBLE
ETHNOMUSICOLOGY 12/09
12/15 **WARTIME SOCIAL**
PATRICE PIKE *NEW YEARS EVE*
W/ GINGER LEIGH / TIX ON SALE SOON

club listings <<< FROM SUNDAY

CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ DJ The
Bigg Sho (5:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Groundwork
Music Project Benefit w/
Barrelhouse Dogs, South
Austin Jug Band (6:00), In the
Club: Heybaie! w/ Redd & Eric;
Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio
(10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (5:00)

CROCKETT EVENTS CENTER
Spirit Echoes Fine Art Holiday
Show w/ Brian Mullin (11:00
am)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EGO'S Monte Peck's Acoustic
Night (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Darin Layne
Trio (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Amerikah

EMO'S Inside: Matt & Kim,
White Denim, Camp X-Ray,
Ume, Parts & Labor; Outside:
Faceless Werewolves, Asobi
Seksu, Mates of State

END OF AN EAR Bill Baird (6:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Justin Rosolino, Craig Marshall

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam w/
Walter Higgs (8:00)

GIBSON GUITAR SHOWROOM
Battle of the Kid Bands w/
Paul Green School of Rock
Music (4:00)

THE GINGER MAN Marc Devine
Trio (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Ted Hall's
Blues Church/Jam

**GREEN MESQUITE BBQ &
MORE** WST Bluegrass

GREEN PASTURES Jacques
Vilmain (11:00 am)

GRUENE HALL Adam Hood
(noon), Gurf Morlix, Slaid
Cleaves (7:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Tex Thomas
& the Danglein' Wranglers
(3:00)

HEADHUNTERS Skarioke
Karaoke, Topaz All-Stars,
Sunglasses & Mushroomoms

JO'S HOT COFFEE Sinner's
Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's
House Band (12:30)

JOVITA'S Mary Welch y Los
Curanderos (6:00)

LA PALAPA Chris Syler

LA ZONA ROSA Gym Class
Heroes, Fall Out Boy

LUCKY LOUNGE Everyday People
(10:30)

MANUEL'S Acoustic Jungle
(11:30 am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS PJ
Liles' Gospel Project (10:00
am), Imperial Golden Crown
Harmonizers (12:30)

MERCURY HALL Circle of Light
w/ Tina Marsh & the Creative
Opportunity Orchestra (7:00)

MOMOS Phoebe Jeebie, Warren
Hood & the Hoodlums,
Homegrown (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB
Tea Merchants (9:00)

NUEVO LEON Mariachi
Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Li'l Steph,
Open Mic Jam (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz
(11:00 am)

THE OAKS Movin' Target (4:00)

THE OASIS The Brew

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke
w/ Mrs. K

PLUSH Car Stereo (Wars)

POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny
Sweeney (8:30)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/
Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne
(5:30)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RED'S SCOOT INN The Carrots,
Strange Boys (5:00)

REDRUM Massacre of the
Umbilical Cord, Vesperian
Sorrow, Omniscent

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/
Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie

ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band
(7:00)

SAXON PUB Bernie Calcote,
Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas
(8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/
Billy D

SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR Gala
Renaissance Duo (noon)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic
w/ Lee and Andy

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song
Session (2:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/
Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate
Hinds

THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/
Patrick

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WEST
Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

WHISKY BAR Freaks of the
Industry w/ DJ Ca\$h Only, DJ
Kon Karne

WOODY'S SOUTH Brunch w/ the
Blitzens (noon), Jordan Price &
Shad Blair (7:00)

Mon 04

ANTONE'S Brandon Rhyder &
Friends (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah
Elizabeth Campbell & the
Banned

BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke
w/ Nathan Black

BLIND PIG PUB Patrick Fleming
(10:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline

CEDAR STREET Highly Likely,
Jukebox Heroes w/ Robert
Wagner (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Mike & Rob
Haedde (5:30), Wade Bowen
(8:30)

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO
Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49
(6:30), Dale Watson & His
Lone Stars

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EGO'S Rusty Traps, Johnny X-
Ray Reed, Will Knack & Mike
Vernon (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Michael
Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EMO'S Inside: Bello Ragazzo,
Quiet Company, the Shells,
Bound Stems; Lounge: the
Alice Rose, Moonlight Towers

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE
Jenni Lord, Christopher Leavitt,
Sunjay Devarajan

FRANK ERWIN CENTER Pete
Yorn, the Dixie Chicks

FRIENDS Andy Macintyre & the
Primal Groove (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON Texas 42 Nite

HANOVER'S Jay Dirks Band

THE HIDEOUT COFFEESPACE
Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/
Martin Woldman (7:00)

JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/
Stars Across Texas (9:00)

LA PALAPA CL Smooth

LUCKY LOUNGE Swells Wave
(10:00)

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FRI 12/1 **REDD VOLKAERT**
SAT 12/2 **DAVE INSLEY**
SUN 12/3 **OPEN MIC W/ GLENN ALLEN
& KIM MCKENZIE**
MON 12/4 **BEVERLY HENSLEY**
TUES 12/5 **JOEL HOFMANN
BAND**
WED 12/6 **GIBBER JABBERS**

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Saturday 12/02
SAUCE

Wednesday 12/06
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MUSIC/BEER GARDEN

Thursday, November 30 • 8pm
RASCAL RED & THE POSSUM POSSE
UNUSUAL MIX OF BLUEGRASS & POP

Friday, December 1 • 8pm
HARALD THUNE BAND
GREAT COUNTRY SOUNDS FROM NORWAY

Saturday, December 2 • 8pm
PAUL ROBERTS BAND
TEXAS COUNTRY & SOUTHERN ROCK MIX

Sunday, December 3 • 4pm
MOVIN' TARGET
AMERICANA, ROCK, & BLUES ORIGINALS

Upcoming Shows

- MIKE SANFORD BAND
- RED SPADE WITH MALFORD MILLIGAN, JOHN GAAR, & TRACY CONOVER

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THURS 11/30 - ROCK — DOORS 830, SHOW 915
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SHARPEN, ALEXANDER!

FRI 12/01 - ROCK — DOORS 830, SHOW 9
SLIDER
FULL SERVICE UPSIDE, VERNESHOT

SAT 12/02 - REGGAE — DOORS 830, SHOW 9
THE MEDITATIONS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

WED 11/22 - ROCK \$100 COVER — DOORS 830, SHOW 9
101X HOMEOWN LIVE CONCERT SERIES
DRIVER F
THE SECRET HANDSHAKE, THE VISTORS

12/07 Raw Deal Presents Redefining The Moment
Three (ex Kanaya) The Illustrated Band
12/08 Raw Deal Presents Cali Zack CD release
show with: Bavu Blakes, Emcee, Joe Average,
Break Bread, Speakers Zeke 32, Crew 54, Jonny
Dancer, dJ shoestrings 12/09 Cultura
12/10 - Red Book Audio, The Royal Kustoms
12/11 - OHM, Lila Medicine 12/15 - Catch A Fire
Dancehall Soundsystem 12/16 - Young Nick & Haze
Boys, C. Vanderslice, DJ Manny, Carabelas
Collective, Vehicular Many Birthdays, Afrofantastic
12/19 - Demonstrations, Zom Zoms, Teeners,
Undoing of B. Wright 12/20 - Voodoo Glow Skulls,
Against All Authority, Time Again 12/21 - The
Boxing Lesson, The Authors 12/22 - Mayrak
12/23 - Grimy Styles, Green Mountain Grass

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FILTERS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

THE FAINT

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
RATATAT

LIVE AT LA ZONA ROSA @ 8PM

A SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY EVENT

TICKET RELEASE PARTY
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THUR 11.30 DOORS 9PM
U.T. DANCE MARATHON
FALL BENEFIT CONCERT
 featuring
DANNY MALONE
SMILE SMILE
THE DOWNSIDE UP
 a fundraiser for the new
DELL CHILDRENS MEDICAL CENTER

FRI 12.1 DOORS 9PM
TECHNO ADDICT
 hosted by MUSIC ADDICT MAG

SAT 12.2 DOORS 7PM
NOTYETAFAMOUS PRODUCTIONS
 presents
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

FRI 12.8 DOORS 8PM
FIRESIDE
CREATIVE
SHOWCASE
 feat.
BAYTA DARRELL
HUNDRED YEAR STORM
NOONER
SHRAPNEL
LONE STAR PORN STAR

SAT 12.9 DOORS 9PM
QUIEN ES, BOOM!
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
GOLDEN BEAR
THE CHANNEL

WED 12.13 2 SHOWS! EARLY 6PM, LATE 10PM
JOANNA NEWSOM
 & HER 10 PIECE ORCHESTRA
BILL CALLAHAN
 {smog}
 2 SHOWS, 6PM & 10PM

THUR 12.14 DOORS 9PM
PRIVATE PARTY feat.
IVAN NEVILLE'S
DUMPSTAPHUNK
BOOMBOX
 with very special guests
THE GROOVELINE HORNS

SAT 12.16 DOORS 9PM
THE LEMURS
MANEJA BETO
'TIL WE'RE BLUE
OR DESTORY
XCELLA

Live Music **Late Night**
Early ... Loungin'

Lucky lounge

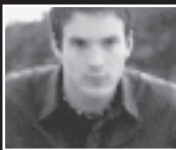
NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU, NOV 30, 6PM

HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING
THE 'LEGENDARY'
IAN MCLAGAN
& THE BUMP BAND

10PM

LATER:
ASTON
TEAGUE

FRI, DEC 1, 9PM

MATT
WHITE

SAT, DEC 2, 9PM

THE
STAGS

SUN, DEC 3, 9PM

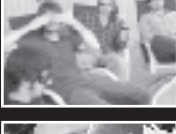
EVERYDAY
PEOPLE

MON, DEC 4, 10PM

SWELLS WAVE

TUE, DEC 5, 10PM

BOOMBOX

WED, DEC 6, 10PM

UNDERDRIVEN

THU, DEC 7, 6PM

HAPPY HOUR
FEATURING THE
'LEGENDARY'
IAN MCLAGAN
& THE BUMP BAND

10PM

LATER:
SOUNDS
UNDER
RADIO

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club listings < < FROM MONDAY

MAGGIE MAE'S Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators (8:00)
MOMOS Meagan Tubb, Carson Aune, Shawn Fussell (8:00)
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jimi Lee & the Unsung Heroes, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)
RADISSON Larissa Ness
RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Tats
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
ROMEO'S Lisa Clark
RUTA MAYA Open All-Star Jam (8:00)
SAXON PUB Adam Hood, Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel, Twanguero, Ricy Stein (7:00)
SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR Nick Ginbey & the Bourbon Legends (8:00)
TAMBALEO Open Mic w/ Calvin Russell (8:00)
TROPHY'S The Meshbanes
WHISKY BAR True School Mondays w/ DJ Tako, DJNotion
WOODY'S SOUTH Billy Dee, Honky (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Eric Hisaw (8:00), Slim Richey's Dream Band, Telling Stories, People Skills (8:30)
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Combos Night w/ ACC, TSU, UT (9:30)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B, AIDS Services of Austin Holiday Mix & Mingle (6:00)
FLIPNIGHTS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Joe Richardson Express (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Billy Garza, Trouble No More (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ the Horton Brothers
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Cade Baccus
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Kevin Havron (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Guns of Detroit, Crash Kennedy, Daredevil Jane
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Night w/ Sergio Martinez (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Leo Stokes
IT'S ITALIAN "Frankly Singing" w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
JOVITA'S Ethan Azarian, Big Chris Gates (6:00)
LA PALAPA Brewer Nation
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks (10:00)
MOMOS Starting Tuesday, Barcelona, Elizabeth Donihoo, Ted Hadji (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
PLUSH Mentalnote
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin
RADISSON Murphy's Inlaws
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
RED'S SCOOT INN Flip for Real! w/ DJ Fil, Metal vs. House Nite (9:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine Trio (6:30)

ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Aquaduct Pocket, A.D.A.
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati
RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic, Open Stage w/ MCO Flong (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (9:00)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB Beth Black (6:00), Hayes Carlil, Amelia White, Will Sexton (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Wayne Hubbard Band (9:30)
TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)
WHISKY BAR Thulsa Doom w/ DJ Lee Roi, DJ Kon Karne
WOODY'S SOUTH Jane Bond

Wed 06

219 WEST Kris Kimura (6:30)
311 CLUB Sindrome (8:30)
AGAVE Andy Macintyre w/ Eric Tessmer (9:00)
ANTONE'S Willie Nelson Hoot Night w/ Wammo
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Rust Tones (10:00)
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Jolly Garogers
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
CACTUS CAFE Malcolm Holcome (8:30)
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Randy Miles, Zeegrass
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Damien Green (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cherylin, John Wilson (8:30)

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TOUR WITH SPECIAL GUEST SKYE



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FALL OUT BOY

gymclassheroes. play radio play



*** THIS SUNDAY ***

DEC 03 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM

THE BLACK KEYS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DR DOG & HACENDA

DEC 09 DOORS 8:00PM



DEC 15 DOORS 8:30PM

DEC 17 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM

FEATURING ROGER CREAGER RANDY ROGERS RADNEY FOSTER



DEC 20 DOORS 8:00PM



DEC 28 DOORS 8:00PM



NEW YEAR'S EVE



FEB 02 DOORS 8:00PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE DOORS 7:30PM SHOW 8:30PM

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Larry Lange 8:00

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Reid Wilson 8:00
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SPECIAL GUEST 12AM & 11PM
KEVIN MCKINNEY 10PM
ALICE SPENCER & HER MONKEY BUTLERS 8PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
MORE FIRE 12AM
DR. ZOOM 11PM
HADLEY 10PM
BROOKS ALAN BRANNON 7:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HORSE + DONKEY 12AM
A FEATHERWEIGHT BURDEN 10PM
HAROLD THUNE 9PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
SUPEREGO ALL-STARS 12AM
MARIO MATTEOLI 11PM
THE EASIES 10PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
GOOD WILL SOUL ORCHESTRA 11:30PM
DIMITRI'S ASCENT 10PM
CHERYL MURDOCK 9PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
THE MESHBANES 12AM
GRUBDOG & THE MODESTOS 11PM
TUMBLEWEED RACER 10PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6
MARAUDERS 12AM
THE CORTO MALTESE 11PM
THE JOY BUS 10PM
ROGER WALLACE 8PM
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club listings << FROM WEDNESDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Friends; In the Club: Jay Moeller & the Sophisticates (6:30), David Garza, James McMurtry (10:00)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee

DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)

EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam, Uncle Lucius (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ron Westray Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM BT, Thomas Dolby

EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Visitors, Secret Handshake, Driver F

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Hamburgler (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Outlaws (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Justin Trevino (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echostemz (8:00)

HEADHUNTERS Some Say Leland, Skaraoke, Robert Socia, Texas Sapphires, Lonesome Heroes

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Showcase Rebecca Fontaine & Friends (7:00)

HILL'S CAFE Anthony Eby

JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ Byrne Rock (8:00)

JOVITA'S Harry Bodine Trio, Li'l Bit & the Customatics (6:00)

LA PALAPA Big Frank Gomez & Friends (7:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Underdriven (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Brewer Nation

MOMOS Amelia White, Band of Heathens, Sidehill Gougers

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

THE OFF CENTER Golden Hornet Project: Percussion V (8:00)

PARDNERS Kara

THE PARLOR Ralph White, the Archibalds

PARNER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PLUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones

THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank

RADISSON The Newz

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED FEZ The Reflex w/ DJ Honeycomb, DJ Fuckin' A (10:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROOM 710 Chris Toast, Grinding Wheel

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic

RUTA MAYA Democracy for Texas Benefit w/ Butch Hancock (7:00)

SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown

SAM'S TOWN POINT Ramsay Midwood & Friends (8:30)

SAXON PUB Pauline Reese (6:00), Monte Montgomery, Red Spade, Uncle Lucius (8:00)

SOUTH FORTY Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (9:15)

TAMBALEO DJ Mike Swing, Tee Double

TROPHY'S The Urgencies

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

WHISKY BAR DJ Thrillkill

WOODY'S SOUTH Leo Rondeau

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:00)

Thu 07

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ANTONE'S Dawn Over Zero (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Michael Austin & Chris Gage

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Rustones

BEERLAND Buffalo Killers

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)

BRENTWOOD TAVERN Chrissy Flatt

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CACTUS CAFE Carrie Rodriguez (8:30)

CAFE MUNDI Johann Wagner, Austin Family Jewels (6:00)

THE CARILLON Christmas at the Carillon: Conspire w/ Craig Hella Johnson Feat. John Boutte (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Hello Stereo, Fancie, Drop Dead Steady, Drop Dead Steady (9:30)

CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), Texas Renegade (8:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Honky, Jesse Dayton (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:00)

THE DETOUR BAR & GRILL Bike Night Open Mic w/ the Wildcards (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Slim Richey's Dream Band w/ Gaila Kenneally, Tony Campise (6:00)

EMO'S Lounge: The Gathering; Inside: The Flood, Dixie Witch, Pearls & Brass, Atomic Bitchwax

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Illustrated Band, Three, Redefining the Moment

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Abi Tapia, Avenue Elle, Rokkatone CD Release

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Rosie Flores

GREEN MUSE CAFE Open Mic w/ Black Molly (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Ed Jurdi & Gordi Quist (7:30)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HILL'S CAFE Ryan Briggs

JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ fStar

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Gil Breyer

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Sounds Under Radio (10:00)

THE MOHAWK El Paso Hot Button, the Paper South, the Early Tapes, Early Greyhound

MOMOS The Hudsons, Porter Davis, Proteus, Goldcure (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

THE PARLOR Happy Birthday, Beast

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Green Mountain Grass

RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED 7 Inside: Warm Winter, Preserve the Sound, the Sad Machines, Chase Holbrook; Outside: Widows & Orphans, Within White Shadows, Endingsilence, Deep Sea Diving, Kill the Ghost

RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)

RED'S SCOOT INN Chief Death Rage, Cry Blood Apache, Coma In Algiers (9:00)

REDRUM Destroy the Runner; Catherine; Oh, Sleeper; A Love Ends Suicide, Facecage

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)

RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROOM 710 Ancient Faultlines, Manifesto, Devola, Peyton Gin

RUTA MAYA Thursdaze w/ Octe Soul Sounds, Hobo D (9:00)

SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy Dee

SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR DJ Grab Bag (7:00)

TROUBADOUR SALOON Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (12:30 am)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sean Russell (6:30)

WHISKY BAR The Snake Trap

WOODY'S SOUTH Mike Cross & Natalie Zoe (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura (6:00)

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Th 30 Carley Wolf 6pm
Turbo 350, Hard Luck Heroes 10pm

Fr 1 Callous Taoboy 6pm
Blackholicus, Invincible Czars (Nutcracker),
Opposite Day 9pm

Sa 2 Word Association, Perseph One, WORK 10pm

Su 3 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate

Mo 4 Gerry's Kids 6pm

Tu 5 Adam Hood 6pm
Ricky Stein, Slowtrain 9pm

We 6 Scott Wood 6pm,
Scotty & the Metaphysics 9pm

Th 7 Moondog 6pm
Three Leaf, Mind Divided, Spirit Things 9pm

Fr 8 Bill Jerram 6pm
Oceanus, Dual Exhaust,
Backwater Gypsy 9pm

Sa 9 Green Mountain Grass, The Warblers 10pm

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CHARLES THIBODEAUX

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BY A LONG SHOT * ENDING SILENCE

Fri 12/1, 8pm
Shrapnel Trains Birthday Bash
SHRAPNEL
AZOTH * MEYVN

Sat 12/2, 8pm
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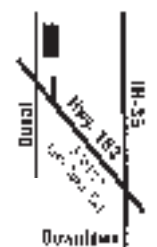
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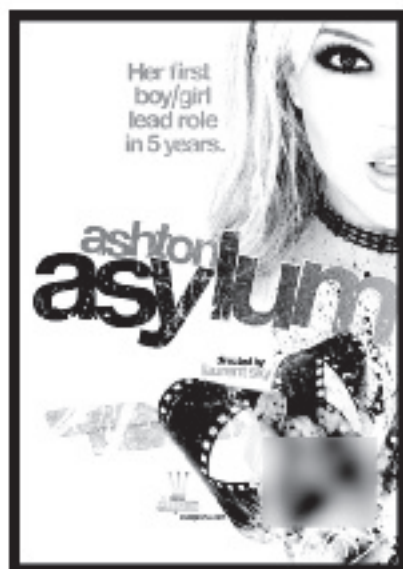
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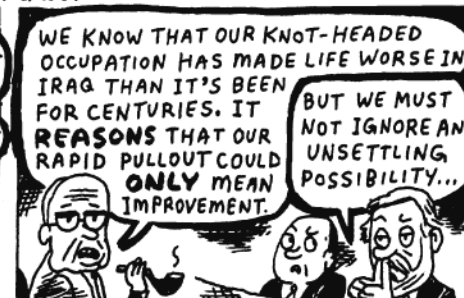


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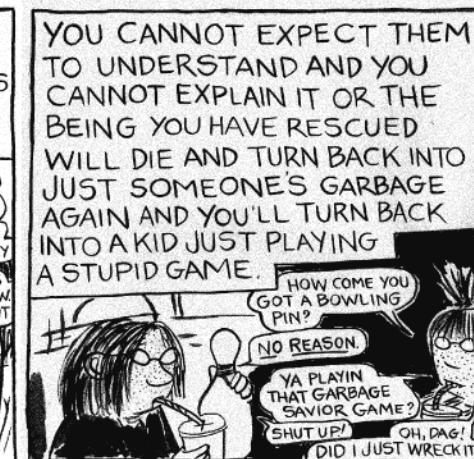
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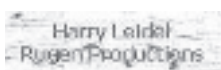
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130 HEALTHCARE

HEALTH ATTENDANT

Attention Nursing & Pre-Med majors, seeking energetic & cheerful Home Health Attendants. \$11/hr. Will train, all shifts avail. Call Cindy Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm for appt. No LATE CALLS to Clinic Please. (512) 371-3036.

135 HOSPITALITY



accepting applications for the following positions:

- Room Service (FT & PT)
- Banquet Server (On-Call)
- Concierge
- Chef Concierge
- Engineer
- Steward
- Cocktail Server
- Cook
- Bartender
- Host
- Front Desk
- Group Sales Manager
- Room Attendant
- Guest Services Agent
- Housekeeping Houseperson

You can apply online at <http://www.careers.ichotelsgroup.com>. The Inter-Continental Stephen F. Austin provides an excellent benefits package, which includes Health/Dental Insurance, 401(K), Short and Long Term disability, Worldwide Employee Discount, Free Shift Meals, and more. Drugscreen & Background checks required.

EOE, D/V, M/F

ALL POSITIONS Needed, Mama Fu's Asian House. Previous experience required. MamaFusAustin.com. 637-6771, jobs@mamafusaustin.com, or in person 1pm-4pm.

ALL POSITIONS

PEI WEI ASIAN DINER

Hiring

- Cashiers - Up to \$11
- Wok Cooks - Up to \$14

Weekends/Days/Nights

Flexible hours

Apply in person from 2-5 pm

Brodie Oaks:Lamar & Hwy 71

Tech Ridge: I-35 & Parmer

Hancock: 41st & I-35

ALL

NOW HIRING

- Servers
- Bartenders
- Hostess

Make up to \$300 per shift.

Apply in Person After 9am

9070 Research Blvd. 101

183 and Burnet Rd

467-8600

www.bagpipespub.com

ALL

COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL

6500 Bee Caves Rd.

327-1742

Dee Dee Halsey, Gen. Mgr.

AND

COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE

5204 FM 2222

346-3664

Mark Gleinser, Gen. Mgr.

Both locations seeking lunch and dinner personnel. Apply in person - but call for appointment. GREAT company that appreciates it's staff. Come join us!!

ALL

CASHIER, SERVERS & HOST

All shifts open. Simple work w/higher income. Great teamwork encouraged. Apply at 1012 W. Anderson. or 4608 Westgate Blvd.

Buffet Palace

892-1800 458-2999

ALL POSITIONS Full staff needed for a new comfort food restaurant on South Congress. Now hiring hosts, waitstaff, bussers, and line cooks. Great work environment and we are looking for great people. Please send your resume to TheWoodland@gmail.com.

- ALL POSITIONS**
- Current Employment opportunities:**
- Transportation Drivers
 - Purchasing Delivery Clerk
 - Laundry Attds (PM)
 - Hoststaff
 - Waitstaff
 - Dishwashers
 - Spa Desk Attendant
 - Aerobics/Spa Instructors
 - Kids Club Attds.
 - Night Cleaners
 - Stewards
 - Fitness Desk Supervisor
 - Conference Billing Clerk
 - Housekeepers (AM/PM)
 - Purchasing Delivery Clerk
 - Front Desk Supervisor

Apply in person Monday-Friday 8:30-5PM, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. Email resumes to jobs@bartoncreek.com or fax your information to 512-329-4014. Website: <http://www.bartoncreek.com> Barton Creek offers a complete benefits package & competitive wages. EOE

ALL

FOOD SERVERS HOSTPERSONS

Please apply:

Monday - Friday 10-11am, 2-5pm.

2002 Manor Rd.

ALL Pluckers is heading SOUTH for the winter!!!

Pluckers is currently hiring for our new and upcoming South Lamar location. Located at 3909 S. Lamar, we are looking to open mid-February.

We are looking to fill all positions before it's grand opening and will be training all qualified applicants at our Burnet Rd. and Rio Grande location.

In order to secure the best position fill out an application at any Pluckers Wing Bar or apply online today www.pluckers.net

BARTENDERS Many great opportunities. Part time and full time shifts available. Make \$200-\$300 per shift. No experience is required, training provided. Call (877) 966-9266 ext. 1000. (AAN CAN)

BARTENDER !BARTEND ! Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

CASHIER Quality Seafood accepting applications for evening food service cashier. Apply in person, 5621 Airport Blvd. Mon-Sat. 2-6pm. References Required.

COOK/SERVERS/BUSSERS

Seeking line cook,am/pm servers & pm bussers. Apply in person or leave resume between 3 and 5pm Mon-Fri. Castle Hill Cafe 1101 W 5th 476-7218. Voted Austin's Favorite Restaurant. 5 consecutive years.

COOKS AM/PM Line cook needed. Apply in person at The Dog and Duck Pub 406 W. 17th St.

ENTERTAINERS



MAKE LOTS OF MONEY! and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35. 218-8012.

DANCERS !DANCERS !

The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG \$\$\$

FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport. 385-2878.

HOSTPERSONS needed. FT/PT avail. Apply in person: Las Palomas, 3201 Bee Caves Rd #122 (Westwood Shopping Ctr in Westlake.)

PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS/ COOK PIZZA CLASSICS: Now Hiring Delivery Drivers, Up to \$15/hr. Also hiring cook. Please apply in person at 604 W. 29th after 4PM.

SERVERS & CASHIERS

Mongolian Grille Downtown, 138 North, Round Rock. Call 775-2241 / Apply In Person.

WAITSTAFF Asian fusion cuisine looking for exp'd waitstaff. Opp. for advancement. Apply in person at 2400 E Oltorf Ste 1A, or call 448-4706. Ask for Kevin.

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! austinchronicle.com/classifieds

Where Quality Meets Life

Building Inspection I/II - Job # 20-210-061011 Full-time; \$13.54 – 19.05/hour BOE

Interface with external builders, engineers, architects, developers, and sub-contractors, and City employees. Review residential plans for compliance. Required Certification: Texas State Plumbing Inspectors License; International Residential Code Certification; International Energy Code Certification.

Utility I - Job #10-100-061114 Full-time, \$9.51/hr, benefits.

Perform general maintenance, installation, construction and repair of public utility facilities. Repair wastewater lines, accurately reads and records meters, maintains equip, cuts grass and trims vegetation. Requirements: HS diploma/GED & TXDL; Ability to lift 100 lbs.

RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM. Applications available at: 100 E. Main, STE 100, Pflugerville, TX 78660. Download application at www.cityofpflugerville.com/jobs. E-mail to staffing@cityofpflugerville.com. EOE

Where Quality Meets Life

Library Circulation Assistant, Part Time Salary \$7.75 – 8.50/hr based on experience. Part-time, 19 hrs/wk, evenings & Saturdays; provide customer service in person or by phone; shelf materials; check in/out materials; issue library cards, collect fines, assist w/ public computer questions & more. Must be dependable w/ excellent communication and customer service skills; HS equiv.

Police Dispatcher I 20-300-061001 Salary: \$11.29 – \$13.55/hour

Required: HS diploma/GED; 2 years office exp.; Full-time, Rotating 12-hour shifts. Ability to: perform and track multiple activities such as take calls, operate radio & computer and other equipment simultaneously; quickly establish priorities while performing multiple tasks & work calmly under stressful conditions; good, accurate communication skills (verbal and written).

For more info: www.cityofpflugerville.com.

RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM; Available at: 100 E. Main, STE 100 Pflugerville, TX 78660. Download at www.cityofpflugerville.com/jobs. E-mail to staffing@cityofpflugerville.com. EOE

145

OFFICE/CLERICAL

DISPATCH Need organized, multi-tasked individual. Fast paced setting. 2nd/3rd shift. Fax 512.442.8509 or email waslater@jaguartechnologies.com

GOVERNMENT JOBS \$12-\$48/Hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife & More! 1-800-320-9353 x2001. (AAN CAN)

EMPLOYMENT Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man? Well, we can't help you with that ...

but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays. Austin Chronicle Employment section. It's a start.

150

NON-PROFIT

ACTIVISM
JOBS TO DEFEAT THE REPUBLICANS
\$1,200-\$2,000/Month

Had enough of Bush and the Republicans? Work on behalf of the National Democratic Party to elect Democrats this fall.

Leadership Positions Available. Call Charles, **512-944-2191**

VOLUNTEERS HELP WANTED
VOLUNTEER IN AFRICA AIDS outreach, teach & community development. 14 mo incl. training in California. Teams start Feb & May! Fees/grants 510-637-9666 information@cctg.org www.cctg.org

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SIERRA CLUB**\$300-\$500/Week**

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call Kris 479-9804

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Call **916-4001** for interviews
www.Telefund.com

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PROFESSIONAL

SR. CONSULTANT Sr. Consultant, Ascendant Technology, Austin, TX. Req.: MS Comp. Sci. + strong WebSphere App. Serv./Portal Serv./Java. Resume only to: C. Jones (File #06996) 10215 161st Pl. NE Redmond, WA 98052. Job Order: #6001977.

RESEARCH

You've given blood for money. Donated plasma for money.

We won't even mention all the other things you've done for a little extra cash.

Make it easy on yourself and check out The Austin Chronicle's Clinical Studies Page.

160

RESEARCH STUDY**BIPOLAR DISORDER****DO YOU HAVE THE SIGNS?**

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.
(512) 323-2622
 http://www.communityclinical.com

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER**ALWAYS WORRYING?**

- Restless • Fatigued
- Tense Muscles
- Irritability • Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

http://

www.communityclinical.com

DONOR PROGRAM
SEMEN DONORS
NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at http://www.123donate.com.

SEX ABUSE

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a study to examine treatments for sexual function for women with a history of sexual abuse before age 16. Treatment is provided free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior.

For more information, please call (512) 232-4805 Mon-Fri 2-6 pm, or leave a message anytime.

(512)232-4805

All calls are confidential.

SCHIZOPHRENIA
CAN TEAR FAMILIES APART

- Tendency towards isolation
 - Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
 - Problems with concentration
 - Lack of energy and motivation
- Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

search for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

http://www.communityclinical.com

DEPRESSION**HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED?**

- Sad or depressed mood
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

http://www.communityclinical.com



PLUCKERS IS NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS

Servers/Hosts/Cashiers/Cooks/Delivery Drivers welcome.
NO "FLAIR" REQUIRED
Apply in person at the following locations or online at www.pluckers.net
222 Rio Grande West Campus • 9070 Research #201-C Crossroads Shopping Center
300 N. Mays Crossing #300 Round Rock, TX

Pluckers is heading SOUTH for the winter!! Pluckers is currently hiring for our new upcoming SOUTH LAMAR location. Located at 3909 S. Lamar, we are looking to open in mid-February. We are looking to fill ALL POSITIONS before it's grand opening and will be training all qualified applicants at Burnet Rd. and Round Rock locations. In order to secure the best positions fill out and application at any Pluckers Wing Bar or apply online TODAY.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR WINGS, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE BIRD!

BECOME AN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

You could have a career in the exciting world of film and television. Call MediaTech Institute and ask about the "Digital Film and Video Arts Program."

YOU'VE DREAMED IT, MAKE IT REAL TODAY

Call 866-498-1122 or visit www.mediatechinstitute.com
 Classes start January 8, 2007




ON & OFF-LINE BRANDING

WEB APPLICATION PROGRAMMER

With a minimum of 5 years experience. Must have website and database driven skills.

Skills/Requirements.:

- Great communication skills with a focus on creating ecstatic customers.
- Enjoys doing things the right way vs the easy way.
- Expert at building web sites and applications using CSS/XHTML, PHP 4 & 5, APACHE, and MySQL and has strong optimization and production process skills.
- Open Source development experience.
- Experience with CMS and back end development (we use Xaraya).
- Experience with AJAX.

MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPER

Multimedia/Flash designer with a minimum of 3 years experience within an advertising agency, web development or interactive environment. Must have design/animation skills and an expert level in Action Script 2.0.

Skills/Requirements.:

- Great communication skills with a focus on creating ecstatic customers.
- Ability to convert Photoshop and Illustrator files to working HTML and Flash concepts, visual prototypes and motion demos to create the look and layout of the interface.
- Expertly build web sites and applications using Flash (ActionScript), CSS/XHTML, PHP, and has strong optimization and production process skills.
- Advanced Flash Experience with some design/animation skills and an expert level in Action Script 2.0.
- Has some experience with Streaming Media.
- Windows/Flash/QuickTime (and other) Media Encoding.

CONTACT

Please email resumè to pamela@blueclover.com with job title in subject line or fax it to 210.223.2581, thank you.

blue clover

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Drivers Needed

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, America's #1 automotive leasing and rental company, is currently hiring Part-Time Car Preps and Drivers for locations in South and North Austin, Round Rock, Lakeway, and Cedar Park. Duties include: washing, cleaning and vacuuming cars, checking fluids, and transporting vehicles. Must be 21 years old or 18 and full-time college student. Must pass background checks. Please apply in person at any location or online at **www.enterprise.com**
 EOE

COLD STUDY

GOT A COLD?

If you're suffering from a cold or the flu, and are 18 years of age or older, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study to test the effectiveness of an over-the-counter medication approved for the treatment of cough.

All study-related care and medication is provided at no cost to qualified participants. Compensation up to \$350 will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort.

Please contact us immediately if you would like more information about participating in this clinical research study.

For more information please call:

1-800-369-2875

http://
www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

OSTEOARTHRITIS

ARE SORE, STIFF KNEES SLOWING YOU DOWN?

If you are 18 years of age or older and have osteoarthritis of the knees, you might be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Benchmark Research is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used to treat osteoarthritis pain of the knees.

Eligible participants in this study will receive:

- Study Related Treatment
- Investigational Medication
- Study Related Physical Exams, Lab Tests

Compensation up to \$450 will be paid to eligible participants for their time.

To learn more please call:

1-800-369-2875

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH



WORK WITH THE BEST RECEIVE PAID BENEFITS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Austin's leading Comprehensive Child Development/ Early Education Program is accepting applications for the following positions:

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER Degree in EC, CD or CDA. Reliable transportation. Some exp. req.

TEACHER'S AIDES High School or GED, some exp. Reliable transportation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISABILITIES RESOURCE TEACHER Certified Special Education Teacher for itinerant position. Exp. with young children, behavior management & community resources. Reliable transportation.

FOOD SERVICE WORKER High school diploma or GED. Reliable transportation. Some food exp. preferred.

BILINGUAL VISITING TEACHERS Bilingual, social service experience needed, some college preferred. Reliable transportation.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Apply in person at **Evins Personnel, 2013 W. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757 512-454-9561** EOE



INTERCONTINENTAL
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

*Do you have what it takes to be a leader in the world's most global hotel company? If so, make it happen and apply now for a career with **InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel**, where a world of personal and professional opportunities exist.*

Join us and be a part of a dynamic team of individuals dedicated to providing guests with new and exciting experiences every day. Your spirit of service and enthusiasm could land you the career of a lifetime.

*We currently have openings in **F&B** and **Guest Services**.*

Apply online at
www.careers.ichotelsgroup.com.

EOE/DF/V/M/F

ASTHMA/ALLERGY

MEN AND WOMEN WITH ASTHMA, ATOPIC DERMATITIS, OR ALLERGIC RHINITIS

A clinical research trial is being conducted to study the effects of a nutritional supplement on your asthma, atopic dermatitis or allergic rhinitis.

To Qualify You Must Be:

- 18 to 65 years of age
- Willing to make 4 clinic visits

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Study-related nutritional supplement or placebo
- Study-related laboratory and physical examinations
- Financial compensation up to \$400 is available for time and travel

Contact us for more information
MetaClin Research
http://www.metaclin.com
studies@metaclin.com
(512) 732-2444

METACLIN

165
RETAIL

SALESPERSON Local Music Store needs part-time salesperson for evenings & weekends. Record store experience a plus. Please apply in person at Musicmania, 38 1/2 St. exit at IH35, next to Fiesta. No phone calls.

SALES CLERK

All Digital, a very progressive retail store in Northwest Austin is hiring sales clerks, FT & PT. No exp necessary. Will train. Good customer service skills needed. Exp. w/ packing/shipping/computer/cell phones, a plus. Bring resume to 11815 RR 620 N. sales@alldigitalusa.com, 258-8858

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COMPUTERS & MORE

170
SALES MARKETING

DEMONSTRATOR 10 Full-Time Positions Available. Full Training Provided. 3 shows a day. \$2400 per month. Career Growth & Advancement. Georgetown, (512)868-9432

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\$12 PER HOUR STARTING PAY PLUS BONUSES OUTSIDE CANVASS PROGRAM

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1-800-951-5111, EXT. 8270

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SEXUAL ABUSE

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a study to examine treatments for sexual function for women with a history of sexual abuse before age 16. Treatment is provided free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior.

For more information, please call (512) 232-4805 Monday through Friday, 2-6pm, or leave a message anytime.

For more information, please call (512)232-4805

All calls are confidential.



BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA

Current Employment Opportunities:

- Golf Attnds.
- Kids Club Attnds.
- Waitstaff
- Spa Desk Attnd.
- Greenskeepers
- Aerobics/Spin Instructors
- Hoststaff
- Fitness Desk Spvrs.
- Night Cleaners
- Purchasing Delivery Clerk
- Stewards (PM)
- Front Desk Spvrs.
- Laundry Attnds. (PM)
- Bell Staff
- Conference Billing Clerk
- Fitness Desk Attnd.
- Dishwashers
- Housekeepers AM/PM

Apply in person Monday - Friday 8:30am-5pm, 8212 Barton Club Dr. Austin, Tx 78735.

Résumés can be e-mailed to **jobs@bartoncreek.com** or fax your information to 512-329-4014.

Web site: **http://www.bartoncreek.com**

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175
SCHOOL TRAINING

OUTDOOR YOUTH COUNSELOR. Do you love the outdoors and helping troubled teens? Immediate openings at Eckerd outdoor therapeutic programs in Florida, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Year-round residential position, free room/board, competitive salary/benefits. Info and apply online: <http://www.eckerderyouth.org>. Or fax resume to Career Advisor/ AN, 727-442-5911. (AAN CAN)

TEACHERS

WORK WITH THE BEST RECEIVE PAID BENEFITS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Austin's leading

TEACHERS

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT/EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER** • Degree in EC, CD or CDA • Some exp. req.
- **TEACHER'S AIDES** High School or GED, some exp.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION DISABILITIES RESOURCE TEACHER** • Certified Special Education Teacher for itinerant position • Exp. with young children, behavior management & community resources
- **FOOD SERVICE WORKER** High school diploma or GED. Some food exp. preferred
- **BILINGUAL VISITING TEACHERS** Bilingual, social service experience needed, some college preferred

Apply in person at
Evins Personnel
2013 W. Anderson Ln.
Austin, TX 78751
EOE

TEACHERS

THINK BIG. BECOME A TEACHER.

Texas Teaching Fellows seeks applicants to become bilingual education, math, science, and special education teachers. No education experience required. To apply, go to texteachingfellows.org

180
TECHNICAL

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Software Engineer needed, 2 yrs exp. required for TK20 Inc. Contact Karen Ginsel, 512-401-2000, ext. 824

EVEREST INSTITUTE

A new career awaits you with career training in Health Care or RHVAC field at Everest Institute - Austin. 9100 US Hwy. 290 East Building 1, Suite 100 Austin, TX 78754 Call 1-888-647-6635 Dept. 3089, or visit us today at EverestToday.com

EMPLOYMENT Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man? Well, we can't help you with that ... but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays. Austin Chronicle Employment section. It's a start.



research
STUDIES

Got a cold?

If you're suffering from a cold or the flu, and are 18 years of age or older, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study to test the effectiveness of an over-the-counter medication approved for the treatment of cough.



All study-related care and medication is provided at no cost to qualified participants.

Compensation up to \$350 will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort.

Please contact us immediately if you would like more information about participating in this clinical research study.

For more information, please call
1-800-369-2875
www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK
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Version 2

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Right for you?

Ask Your Doctor

Or Call
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Research

For

No Obligation
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Trials Allow People To Have The
Opportunity To Try Investigational
Medications Or Treatment That
Would Otherwise Be Unavailable.

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www.communityclinical.com

DEPRESSION

Have you been diagnosed?

- Sad or depressed mood
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

BIPOLAR DISORDER

Do you have the signs?

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Can tear families apart.

- Tendency towards isolation
- Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
- Problems with concentration
- Lack of energy and motivation

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

Always worrying?

- Restless
- Fatigued
- Tense muscles
- Irritability
- Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

Adult volunteers are needed for a research study of the investigational use of an approved medication to observe recurrent genital herpes outbreaks.



Qualified participants must be at least 18 years old, and have had four or more outbreaks within the past year. (If currently on suppressive antiviral therapy, the participant must have had 4 outbreaks in the 12 months prior to their starting antiviral therapy.) All doctor visits, physical exams, laboratory tests, study medication, and any other study-related care is provided to eligible participants at no cost.

*Qualified participants will receive up to \$520
for their time and effort.*

For more information, please call:

1-800-369-2875

www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH



Headaches Hurt.

But it wouldn't hurt to consider our research study.

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational oral drug compared to placebo for the treatment of a single moderate or severe headache if you:

- Are male or female, 18 - 65 years old, and generally healthy
- Have had 1 to 6 moderate or severe headaches per month for the past 6 months
- Have never been diagnosed with migraine headaches by a medical doctor

This study, which lasts up to 3 months, requires 2 office visits and involves the treatment of 1 moderate or severe headache. Qualified study participants will receive a travel reimbursement of up to \$100.

For more information, please contact:

1-800-369-2875

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

Are Sore, Stiff Knees Slowing You Down?

If you are 18 years of age or older and have osteoarthritis of the knees, you might be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Benchmark Research is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used to treat osteoarthritis pain of the knees.



Eligible participants in this study will receive:

*Study Related Treatment • Investigational Medication
Study Related Physical Exams, Lab Tests*

Compensation up to \$450 will be paid to eligible participants for their time.

TO LEARN MORE,
PLEASE CALL

1-800-369-2875

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

www.benchmarkresearch.net

HOUSING

215

APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

CENTRAL <http://AustinCool.com> 693-7231 Walk downtown, hike/bike trail, small property, \$615.

CENTRAL 1/1 Top Flr Corner Unit. \$850 Hip Concrete Floors, Tile kitchen/bath, new appliances. Pool/Secured parking. Call 512-342-9566

CENTRAL

78704

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- 1BR-\$449, private lake & tanning bed
- 2BR-\$535 Free Cable
- 3BR-\$799, W/D conn. 2 pools
- 4BR-\$850 are you kidding me?
- 2BR-\$199 total move in \$670 wood floors.

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CENTRAL Spectacular Downtown Views! 1034 sq ft 2-2. Granite counters, W/D conn. ASAP Move-in! www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

CENTRAL <http://AustinCool.com> 693-7231 SoCo 3BD, hardwoods, stainless, W/D, WiFi, walk everywhere

CENTRAL GUADALUPE & LAMAR, Gated, near UT Shuttle and Central Market. 1 br \$525, 2 br \$805. A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL 51st ST & Lera-lynn. Great 2 bedroom/2 bath condo. \$950/mo. Rita, Homestead Realty, 468-2867

CENTRAL ECLECTIC DOWNTOWN LOFT, big dogs ok. A+, 231-1400, Agent

CENTRAL

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CENTRAL SUPER SWANKY LUXURY LIVING! Concrete Floors, \$1100+, Call 512.241.1111 Agent.

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CENTRAL <http://AustinCool.com> 693-7231 Dwtwn 2BDRM, modern kitchen, pool on lake, 2wks free! \$700

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CENTRAL Barton Creek greenbelt condo. Direct grnbelt access. Lrg 1/1 \$700, 2/2 \$850. Hidden and quiet. APP 474-4900 bestaustinproperties.com

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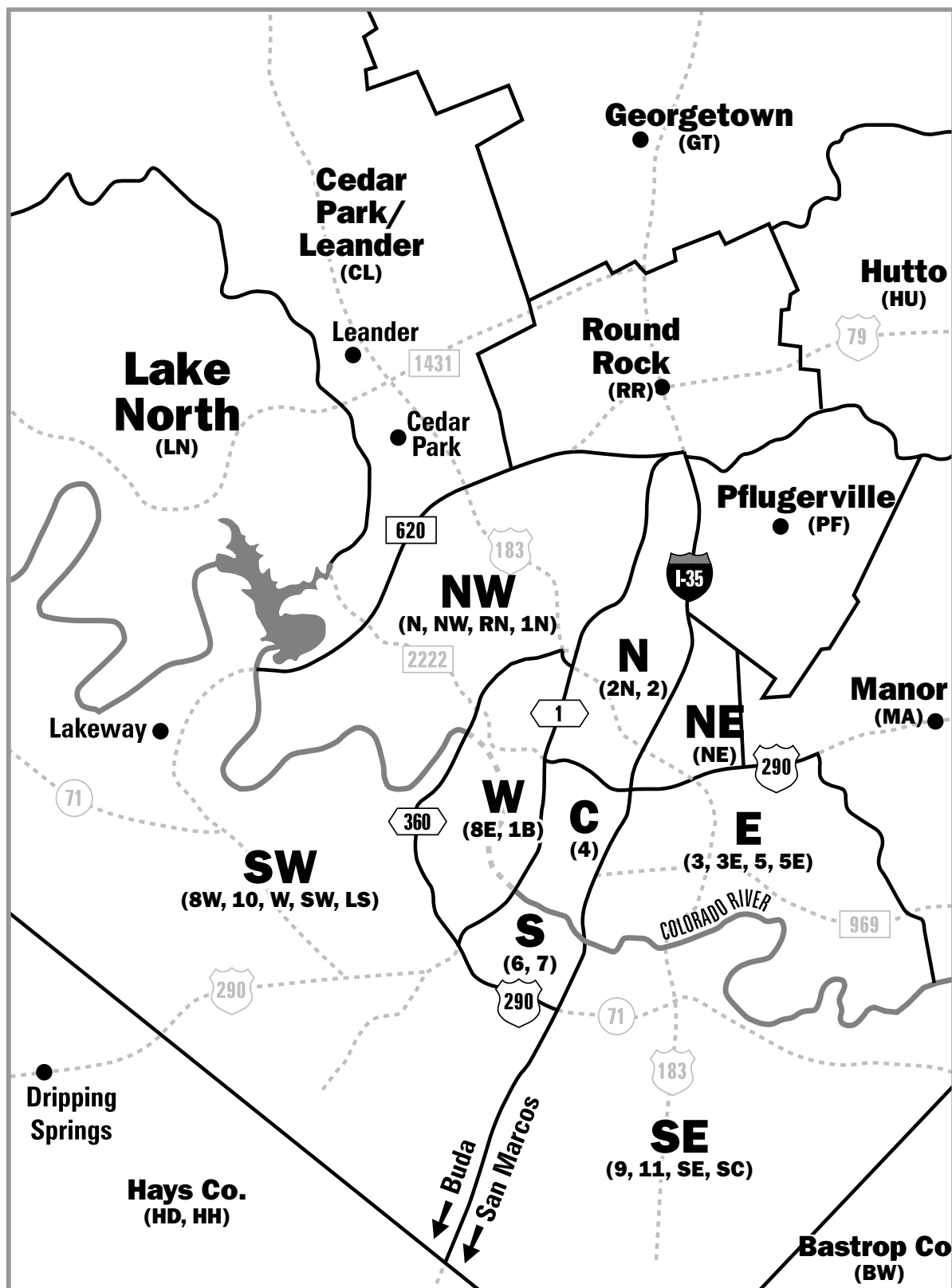
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- South Lamar near Broken Spoke. Walk to coffeehouse and shops. 1/1 \$550, 2/2 \$755.
- Historic Travis Heights: courtyard community, 1 bedroom \$625, 2 bedroom, \$710, utilities paid, huge private decks!
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- On Congress, hidden community, 1 bedroom \$530, 2 bedroom flat \$725, walk to everything!
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- Zilker Park on Hike & Bike Trail. 1 bedroom, \$769. 2 bedroom, \$825 (large deck). Mountain bike and swim!
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to YOUR HEALTH

With sadness we report that columnist and nutritionist James Heffley passed away on Sunday, Nov. 26, at the age of 65. In addition to writing the "To Your Health" column, published weekly in these pages since 2001, Heffley had a Ph.D. in biochemistry and was a clinical nutrition counselor who served the Austin community for many years. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10:30am at the Church of Christ, 703 N. Avenue C, in Elgin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Healing Hands International, www.hhi.org.

A fuller remembrance of Heffley will be published here next week.

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7 days/week by appointment.
Select Hotel Outcalls.
(See photo ad) RMT8896

ALTERNATIVE HOTEL OUT-CALL. Till 2am, Visa/MC/Amex (MT#4676) Call today, 459-3535.

ALTERNATIVE to pain and stress. Austin's best professional therapeutic massage to relieve, relax, and revitalize. Easy access from North & Central Austin. \$10 off 1st time. 789-6278, Nanette, MT017147

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Stressed, Exhausted, Sore?
UNWIND & ESCAPE
Calming bath & massage.
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Effective solution to stop taking (those pills) 445-0280

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.....THATS FOR WINDOWS.....
.....Call KAT 445-0280.....

ALTERNATIVE Lomi Lomi, the Shamanic Massage. In/Hotel Outcalls till 2am, VISA/MC/AX RMT#4676, 323-5630.

450 LICENSED MASSAGE

ALTERNATIVE Esalen, 25 years experience. Perfect relaxation massage. Private setting. Shower. Convenient location. \$10 off. Janet, 892-8877. RMT#2271.

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MASSAGES ARE LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES, YA NEVER KNOW....445-0280

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450

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ALTERNATIVE CEDAR PARK Massage. Soothing, Swedish. It's easy to unwind in our rejuvenating & relaxing atmosphere! 10a-8p 7 days. 250-9655 MT042810
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ALTERNATIVE HOTEL OUTCALLS/INCALLS! 7 days till 1am! 803-4703. RMT#012619

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The touch you won't forget
Same day appts. Private, exp w/ strong hands.
6P 10P M-TH. F-9AM 10PM.
Phillip Scott 477-SCOT

ALTERNATIVE
KIMBERLY 417-4141 Relax and enjoy a massage tailored to you. NW location, Rmt#5028

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"THE GETAWAY
Candle light/ Soft Music/ Smell of Jasmine and a glass of wine.445-0280 rmt#31534

DEEP TISSUE Chair/Table
Austin Massage Clinic - Open 10-7. Walk-ins OK! Same Day Appts., Out Calls & After Hrs.tool RMT 27632
Call Today! 477-3333

DEEP TISSUE Deep Tissue
Therapeutic Massage. Sore shoulders from Computer work? Sport Injury & Fitness Massage. Call Mike (512) 415-1620.Central Austin.- RMT46621

DEEP TISSUE BY
PERSONAL TRAINER \$50 per hour. Appts till 10pm. Out/In Call. RMT#021317, 658-1946

DEEP TISSUE Work for gentlemen available evenings/ weekends. Replenish your well being. (rmt 24006) Bob. 458-5656.

DEEP TISSUE Sweedish & Prenatal massage therapist.South Austin. Alexandra,743-2485, RMT #36651

DEEP TISSUE/SWEDISH
RELAX RELIEVE RESTORE
Expert Deep Tissue * Sports * Swedish. 10 yrs experience.
Call Janette @ 289-5886.
RMT#15397.

DEEP TISSUE/SWEDISH 12 yrs. exp. Initial 1 1/2 hr \$65. Nina Powers #8574 708-1970 bodyharmonymassage.com

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512-391-0760 (f)
INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL
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GENERAL Experience
Therapeutic Massage in the comfort of your home. Evenings-Weekends. Barbara RMT#9796 Cell: 296-0530.

GENERAL NURTURING TOUCH, "Sense-sational"
Heavenly Full Body Massage. A Gentleman's First Choice in Relaxation. Monday-Friday, 10am-6pm. Linda (MT4330) 460-9117.

GENERAL FULL BODY MASSAGE by James. Incalls/ Outcalls 24/7. Call 554-2248. (RMT017905)

GENERAL Therapeutic Relief. In/Out calls, 9am-7pm daily. Eva, Call 282-4426. RMT#3830.

GENERAL Paradise found. Experienced, soothing Esalen massage. Southeast, near Austin, San Marcos, Kyle, Lockhart & Bergstrom. Mon-Thu 7pm-9pm, Sat-Sun 9am-9pm. Carole (MT3195) Call 985-5015.

GENERAL MYSTICAL MASSAGE
Experience the Peace of a Quiet Mind & Resting Heart. Centrally Located (RMT2596)
(512) 799-1337 or (512) 385-5572

GENERAL Remember who you want to be. Talented, purposeful massage.(Pay for three massages by 2007 & receive one free massage gift certificate) 470-6525 (RMT013588).

GENERAL NOW OPEN. Relax - Relieve - Enjoy, Swedish Massage. Deep & Soft Tissue, Full Body Massage, hot stone treatment. Bee Cave Rd, quiet office. RMT#39907. Call 698-1615 or 905-7668

GENERAL Let my massage relax your achy body & soothe your spirit. In/Out calls & late appointments welcome. Now accepting all major credit cards. Michael 797-3652, RMT#18894

GENERAL A journey beyond sensations... by Mary Ellen. The ultimate experience in relaxation! Full Body Massage, Herbal Baths, Warm Oils, Hot Tub Massage, MT/ VISA (RMT#9644) 927-8366.

GENERAL Full Body Massage, Relaxation/Swedish. South Austin Incall, 8am-9pm daily. Ask about senior discount. Joel RMT#46779, call (512)964-0851.

GENERAL Relieve Stress, headaches, back/neck pain, sore muscles, or just relax & enjoy. Magic Palms Therapeutic Massage.Get it Now, Tues-Sun, after 11am. Out Calls \$65/75 mins. Call 512-281-6274 RMT#45388

GENERAL A Great Massage for Men by Bob. North location (RMT#013795) Call 9am-10pm, 7 days/week. (512) 296-4111.

GENERAL SOOTHING MASSAGE. Experienced, professional. N. Austin/Jollyville Rd. M-Sat. 10am-7pm. Cash only. By appointment only.372-9530. RMT 042276.

GENERAL Experienced massage therapist seeking mature clients. Anne, MT#39649 (512) 653-3438.

GENERAL Get Pampered with a Swedish, Deep Tissue, Sports, Chair, or Hot Stone Massage by Rebecca. North Austin, 183 & Anderson Mill. Gift certificates avail. Call 512-699-9165, MT#031330

GENERAL Treat yourself to a relaxing hot oil, full-body Swedish massage in a candle-lit, private room/ shower, 24/7, in/out calls. Clint 775-9164 - RMT# 34842

GENERAL \$40 hour! Incall. Best Deal in Town! Clark (RMT 07398) Call 784-0929. http://www.freewebs.com/ryanp

GENERAL All stressed up and no place to go? Tony's Wonderful Massage RMT#3233, 346-6210.

GENERAL
AMAZING TOUCH
TILL 1AM!
OFFICES IN AUSTIN/RR. OUTCALLS AVAILABLE. SHANNON MARIE (RMT# 24536)
567-3115

GENERAL Central Amazing Massage, effective pain/stress relief. Gentle/Deep. (RMT6361) 296-3227.

GENERAL * NEW NORTH CENTRAL LOCATION! * The Executive Touch Massage. Specializing in Total Relaxation. Call Kim 989-0003, RMT023154

READER NOTICE
The State of Texas Department of Health requires registration numbers for individuals who practice massage. These registration numbers are included in all ads within the therapy section. They are as follows: TR = Temporary Registration is a temporary licensed number which is good for six months as a registered massage therapist in Texas. RMT = Registered Massage Therapist or MT = Massage Therapist, which is the permanent registration number once all state tests have been passed. ME = Massage Establishment, which is a place of business that offers licensed massage therapy and has a licensed massage therapist on site of the business establishment. MI = Massage Instructor, an individual who is a registered massage therapist approved by the State of Texas to offer instruction to 1 or more students of massage therapy. Any concerns should be directed to the Texas Department of Health in Austin at 512-834-6616

RELAXATION
Quiet Mind...
Quiet Body...
Call Gayle 351-5538

RELAXATION Massage by young college student. Call Greg for soothing massage. In/Out calls. RMT# TR19001. Cellular, 512-496-3527.

RELAXATION Gisela, Therapist trained in pampering. 797-3171. 183 & 290. Open Monday - Thursdays 10am - 6pm. RMT#19847

RELAXATION Full Body Massage for the discriminating man; soothing techniques to remedy your needs; wkdays, 6-9 PM, Wkends/Holidays, 10A-9P; Don, 436-9240, Zilker Pk. area. MT#032673

RELAXATION
Private setting in S. Austin. Full body massage with warm oil by masculine guy with strong, sensitive hands.

Don, RMT #28735 585-9450
www.elmforestmassage.net

RELAXATION The Right Touch. Chinese, Swedish style. Sensitive. Call Jade Liu 804-0794 - RMT#36404

RELAXATION MASSAGE FOR MEN by an experienced male masseur, call Michael Alan RMT021801 636-4200.

RELAXATION Strong hands for the stressed out full body. Treat yourself to a FULL body swedish massage. In/out calls. Mark (512) 653-4247 RMT# 038941

RELAXATION Fabulous massages. Full body relaxation, body scrubs, hot stones, warm oil. Outcalls, 9am-12am. 569-7001. TR#45207.

SWEDISH Massage Gustavo Marquez. By Appt: Flexible Schedule. Call 512-577-7555. MT032836

SWEDISH Gift yourself to a luxurious massage from a recent Fine Arts UT graduate. Thanks for all your encouragement and support! Kasey Smith, MT#17406. 457-8496.

SWEDISH Full hour of hands on Swedish massage. \$20 off your 1st massage. 636-3661. RMT #40870.

SWEDISH Massage by Will \$60/hr. IN/OUT Mon-Sun, Days/Nights: 351-2430 RMT#40677 Central Location.

SWEDISH 13yrs experience. Nurturing, Intuitive, Holistic. Beautiful central Austin, Travis Heights location. (MT#010471) Call Sarah at (512) 983-6602.

SWEDISH

DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE & SPA TREATMENT

- Facelift Massage
- Hot Stones

Maria (MT3963) South Visa/MC Accepted
(512) 440-7372



SWEDISH N.Austin. Gay Friendly. Shower available. Bruce@healtsoul.com or 673-8072 MT038417

SWEDISH/DEEP TISSUE
Massage Therapy by Gida. Swedish & Deep Tissue. In/Outcalls. Call 786-2881
North Austin. RMT#021809.

THERAPEUTIC NO Outcalls. Wm. Cannon/I-35. YES! REALLY! SOUTH! Call Jen, Cell: 203-7271. RMT#7400

THERAPEUTIC Feel better now... Therapeutic Massage by Ilse Rachut, RMT#355386. 5 years of professional experience. Sports, Swedish, Shiatsu, deep tissue. Central Location. 264-4500.

WELLNESS Avalon Wellness Center...where East meets West and health leads to longevity. Our hands, your health. Call 512-371-7124 for appt. LMT# 40870

455

PSYCHIC ASTROLOGY

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STUCK IN A RUT?
Intuitive healer researches Akashic records, past lives, karma. Soul clearing process releases limiting patterns, beliefs, energy distortions blocking change. Awaken purpose, abundance, joy! Deborah renown clairvoyant Phone appt. only 462-9993
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ISABELLE: 30 years experience. Love expert. Reunites soulmates. Removes negative energy. Call 888-862-8792 for FREE reading.

465

MISCELLANEOUS

DATING Tango between the sheets Try FREE! Use code: 4829 Call 512-735-0000
tangobyphone.com

PORTRAITS PROFESSIONAL
PORTRAITS White collar art at blue collar prices! Family, individual, pets! Charcoal, graphite, oil. Call Wiley 417-818-4224

510

ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS PLAY 12/22 The Lantex Theater Llano 325-247-5354 for info

NEIGHBORHOOD

515

CLASSES WORKSHOPS

SPANISH Learn to speak Spanish. This ongoing course relies heavily on visual material, word association and games. http://www.creative-languagecenter.com 453-8680.

SPANISH
Someday, I'll Learn SPANISH!??
No luck with traditional classes and workbooks? Hate Studying? Don't have much time? Think learning can't be fun? Use your whole brain by tapping into the extraordinary mental capacities we all have, but seldom use, with the most advanced and enjoyable teaching and learning method available today. 263-9944 * All Levels * Class Schedules, Fees and more at <http://www.RapidSpanish.com>

525

EVENTS

ALANON Families & Friends of Alcoholics. Noon Friday & Saturday. 601 W Braker Lane

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR The MMS PTA will be hosting a Craft Fair on Dec. 9th from 9-4 pm 12900 Gregg Manor Rd. in Manor, Tx. Booths avail. Call 228-1042.

SERVE AND WORSHIP Help AustinONE Christian singles clean up East Austin on Sat. 12/2 at 10am! Visit www.AustinONE.org

530

GENERAL

BOMB SQUAD Derby Cheer Squad needs on road squad: jinkieslira@yahoo.com

SINGLE VOLUNTEERS
Singles help others. www.singlevolunteers.org/austin



AUSTIN NEEDS RAINE!

Rabbi/interfaith minister looking for congregation for post-denominational synagogue and interfaith house of prayer for all of G-d's children:
HASHEM'S HOUSE ...

THE SPIRITUAL HOME FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NONE

Open to all races, creeds, religions and orientations. **E-mail Rabbi-Rev. Dr. Raine Teller** at rabrevraine@yahoo.com

Rabbi Raine will be in the Austin area from Nov. 30 - Dec. 3 should you want to meet with her! Call (201) 463-6435 or e-mail for appointment!

ADOPTION PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION?
Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. EXPENSES PAID. Toll free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

ALL
AUSTIN NEEDS RAINE... RAINE HAS ARRIVED!

Looking for congregation for post-denominational synagogue and interfaith house of prayer for all of G-d's children: **HASHEM'S HOUSE...**(Bet Hashem...G-d's House) opening in Austin area in January '07... services (mostly in English with just enough Hebrew to make you think you are home) with Dvar Torah, Kiddush Service, Kaddish, music and timely topics...weddings (Jewish and also interfaith); bar/bat mitzvahs (also interfaith for those who want to accept the old testament and become a son or daughter of the commandments in a more formal, yet personal way, including the taking of a Hebrew name); baby naming; memorials; commitment ceremonies and other life cycle celebrations and passages, individually designed just for you...a place for interfaith families...a spiritual education for our children...book and movie discussions by this 41-year veteran public school/Hebrew school educator and college professor.

Hashem's House is open to all races, creeds, religions and orientations. We are the spiritual home for those who have none. E-mail Rabbi-Rev. Dr. Raine Teller at rabrevraine@yahoo.com for additional information.

NEWS FLASH: Rabbi Raine will be in the Austin area from August 20 through August 30, 2006 should you want to meet with her! Call (201) 463-6435 or e-mail for an appointment!

535

LOST & FOUND

FOUND DOG Yorkshire Terrier (or mix). Call 512 905 2708 w/detailed description.

LOST CAT allwhite,long haired manx(no tail)blue eyes301-9039

540

VOLUNTEERS

SERVE AND WORSHIP
AustinONE Christian singles community service and worship day, Dec. 2, 10am-8pm, East Austin. Visit www.austinsonline.org to register!

VOLUNTEER IN AFRICA
AIDS outreach, teach & community development. 14 mo. incl. training in California. Team start Feb & May! Fees/grants 510-637-9698. information@cctg.org. www.cctg.org

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LEGAL NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a mixed beverage permit by The Spedale Group LP dba Primizie Osteria, to be located at 1000 E. 11th Street, Suite 200, 78702, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Mark Spedale President and Lisa Spedale Secretary are the officers of The Spedale Group LP

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO ROCHA, Deceased, No. 85115 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

MARIA LUISA ALMANZA alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5TH day of JULY 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ANTONIO ROCHA, 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.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this 21st day of November, 2006.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ Marie Clark

County, Texas, this 1st day of November, 2006.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ M. C. Arzola

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF FELIPE SOTO, JR., Deceased, No. 85784 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

BERNARDINA GONZALES alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 9TH day of NOVEMBER, 2006, an Application for Determination of Heirship and for Letters of Administration the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said FELIPE SOTO, JR., 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.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this 9th day of November, 2006.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ Kaitanya L. Bush

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOSE MARIO ALVARADO, Deceased, No. 85274 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

NARCISO ELOY ALVARADO alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 1ST day of AUGUST 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship and an Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOSE MARIO ALVARADO, 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.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this 21st day of November, 2006.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ Marie Clark

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appliances, TV's or stereo equip.
3101 Jennifer Voorhees - household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.
1153 Christine Flores - appliances, TV's or stereo equip.
1135 Jordan Lake - household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.
224 Arturo Gonzales - household goods, furniture, boxes
308 Martha Noriega - household goods, furniture, boxes

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:
All-Way Stop Sign Regulation on Olympus Drive, Ogden Drive & Caracas Drive in Precinct Four.
Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed 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, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
PS Orangeco, Inc., and Shurgard TRS, 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 20TH of DECEMBER, 2006 on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.
9:30 a.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753
1002 GEORGE MAHAN, DRESSER, TV, TOTES
1007 PETER CHRISTIAN, BOXES CERAMIC TITLE
1011 GARY BARRON, TABLE, GRILL, VCR
1040 URSULA DAVIS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
1060 ALECIA GRANT, REFRIGERATOR, BOXES
2061 FRANCISCO GINEZ, TOOL BOX, TV, LADDER
3084 MARGARETTE WALKER, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
4012 KEITH ROGERS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
5074 FELICIA BAIRD, DRESSER, SOFA, CLOTHING
5079 GLORIA McKAY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
5080 EUNICE OVERTON, CHAIRS, TABLE, DRESSER
6015 JOAN THIBODEAU, BOXES, PICTURES, ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
5008 AMERICAN COMERCIA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
6017 CHRISTINE VENTURA, FOLDING CHAIRS, VENEER
7023 PAMELA SWIST, BOXES, TABLE, CLOTHES
8033 CHRIS WILLIAMS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753
A035 STEPHANIE STEPHENS, SOFA, PRINTER, DRESSER
B016 SARAH NORRIS, TV, BOXES, TOTES
B048 DAVID DeLaCRUZ III, STEREO, TABLE, CHAIRS

D040 MICHAEL SIMPKIN, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
G015 JAMES LEOPOLD GORI, DRILL PRESS, PRINTER, TOOLS
12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 937 Reinli, Austin, TX, 78751
160 LEE BEARD, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
346 PAUL HENNING, MATRESS, BOX SPRING, BAG
752 LINDA GRAY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753
101 CALVIN MOORE, WEEDEATER, PICTURES, BOXES
322 LISA GONZALES, BIKE, DRESSER, BOXES
448 MICHAEL COSBY, PRINTER, TOTES, CAR STEREO
559 EVELYN KANINI, BOXES, CHAIRS, TV
1113 HARRY PRICE, VOLVO 960 S/W
1148 GUNENA JONES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
1158 STEVEN WATSON, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
1442 CRAIG GATEWOOD, CHAIR, DRESSER, DESK
1505 CRAIG GATEWOOD, TOOL BOX, LADDER, CABINET
N2361 JESSICA EDWARDS, CRIB, COFFEE TABLE, TV
N2371 RYAN BRANDT, BOXES, VACUUM, SUITCASE
N3463 JASON CROWDER, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT
N3525 IRVIN WILKERSON, DRESSER, BOXES, FAN
N3547 GARY HUNNICUTT, MIRROR, SUITCASE, BOXES
2:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 8525 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753
H010 FELICIA MARTINEZ, TOOL BOX, TIRES, ENGINE
2:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 8128 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753
C039 MARCOS ROMERO, TOOLS, COOLER, CAR SEAT
C061 RICHARD MONK, MAZDA 4DR. SEDAN

E063 MICHAEL SIMPKIN, SOFA, TOTES, TABLE
E104 TIMOTHY GARNER, TOOL BOX, TOTES, BOXES
F037 THEODORE JOHNSON, POOL TABLE, BIKE, TOOL BOX
G011 TIMOTHY DEWITT, TOOL BOX, FLOOD LIGHTS, IN UNIT
3:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 12318 N. Mopac Expwy., Austin, TX 78758
A063 BRIAN JUDE SMITH, ARMOIRE
C407 SHAMICA LAWSON, TV, DRESSER, TOYS
3:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750
D032 KASANDRA JONES, VCR, TV, SOFA
3:45 p.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 13675 US Hwy 183 N., Austin, TX 78750
336 EVERETT SIMONDS, SOFA, LAMP, COFFEE TABLE
524 JIM RICHARDSON, LADDER, END TABLE, TOOL BOX
1142 HASNAIN BAJWA, BIKE, MIRROR, TOTES
4:00 p.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681
2123 CHERYL PASCHALL, DRESSER, SOFA, MATTRESS
4104 MARSHALL HUSSAIN, CHAIRS, MONITOR, BOXES
4120 ZENaida RIVERA, TOTES, STEREO, BOXES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at Oak Hill Mini's, 5100 Roadrunner Lane, Austin, TX. Property will be sold at public auction to highest bidder for cash. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from the sale. Property includes contents of units of the following tenants: SHIRLEY WALSH - dresser, records, dishes, coffee ta-

misc. etc.; MICKEY GLONA - misc. household goods; DON RIVES - misc. household goods; LORETTA TONJA ROSS - misc. household goods; SERGIO OGLESBY - dryer, sofa, table and chairs, etc.; CESAR CASILLAS - misc. household goods; RICHARD MARSH - big TV, leather furniture, etc.; PERRY MANRIQUEZ - misc. household goods. Contact Oak Hill Mini's at (512)892-5293. Dated this 28th day of November, 2006.
NOTICE OF SALE CWT USA, LTD. d/b/a Alpha Self Storage hereby publishes notice as required by Texas Self Storage Facility Sec. 59.042 and 59.043 of Public sale of property listed below to satisfy a Landlord's lien. All sales are for cash to the highest bidder and are considered final. The sale shall be held at 12342 FM Road 620, Austin TX 78750 on Friday, December 8, 2006 at 3:00 PM. Barbara Adams 321, Angelica Follis 319, Magee Catering 132, Patrick Bruegger 811, Douglas Hutter 931, Jim Kennedy 327, 328, Sin Jon Merrick 116, Lorrena Odaniel 629, Joe Pavelka 115.
NOTICE OF SALE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor Self Storage location listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following address to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following date. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only. Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St. Pflugerville, Texas 78660 512-990-1000, December 14, 2006 10:30 A.M. Torrland D. Sumlin unit #244 sofa, ironing board,

books, numerous boxes, stuffed toys, clothes, shoes, hshld items. William L. Hatch unit #251 boxes, hubcaps, B.Q. grill, misc. items. Katty McIvain unit #267 mattress, boxes, vacuum cleaner, hshld goods. Peter J. Inigari-da unit #319 tool chest for pickup, file cabinet, desk, shelves, plastic tubs, weed-eater, tire, misc. hshld items.
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE GUARDIANSHIP OF VIRGINIA MINGS SUMNERS, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Guardianship over Virginia Mings Sumners, an incapacitated person, were issued to Robert Sumners, on November 15, 2006, in Cause No. 85,601, now pending in Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Sitting in Maters Probate.
The residence of Robert Sumners is 5105 Split Cedar Cove, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78735. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED November 15, 2006.
WALKER ARENSON, Attorney for Robert Sumners 512.327.4422
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary Katherine McLean, Deceased, were issued on November 22, 2006, in Docket No. 85,731, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Michael R. McLean. The address of the independent executor is in Nacogdoches County, Texas the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78701-1537

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 28th day of November, 2006.
Scofield & Scofield, P.C. Attorneys for the Estate By: /s/ Sam D. Colletti
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE: Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CAROLYN JEAN CONTINE CODY, Deceased, were issued on 11/21/2006, Cause No. 85745, Probate Court One, Travis County, Texas to: KENNETH JOSEPH BLAIR. All persons having claims against this Estate are to present them to the undersigned within the time and manner prescribed by law.
Vivian Mahlab Attorney at Law 1911 McCall Rd Austin, TX 78703 DATED November 21, 2006 /s/ Vivian Mahlab Attorney for KENNETH JOSEPH BLAIR State Bar No.: 12836650 1911 McCall Rd. Austin, Texas 78703 Telephone: (512) 477-9400 Facsimile: (512) 477-9422
NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 7, 2006, Brenda C. Campbell was issued letters testamentary for the Estate of Barbara Ernestine Campbell, Deceased. In Cause No. 81,383, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the independent executor is c/o Craig Hopper, 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas, 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

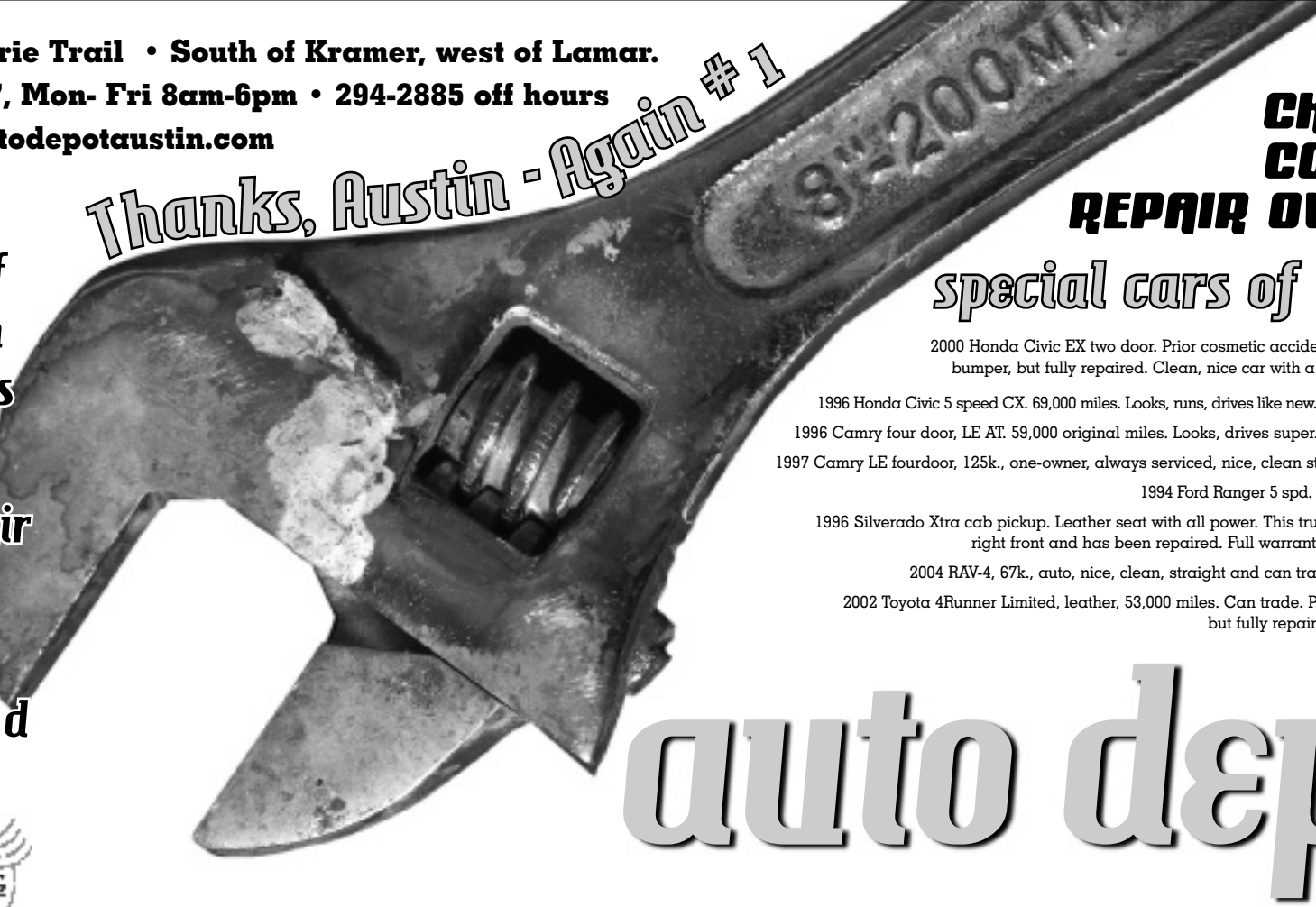
Brenda C. Campbell, Independent Executor of the Estate of Barbara Ernestine Campbell, Deceased
By: Craig Hopper, Attorney for the Independent Executor
OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1. Professional Indoor Air Quality Assessment Consulting Services, RFS S070047-DG
Opens: December 20, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.
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1997 Camry LE fourdoor, 125k., one-owner, always serviced, nice, clean straight car. Full warranty. \$6500.

1994 Ford Ranger 5 spd. Regular cab. Runs Great. \$1,950.

1996 Silverado Xtra cab pickup. Leather seat with all power. This truck had cosmetic damage to the right front and has been repaired. Full warranty. Is very clean and nice. \$5500.

2004 RAV-4, 67k., auto, nice, clean, straight and can trade. \$13,900 with a full warranty.

2002 Toyota 4Runner Limited, leather, 53,000 miles. Can trade. Prior cosmetic accident damage, but fully repaired. One year warranty. \$15,500.

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CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 1994 Great family vehicle. Original Owner. Mostly kept in garage. 145,500 miles. Leather, rear bucket seats, 3-tone paint (like new), rear A/C, 6-disc CD, TV/VCR, map light, wood interior-trim, mood lighting, running boards, clean, excellent condition. Blue Book retail is \$6,900... so the price is discounted \$1400. call Ryan @ 832-215-0205 day or night to test drive. I'm in Northwest Austin off 183 & Braker.

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GUITAR Musician available for gigs in central Texas. Contact at iwolfe.music@gmail.com or 512-228-0862.

GUITAR ISO vox/bass/drums & KEYS! Want to mix rock/film score/carnival music. Infl: Floyd/DEVO/Motorhead/Doors/Sabbath. Max 426-6296.

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OTHER Battle of the bands!! Bands Wanted: Larry's Roadhouse - New Years Eve, Sunday Dec. 31st 1pm til close Come show off your band!! Two songs or numbers per band. Call Frank for details & registration by Dec 25th. 512-665-1110 Spanish Dove Productions Register early!!

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SINGER Rugen Productions looking for Gretchen Wilson / Sugarland type attitude power singer to produce for an uptempo rock / country high quality songs as previously done with Nashville's Christy Haywood. Check www.harryleidel.com to see quality material or call 291-0874.

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BIG BREASTED BOMBSHELL

Looking for a man who appreciates an hour glass figure and big, beautiful all natural breasts for play, discreet encounters, or a relationship. Big, muscular guys are a turn-on! **DDarling**, 33,  **#119360**

LIBRARIAN LOVER

In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 26,  **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 21,  **#119045**

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Masturbation is okay, but I miss sex. I like 'em tall, athletic, attentive, creative/romantic, intelligent/philosophical. I/you live centrally and exercise daily. Looking to enjoy life/safely satisfy my sexual cravings. Peace! **she_bop**, 38,  **#118419**

SWF SEEKS FLING

I am an educated happily married career woman that would like to spend a little time on my back with a gentleman that just wants to have a little fun. **austinsizzle**, 34,  **#118237**

ROMANTIC NERD

I am a big nerd, i enjoy intelligent debate, gaming and a little romance. I love cuddling and long makeout sessions. I am always looking for new adventures in bed. **AmbyRhodes**, 19,  **#115371**

LETS PLAY

Im a 35 year old ,BBW who is married with kids , who is looking for someone to play with on the side. Must be fun, single, and open minded. **Angel_Love71**, 35,  **#101147**

AT YOUR SERVICE

Single white male, healthy and clean, ready to pleasure you. Seeking freaky females, couples, or groups. I am very creative and playfull, i want to help you fulfill your fantasy. **Sowrong**, 47,  **#119751**

COUPLE SEEKING FEMALE

We are looking for a bi female that is openminded and is interested in great feel good sex. Someone that is not afraid to explore sexual fantasies. And creative also. **EroticCupl**, 30,  **#119517**

ALWAYS WANTING MORE...

hey...i'm really looking for a hot girl to have fun with...i want someone who will keep satisfying me until i cant take it anymore... **curiousblonde**, 23,  **#119791**

SEXY, SASSY, SUBMISSIVE

like women, looking for playmates.... i like to roleplay,submissive, not shy...i am looking for a lady who wants 2 play with me and a friend, (male).he likes to watch. **lizziecreme**, 22,  **#119622**

A TREAT

shoot me a message if interested. **Angelsfeathers88**, 19,  **#117303**

SHE'S A FREAK

I am mysteriously candid. Honesty is my best personality trait. I have never been afraid to speak my mind. I am not afraid to hear what people have to say. **LOTUS1983**, 23,  **#119471**

MARRIEDBBW LOOKING FORFRIENDSHIP/FUN

I am 5'9, plus size married woman. 30 years old looking for another plus size woman. For ROmance and friendship. Age/Race not issue. Only serious people please. **BiWomanBBW**, 30,  **#119088**

WANT ME?

im looking for some one to share secret fanticys and sexual dreams. I like to talk about what we would to to each other. e-mail me findout what i like. **sunflower**, 19,  **#101035**

LOOKINGFOR SEXY FEMALE

Hi 19 yr old Blk/Cherokee looking for a discreet encounter ith another female, race, no issue. I havent really done anything with another woman.So Im willing to try anything. **xxxxbrexxxx**, 19,  **#118251**

VOYEUR SEEKS COUPLE

SWF average build voyeur seeks mm or ff couple to view. Also seeks m or f for discreet sex/play. Disease free, please. **PantsConquistador**, 18,  **#119714**

BI-GIRL WANTS PLAY

I'm looking for nice, fun, ddf & clean playmates. I'm friendly, chubby, fun, smart and very sexual. I'm not looking for a relationship, just friends. With benefits, of course. **miasola67**, 39,  **#119279**

SMALL TOWN GIRL

small town girl looking for someone to show her the ways in the bedroom. Very curious and want to explore. **smalltown**, 24,  **#118623**

WANTED: KINKY GIRL

I'm adorable and I hope you are too! I would be happy to cater to your kinkiest, darkest and weirdest fantasies. Would you help me with mine??? **KinkyDoll**, 19,  **#117573**

YOUNG CURIOUS GUY

Young college guy looking for some new experiences and some fun. More dominant than submissive. **Curiousjoe**, 19,  **#119359**

CROSSDRESSER FOR FEMALE/CPL

I am a 22 year old UT student who loves lingerie. Ladies, I would like to model for you and maybe more. Couples, I am up for ALMOST ANYTHING! **UTdresser**, 22,  **#119015**

YOURBACKDOORMAN

Hello Ladies! Looking for some man-lady lovin'. Must be discreet; one time or repeat offenders welcome. Come one, come all! Sexually adventurous... I'm willing to please, if you're willing to tease. **TouchMeHere**, 24,  **#117887**

LOOKING FOR PLAYMATE'S

A shy guy jest looking for someone to play with. Willing to try anything!!! Some ladies have said my tongue is my best feature. HintÖhintÖ. **doggy**, 36,  **#117769**

UP4ALMOSTANYTHING

im very open minded and willing to try new things.. very well endowed n DDF. i have photos to exchange. **up4almostanythingg**, 26,  **#116083**

HAPPY STICK

Hello, this is a laid back Bisexual male looking to make friends or just have a good time. Love to do many things. Looking for the same. **realmann77**, 28,  **#115825**

KINKY, SUBMISSIVE, BI-MALE

Kinky 24-y/o bi-curious male seeks women, couples, and select men for discreet encounters, friendships and possible long term relationships. Prefer ages 18-40, healthy and clean. **mrk-bigglesworth**, 25,  **#115729**

F2M SEEKS FUN

married lonely f2m house boy seeks woman for sexy encounters. into music, nature and fun.must be discrete and clean.no fatties, druggies,or clingy chics. no strings attached.lets just explore and have fun. **saphira**, 30,  **#117747**

SUBBOTTOM SEEKS TOPS

Submissive Bottom looking for other men to play with. Luv to cross dress if you like that. Safe play and DDF required. **jess53**, 53,  **#116914**

SEXY TS

i'm a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. i'm 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. iim very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. i'm 28 years old. **nicole_anais**, 29,  **#115140**

SEXY BLONDE TRANSEXUAL

Sizzeling, Sassy, Adorable, Fun-loving Shemale in Austin. I like to have mindless fun with Hot guys; who like to be fun. Have you ever sword fought with a girl? **BlondeHottie**, 32,  **#101055**

BURNING BRIGHT HOT

visual artist in town for 10 days installing exhibition of work. latino, 37,5'10",165lbs. handsome, educated, well traveled,sexy and attractive. athletic,great shape andmuscular. well endowed,sensual,sexual,passionate, considerate, giving.Looking for healthy, passionate,fiery sexual healing. **fire-within**, 37,  **#119810**

NEEDING COMPANIONSHIP IMMEDIATELY

I am an honors law student, employed in the private-sector legal profession. I'm seeking someone nice for regular dating and discreet encounters. It's been too long since I had sex! **119739**, 36,  **#119739**

SARCASTIC, INTELLIGENT, TABOO

Black sense of humor and openminded libido a must. I'm just a cynic with a lustful heart trying to find a woman to laugh at it all with. **Hobbsian**, 28,  **#119799**

TO: BIGBREASTED BOMBSHELL

Good guy with the desire and ability to play, and play well. Would like to find someone (see above) that appreciates sweaty sheet soaking encounters on a regular basis. **sarcrin**, 30,  **#119796**

MUSCULAR DEVIANT ANGEL

Seeking Twin of FIRE: Passionate, Spontaneous, Loyal, Excellent Communicator, Fit or endeavoring to be fit, honoring, respectful, explorer, empowering, sexual deviant, full functioning left and right brain hemispheres, loves life. **SirDeviantAngel**, 40,  **#119779**

....

... **robison**, 21,  **#119745**

NEED NEW TRICKS

All American Boy looking for BBW's. Married but looking for discrete fun. I am looking for mature women (35-50), thick or chubby, for sexual exploration and rendezvous. **dragonslayere24**, 38,  **#119775**

SEXUAL DAREDEVIL SEEKS...

Evel Knievel of sexuality seeks death defying erotic encounters. Married man looking for discrete encounters involving BDSM, Dom/Sub play, Toys, etc. Wife shows no interest, looking elsewhere. **tafka**, 35,  **#119772**

BI CURIOUS ATHELETE

Total newcomer to the bi world, wants to experiment with people I have chemistry with. Willing to explore all with the right partner(s).Like to start off slow and get comfortable. **goodvibrations**, 43,  **#119732**

ALL NIGHT LONG

im new in austin, looking for a girl who is willing to try new things, sometimes i let my imagination run wild, but who cares if your havin fun right? **bmull512**, 19,  **#119729**

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Hi, if you are hot and looking for a discreet encounter look me up. I want to live out that "porn star" fantasy with you. **funboy**, 30,  **#119596**

MY TURN YET?

Masculine, educated, funny, assertive, kinky. Just ended relationship. Looking for casual fun. Prefer to exchange photos/IM first. Restraining-order free. **elijah16**, 22, 35,  **#119615**

DOMINANT "DADDY" SPANKS

I'm looking for a girl (18-38, slender to average build) who is submissive minded. You can expect to be spoiled when you're good and spanked/disciplined when you're not. **Dom2u**, 44,  **#119606**

MALE-MODEL FOR FUN

I am 27, handsome,fit, professional for discreet sexual experience. Great sexual vibe,energy and a BIG surprise. Have pictures to exchange. Can meet at public place and take it from there. **talldarkhandsome**, 27,  **#119597**

DOWNTOWN TREATMENT

affectionate, private. Need woman who can take tha licking and take more. work a lot . time iz limeted. pamper whenever possible. Verry communicative. Quality Time . Apreciation. **CaptKirkk**, 36,  **#119593**

119739

NEEDING COMPANIONSHIP RIGHT AWAY

I am an honors law student, and have been employed in the private-sector legal profession for a dozen years. I grew up working in theater, operas, film, commercials, and modelling. I am now into my last month in Austin, trying to wrap up some cases, but I'm really a very lonely and needy person these days. Ideally, I'm seeking someone between the ages of 21 and 40 for regular dating, discreet and intimate encounters, and to spoil rotten. However, should a serious relationship eventuate, I would be open to bringing that special someone with me, when I leave.

read the rest of **119739's** profile or
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THE LUV DOC

John Aielli's Capitol Tree Lighting & Holiday Sing-Along • Sat., Dec. 2, 6pm • Capitol Grounds 1100 Congress • www.kut.org

Spending the holidays broke and homeless was good enough for Jesus, but here in America that dog won't hunt. We have an economy to think about. We have an \$8.6 trillion deficit. We can't spend the holiday season staggering around, wassailing, singing carols, and swapping spit under the mistletoe. December was meant to be spent spending – not at titlle bars, porn shops and racetracks, but at shopping malls and big-box behemoths like Ikea and Best Buy; places where we can get cheap, foreign-made consumer goods and pay for them on credit. Peace and joy are all well and good, but peace and joy don't keep our boys in body armor, tax dollars do, and the best way to increase tax dollars is to kick-start the economy with rampant, mindless spending – the same kind of fiscal irresponsibility that gave us an \$8.6 trillion deficit. Shit, Jesus wouldn't even know what to do with that kind of money. Fishes and loaves? Please. Try blowing \$8.6 trillion on fishes and loaves. You couldn't spend \$8.6 trillion on caviar and crackers, and even if you could, people would be too bloated and sleepy to even start a decent food fight, much less a full-scale insurgency. Besides, feeding the hungry isn't how the American government rolls. Think about it this way: You can teach a hungry man to fish, but that takes a lot of time, energy, and patience. However, if you shoot a hungry man, he stops eating for the rest of his life. Bottom line is that humanitarian aid requires too much customer service and has very limited profitability. Halliburton has never received a no-bid contract to run soup kitchens in Mosul and it's unlikely the Pentagon will ever pay \$400 for a Salisbury steak. Sure, you might be able to win hearts and minds with humanitarian aid, but the only way to be sure you're winning hearts and minds is to zip them into body bags. Body bags, and the ordinance to fill them up cost a lot of cheese, so spend, spend, spend. It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit ... or you could join John Aielli Saturday night for his holiday sing-along and tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol. John was born around the time of Jesus himself and he's an accomplished vocalist, so he knows what he's doing. That alone is a rare commodity at the Capitol. Also, unlike shopping, the sing-along is free, but you're encouraged to bring money or food donations for the Capital Area Food Bank so they can hand them out to the broke and homeless and save a few bullets.

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women SEEKING men

ECCENTRIC NUCLEAR- PLANT ADVENTURER

I will laugh at all of your jokes if you'll hang out with me and do idiotic things in public with me and make out with me. **evilheifer**, 18,  [#119811](#)

HEAL MY EARTH

Philosophical-BMX-Bodhisattva w/heart of a lioness,tend to love like it was my 1st day on Earth.Passionate in artsy forms,Gemini/Cancer cusp,OX-Chinese Zodiac.Avid MAC-LINUX geek,Horror/B&W/Cult Classic/PsychThriller FILM Analyst. Typically:Faithful,Loyal,over-analytical over-analyzer.Bookworm,W orkaholic+Cross-word puzzle GURU. **Linux_Bot**, 21,  [#119787](#)

MARIPOSAS IN TEXAS

My soul is built on happenstance and turning into the curves,leaning sideways. I'm not searching for anything. I'm here to make sure I put myself out there. So, i'm open. **mariposa1317**, 33,  [#119424](#)

SOUTH AUSTIN GIRL

Im just regular person that wants to meet someone fun loving. My favorites thing to do is go to Alamo drafthouse and watch movies. **utwombat**, 34,  [#119697](#)

SILLY, SERIOUS, INTERESTING

it's nice to meet folks that i can giggle with. i'm single after 13 years, so while i'm not looking for anything serious, i'm willing to let things evolve naturally. **surgnngnl**, 29,  [#119687](#)

SEEKING SUGARDADDY

Make no mistakes, I'm seeking a wealthy, lonely man, preferably 50-65, for a mutually beneficial relationship. Absolutely no sex. Intelligent conversation and a thoughtfully appreciative/lovely ear provided on my end. **echinatebutloveable**, 22,  [#119655](#)

CUTE CREATIVE CHICK

Looking for someone who shares my likes: [all things cute] [bedtime stories] [boxer shorts] [caffeine] [cartoons] [day-dreaming] [fried rice] [hand-made gifts] [holding hands] [individualism] [knowledge] [quiet moments] [radical ideas] [words]. **Jezebel**, 34,  [#119646](#)

LITERALLY LOSTIN AUSTIN

I am a music junkie, coffee addict, and insomniac. Fairly new to Texas and need a tour guide/ escort. **SMuDge**, 26,  [#119607](#)

CURVY GAL SEEKING

Creative small BBW seeking man to make me laugh till I cry, dance in the rain and make general fools of ourselves while growing together. Surprise me. **SusieQ7855**, 22,  [#115413](#)

CULTURE, ETHNICITY, ART

Open-minded, spiritual person who loves good music, art, and books. I want to try new things with new people. No sex. I just want good friends, good company, good conversation. **gloriagracia**, 23,  [#119415](#)

MICHIGANDER LOST

This 26/F took a wrong turn in Michigan and landed in Austin. Although I'm directionally challenged at times, I'm looking to explore my new stomping grounds, care to help? **Michigander-LostinaBigCity**, 26,  [#119362](#)

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SERIOUSLY CRAZY....

Looking for a unique man that will appreciate my strong will without trying to quench my passion-if you are a crazy, secure, worldly MAN -I can't wait to meet you. **Kali**, 34,  [#119518](#)

NO MUNKI BREATH

just a laid back chick looking for the same ina dude, unconventional, open minded, and free spirited... **munkiluva**, 22,  [#119150](#)

DECENT GUY WANTED

Exceptional SWF seeks Unattached Decent Man for friendship/tr Only serious minded gents need reply Single mother with no time for drama Your response and picture gets mine. **truetexaslady**, 34,  [#119457](#)

UNSUSPECTED MAN KILLER

I am mysterious yet candid. Honesty is my best trait. I am not afraid to hear what people have to say. You learn from the way others react to situations. **LOTUSpetal1983**, 23,  [#119439](#)

ESCAPED FROM VEGAS

new in town looking to meet new people. I am low maintenance, drama free and have worked hard to live a simple life! Looking for someone with the same qualities. **dw815**, 34,  [#119429](#)

THIS IS EXHAUSTING.

i've got a wry sense of humor & a good head on my shoulders.love austin but wish it had four seasons. i'm a loud laugher n love 2 be outside. **Guesa**, 28,  [#119353](#)

LOVELY, BRAVE, UNCONVENTIONAL

I like laughing really loud, I like to sing, a lot, for my own personal enjoyment...you are smart, funny, a man with a plan and a passion for something, anything. **themightyquinn**, 25,  [#119291](#)

CUTE FUN GIRL

I'm very busy but I have time on the weekends to have fun with someone special. Funny, cute, tall, energetic, happy, and ready to meet someone different! **fortuna83**, 23,  [#117774](#)

COMICAL DREAMER ISO

Sophisticated, smart and good com-gan and landed in Austin. Although I'm friendly, cultured and carefree professional; zest for life, number one in fun. A thinker with a sharp wit; reflective soul. **Beaucoup**, 27,  [#114872](#)

FUN LOVING GIRL

I'm a sweet sports loving girl that's looking for a guy that loves to have a good time and knows how to keep me on my toes. **downtoearthaustin-gurl1985**, 21,  [#119046](#)

SMALL TOWN GIRL

Just a simple girl looking for someone to relax at home with Must drive a big truck and be alittle country! I'm looking for someone who is laidback and trusting. **msaimee**, 18,  [#118989](#)

ARTICULATE, COOKS TOO!

True blue sane American girl looking for other honest, well-adjusted people for company and fun excursions. I like turning over rocks and new leaves, mindfulness, exploring and expanding the truth. **geminieye**, 31,  [#118855](#)

men SEEKING women

SURFER NEEDS CHICK

Fun guy, looking for someone the same. New from San Diego, and missing my ocean and sand. I have yet to meet my woman, female cops don't count. **kanaan**, 28,  [#119786](#)

FUNNY, DECISION MAKER,

I am looking for a nice, confident, beautiful woman who enjoys my company; who is not afraid to be their self, and one who shares my interests and loves laugh. **nbusmc1**, 28,  [#119767](#)

LESBIANS PIMPING MEN!

Lesbians on the hunt for straight women for our three well-conditioned, educated, attractive straight male friends. All have a great sense of humor, and you must, too. Ready for fun? **SapphicTrio**, 33,  [#119706](#)

LOOKING FOR YOU

I am a 24 year old guy living in austin looking to meet new people. looking to meet fun outgoing people to go and have fun with. **sexy512**, 24,  [#119624](#)

ATHLETIC PROFESSIONAL EASYGOING

SHM, 30, Professional, Responsible, Self-Employed After hours - Trail running at Walnut Creek/Barton, Scooter-ing around downtown, enjoys music, art, books/newspaper, coffeeshops, biking out at Townlake, Spin, Tiff's Treats, etc. **bigblue**, 30,  [#119623](#)

LET'S TRY..

Smart and good looking,able to cook, love animals, looking for friendship and/or dating. I try to enjoy life at its maximum and would like to share good times with someone. **bubble_boy**, 25,  [#119589](#)

SINGLE STABLE JOB

Single guy lookin to date around. Haven't had luck finding that someone,figured ld let someone find me. lma laid back guy. I'm lookin for a friend with benefits, maybe more. **Straight_Guy**, 22,  [#119586](#)

HOME ON LEAVE

An honest guy who enjoys all walks of life, just returning from a tour in Iraq with the Army. Looking for fun in my home town. **RegJoe**, 22,  [#119496](#)

EVERYDAY MOTORIDER

I'm a man who loves living life, sometimes its crazy, fun, beautiful, painful but always worth the trip... **Burning-Gasoline**, 31,  [#119551](#)

TAURUS BY BIRTH

I'm looking to meet new people to make new friends. If you like enjoying what life has to offer and have similar interests, apply withiin. **austex2k5**, 28,  [#119509](#)

GOOFY BUT BOOGIELICIOUS

hey-o, independent person that wants someone that doesn't have to be in a relationship to define themselves. Conservative on the outside, rowdy on the inside. **juglove**, 27,  [#119462](#)

NEW TO AUSTIN

I'm new to Austin and know no one is this town. I'm looking for someone to explore the city with. I enjoy indie shows, books, coffee, or a good beer. **thecuriousofa**, 26,  [#119463](#)

WATCH OUT FOR..

Very basic creature, made for great things. Very romantic toward those that deserve the attention. I love to be sought but not stalked. I can only offer me,deal. **CloggingYeah**, 29,  [#119437](#)

EAT, DRINK, WOMAN

Smart, caring, funny, lovable, able to leap tall blades of grass with a single bound, sensitive, fully-posable, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. **usumcasane**, 31,  [#119421](#)

LIL PUPPET

Am looking for the right one "are U" well let me if U are. or want a good time. **louie_2006**, 24,  [#119506](#)

THE REAL DEAL

im a guy you have too meet im looking for something special. **warax**, 22,  [#119413](#)

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ORGANIC ARIES BOY

Looking for a girl who wears flat shoes and doesn't shave, a girl who doesn't worry about relationships, who has been through some things and learned from them. **taomat**, 25,  [#119398](#)

BROKEN ROBOT

Lo-Fi Romantic. Let me screenprint and paint my way into your heart. The cool weather of October is Perfect for bicycle riding. Get to know me cause I'm fun. **skateandcreate**, 32,  [#119384](#)

THERE YOU ARE

I consider myself shy at times but once i get to know you that all changes. I like going out and doing things as long as i am with someone. **rosco940**, 25,  [#119379](#)

IT'S WOODY

Mountain biking, drinking beer, heavy metal, light politics, sinicism, being physically active, and I do really like my job. **wood**, 30,  [#119342](#)

A DREAMER DREAMING

What's more enjoyable than an evening of delicious food, good conversation, and some unpredictable fun? I'm a contemplative person, and love the arts. I know some good restaurants in town. **Effertz**, 29,  [#119341](#)

FINALLY AT HOME...

I am in austin to stay, very content with life. Have all I need but that love in my life. Healthy, concious person looking for same. No fastfood or lies. **romeow-ithnohome**, 26,  [#115818](#)

NEW AND EXCITING

Moved down just recently love Austin and needto have someone to share it with. Feel free to write and ask any questions.I think you may just find me quite refreshing. **DRZ**, 27,  [#119317](#)

AWESOME LOVER!

Life is to short...enjoy every moment!!! **Awesome28**, 28,  [#119306](#)

women SEEKING women

REVIVIFY

I'm ultrafem and worked at Sidekicks, the lesbian/bi scene left a bad taste in my mouth, someone want to prove me wrong? Please? Looking for someone equally fem for fun! **TheWhitness**, 23,  [#119711](#)

JAM BAND GROUPIE

i love the outdoors, a sense of humor, honesty, and live music.I believe laughter and live music can cure the soul.I enjoy discussing politics and environmental activism. **maryjane**, 19,  [#119698](#)

SPUNKY GIRL, BICURIOS

I am very open and honest, I want to find a nice girl, am bi curious and want a nice girl to casually date. **Spunkynm**, 20,  [#119558](#)

LETS HANG

just looking to get out there and make more friends and start dating again, im pretty fun to be around, outgoing, good sense of humor, creative, spontaneous and playful! **axswhpwr06x**, 20,  [#119228](#)

ARCHETYPAL WORKAHOLIC/ SLACKER

I overuse the word definately. I have many behavioral addictions, but can't stand routine. I like to cook, play frisbee and listen to Marketplace. I like the carbonation in muscot. **bendingwillow**, 19,  [#118965](#)

SWEET BOIDYKE

I have a passion for life...most living beings close to me included. I'm silly and don't take myself too seriously but do get my shit together when it's important. **ohboiohbol**, 20,  [#117646](#)

COMING OUT GIRLS

Hey my name is Bre, I am 18 I am a I am SUPER shy, sweet I have been with only 1 girl. I am looking for friends or more. **xxxxbre03xxxx**, 19,  [#117700](#)

men SEEKING men

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY

I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 23,  [#118639](#)

SHOW STOPPER

I'm a young adult. I'M a freshman at ACC planning on transferring to Texas Tech. I'm 5'11", weight 180, brown hair and brown eyes. I'm mixed with white and mexican. **derrick2006**, 18,  [#119156](#)

HOW I ROLL....

Irish teddy bear in heat needs a man who has a firm yet tender hand. Bring the whips and chains though, cause thats just how I roll. **Andrew**, 24,  [#118487](#)

ISO S-DADDY

WM, 19, 5'9", 198, Br, Br. ISO S-DADDY to pamper, spoil and treat me. You won't be disappointed. **boytoy19**, 19,  [#117212](#)

SINGLE IN AUSTIN

Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friends, and more along the way. Looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 25,  [#115939](#)

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Kanaan

LOOKING FOR A COOL CHICK

Im a laid back guy who is looking for someone who is equally laid back with little to no drama in tow. Im fairly new here from San Diego, so I'm missing my ocean and Palm trees pretty bad. But Austin is a great town and I have yet to meet up with a great woman, female cops don't count.

read the rest of **KANAAN's** profile

or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**

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FREE WILLASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for December 1 - December 7

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): On Jupiter's moon Europa, there is an abso- lutely straight, narrow line about 125 miles long. NASA's photos show it clearly. Commenting on this improbably regular feature, renowned author and inventor Arthur C. Clarke says he finds it hard not to conclude that it was constructed by intelligent life. "I'm beginning to think the unthinkable," he writes. Make that sentence your watchword in the coming week, Sagittarius. Be ready to imagine the unimaginable, see the unseeable, and think the unthinkable. And I mean that you should do that with the most optimistic attitude possible. According to my reading of the astrological omens, the almost unbelievable prospects coming into your sphere are interesting and invigorating.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): As I see your situation, it's like you're acting famished even though the cupboards are stocked with goodies. You're pining and moaning to be close to a treasure that's right next to you. You've got 98 out the 100 things you need, and yet you just can't stop obsessing on the two that are missing. If I'm wrong about this, Capricorn, just ignore what I'm saying and rejoin me next week. But if you suspect I may be on to something, please act fast to purge your delusions.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): This week I propose that you feel gratitude for every person who has ever told you that you were inadequate, that there was something wrong with you, that you would never amount to anything. You might even carry out a little ceremony in which you bow down to an altar containing their photos or slips of paper on which their names are written. And why am I suggesting this? Because those jerks helped motivate you to become as cool as you are. And if I'm reading the omens correctly, it's time to summon a huge new burst of creative energy as you disprove their misbegotten ideas about you even more completely.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Why do cigarette-makers put ammonia in their product? For the same reason that drug addicts use ammonia to turn cocaine into crack: It helps render the nicotine and cocaine into a gas, making it easier for the lungs to absorb them and dramatically amplifying the high. I hope you can find a healthy, legal, and metaphorical equivalent to this process in the coming weeks, Pisces. You have both a poetic license and an astrological mandate to squeeze at least three times more fun and insight out of every single thing you do. It's the Intensity Season.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): "Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom," wrote Norwegian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard. That's vividly true for you right now, Aries. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you'll thrive on the whirling gaga that overwhelms you as you play in vast, open spaces. Your best decisions will arise as your mind is boggled and wobbled by liberating dramas. So let's celebrate the disorientation you're feeling, and do everything we can to make sure that more is on its way.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): I know how you're feeling, Taurus. I've done time in the same psychic prison you're trapped in. Because of my exemplary behavior while incarcerated, luckily, I was freed well in advance of my scheduled release date. Would you like to know what I did to win my early release? Four things: 1) I took responsibility for the ways I had perpetuated my own suffering. 2) I practiced feeling grateful for the lessons my pain had taught me. 3) I thought deeply about the actions I could take to atone for how I had hurt other people. 4) I vowed to use the shame I felt as a motivation to become smarter and kinder and wilder.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Does one of your pretty good relationships need a boost? Does one of your challenging partnerships need some slack? If so, I'd like to help. Here's my offer. I'll perform a healing ceremony for a relationship of your choice. In return for doing you this favor, all I ask is that you, too, carry out a ritual in behalf of the same relationship. Think of it as being akin to a "matching funds" grant: I'll help you if you help yourself. It is the perfect astrological moment to do this - to make splashy gestures that invoke blessings for relationships that are in need of a shift. Now send me a brief description of the relationship you'd like me to shower some magic on. Write to uareg0d@comcast.net. I won't be able to write back, but I will definitely carry out a ritual for you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "They might be small, spiky, and spineless, but they're still family." So begins a *National Geographic* story about sea urchins, creatures that biologists now know have far more in common with humans than anyone realized. (They share 7,077 genes with us and are actually on the same branch of the evolutionary tree of life.) Let that opening sentence be your motto during the coming week, Cancerian, as you adjust your attitude towards not only the runts and outcasts of your tribe but also towards the parts of yourself that you tend to neglect and underestimate. Now say this: "They might be small, spiky, and spineless, but they're still family."

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): I hope that one day you will learn how to give all the extraordinary love you have to offer. Another one of my greatest desires for you is that you will cultivate, earn, and seize all the freedom you need in order to become yourself completely. To my great pleasure, you've recently begun to tune in to the possibility that these two goals might be extremely fun for you. During the coming weeks their hold on your imagination should heat up considerably. In 2007, I hope they'll become your modus operandi, your weltanschauung, and your raison d'être.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): In one of Aesop's fables, a donkey becomes enamored of the crickets' serenades. Longing to produce the same sound himself, he goes to a cricket for advice. "What kind of food gives you that sweet-sounding voice?" he asks. The cricket says, "My food is the air and the dew." The donkey then begins a new diet, hoping that by eating nothing but air and dew he too will be able to make beautiful, whirling melodies. It doesn't happen, of course. The donkey merely starves. Let this be your teaching story for the coming week, Virgo. Sing your own song with your own voice, whether that sounds like a hee-haw or a warble. And get the exact nurturing that will help you sing your own song with your own voice, not the nurturing that helps others sing their special tunes.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): As a general rule, standing your ground and dealing squarely with a problem is the best policy. But for you right now, escape is a viable option. In fact, I think that running away is actually preferable. All I ask, though, is that you choose a specific place to flee to so that you're not just running from something but also running toward something. As long as you're driven solely by a big "no," in other words, dashing around will weaken you and aggravate the problem you're dodging. But if you're also motivated by a vivid "yes," you'll find the strength and wisdom to make all the right moves.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): *Earth Island Journal* says scientists have discovered natural ways to clean up old munitions sites. If you plant periwinkle and parrot-feather plants in soil that's been bombed with TNT, they'll soak up and neutralize the noxious stuff. Likewise, pondweed absorbs and transforms nitroglycerin in land where explosives have been detonated. I urge you to find the metaphorical equivalents of periwinkle, pondweed, and parrot-feather plants this week, Scorpio. It's a perfect moment to detoxify the places in your life where past battles left behind toxic debris.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

messages

ANDREW KING? THAT YOUR name, dude? You suck! Glad she hates you.

RAW ~ I'M Carrying Your Love With Me ~ HNL

WHO LET THE Poodles out? Fif' woofing for you, Toell'! If not you: Who? Woof!!!

ALL YOU NEED is LOVE.

WHITE BEACH with soft Ocean flow, sry u got sand in down below. OUCH

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO all! Now stop being such greedy selfish glutenous SOBs

A SPARK? WHAT does it take to make a fantasy a reality? if the reality of the fantasy is complicated, should it be pursued? should it matter what others think? how strong is your spark?

LEE S.S. YOU have 'till February. Then legal action will be taken.

BELMONT, SAT. NIGHT

You: Gorgeous SBF. We made eye contact and I bought you a drink (a Cape Cod). We got separated and I never found you again. Wanna grab another Cape Cod? **When: Saturday, November 25. Where: The Belmont. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901248**

DEEP, ALMOST INVISIBLE

You wouldn't take off your mask. You thought that I couldn't see behind it, but I could. You're beautiful. **When: Thursday, November 2. Where: Peculiar Clouds Club Retro Party. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901239**

PERRY ELLIS BLACK

Your name Clint. Last Dance with me. My friend liked you. Wanna have a drink? Horseshoe Lounge Nov. 30 **When: Saturday, November 25. Where: Dallas Nightclub. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901247**

LONG BLACK HAIR

saw you at a gas station off of far west. I almost ran in front of your huge jeep last friday and I thought you had a really nice smile. **When: Friday, November 17. Where: tetcot off far west. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901244**

MYRA, MIRABELLE, MIRABAI? You: Hot hindu goddess wearing sexy racecar-driver-girl-outfit and searching the cake cooler at the WFM for inspirational names in which to call your lover. Me: Fabio look-alike behind pizza counter **When: Saturday, February 4. Where: Whole Foods Market. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901243**

ALANA CROWN/ ANCHOR

My dog caught your eye. You caught mine. I got your name but not your number. I wouldn't let that happen again. **When: Tuesday, November 21. Where: Crown and Anchor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901237**

DEBUTANT BLONDE

To the One that wears sunglasses @ nite, buys shots by the dozen, has pe-rallrys for 1, clears the bar 4 a bratwurst at end of the nite. Ur painstakingly beautiful. I adore you. dinner? **Tomm 8pm, Vinnys. When: Thursday, November 16. Where: Cattle. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #901233**

BEAUTIFUL GUERO'S GIRL

Monday night, at Guero's. You: cute waitress, me: blue-eyed guy in the corner. You stopped to pet my huge, red-haired golden retriever while I was inside. My "wing-man" dies! **When: Monday, November 20. Where: Guero's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901236**

OUTSIDE OF BOX

Deep, intelligent, passionate about what I do. **atxgirl24, 24, #119716**

QUIP-RIPPER

Right now I'm mostly looking something platonic. Me: Shy but easy going. Him: Friendly, sweet, all-around good-guy (meaning: doesn't have to be the brightest crayon in the box) Should be big-O-teddybear! **wYndEEECity, 28, #119638**

PHOTOGRAPHER

I had the great idea to get out and meet all those who post "shots in the dark" and fascinatingly strange friend finding adds, so I may photograph you. **photographer, 21, #119441**

STRANGE GIRL

honestly im not your average person.. i love having stupid fun, im looking for some freinds who dont mind just hanging out and goofing off. **pinkey, 19, #119460**

FOOD COOLER. MELTING?

You-four-eyed cyclist in spandex. Me--delayed reaction. Steve Martin marathon? **When: Thursday, November 16. Where: Food for Fitness (Castle Hill Gym). You: Man. Me: Woman. #901256**

ASHLEY KERBEY LANE

My friend kind of embarrassed me when she asked you if I was cute. I had grey sweater, spiky hair and long sideburns. You're cool, would like to know you. **When: Saturday, November 25. Where: Kerbey Lane on 183. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901255**

AIRPORT GOODWILL 11/26

Around 6 PM. You: Black skirt, "humdrum" t-shirt, great smile. Me: Sideburns and dancing terrapins t-shirt. Thought you were beautiful, regret not introducing myself. Argh. Would like to know you. **When: Sunday, November 26. Where: Goodwill on Airport. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901254**

LUNCHTIME AT ZEN

We accidentally shared a table at Zen on Monday. You were reading the Chronicle, me in ballcap. We talked about the Onion. You asked if I worked around there. Coffee? **When: Monday, November 27. Where: Zen South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901253**

DIRTY'S MUSIC LOVER

You: Girl at Dirty's who wanted shot in the dark, me: guy who said he would give you shot in the dark and now has. See you at work??? **When: Friday, November 24. Where: Dirty Martin's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901252**

SATURDAY NIGHT CHURCH

Often see you at mass Saturday nights. You: alone towards the front. Me: alone in the back. Was working up the nerve to talk 11-25 but you left. Dinner sometime? **When: Saturday, November 25. Where: Church. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #901251**

BRIAN AT TREEHOUSE

Thursday night I came in to look around. I liked what I saw! Simply wondering if you might be interested in talking alone over a cup of coffee? **When: Monday, November 13. Where: South Congress. You: Man. Me: Man. #901228**

7-11 NAMETAG-LESS CASHIER

I had 4cookies and 1brownie. We talked about warming sausages, no nametags and green aprons. wanted your name-show me that nametag sometime? you:blond me:short skirt **When: Thursday, November 16. Where: 7-11 @ Lamar & 51st. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901227**

JUST friends

HELLO HI YOU

YOU: fun, goofy, traveled, reflective, indecisive, intelligent, mischievous, nose pierced, cool, love to laugh. ME: love films, Pixies loud, Coltrane mellow, slow wet kissing, the sea...pls see ad online. **JorgeAmado, 28, #119671**

END TO BOREDOM

I'm a grad student new to austin. I'm not looking for marriage just fun people to hang out with. I am a relaxed guy up for pretty much anything. **TheICW, 25, #119720**

WITH GOD-GIVEN

I'm a potato-peelin', free-wheelin', poetry dealin', fish-reelin', identity concealin', cashmere feelin', dude. **thenazz, 22, #119661**

a Shot in the Dark.....→

EMILY @ VANILLAGIRL

You are the sunshine in my heart and I'm sorry for how i have been acting. I want you to know i love you, You make me a better person. **When: Sunday, November 26. Where: SoFi. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901261**

MONSTER CAKE

is sweet but not as sweet as you. Endless sands beneath our feet, the sea so deep and blue. Thank you for the treasure of those days between us two. **When: Saturday, November 26. Where: Gulf Shore. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901260**

SANDY GREEN BUICK

You: looking beautiful driving down South Lamar. Me: in a black Focus. Tried to catch you but you're like the wind. How about a drive together sometime? **When: Sunday, November 26. Where: South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901259**

SEASIDE ARCHEOLOGIST

Collected skulls and bone fragments with you at the end of the world. The day was beautiful and you were more stunning than the sea. Up for another expedition? **When: Sunday, November 19. Where: Padre Island. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901258**

CHECKERED VANS, DANCING

80s Night. F-ing adorable dancing around in your checkered vans. We managed a few quick smiles near the speaker, but you left early with a tiny sweater. Tag, you're it. **When: Sunday, November 26. Where: Elysium. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901257**

6TH STREET GUITARISTS

You were playing a classic guitar. We talked about Tori Amos' cover of Teen Spirit. Jam sometime? **When: Wednesday, November 22. Where: 6th across from the Driskill. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901242**

COCO'S LOVE

You: black hoodie, peppercorn tofu, shaved ice, had to run. Me: baldy, peppercorn chicken, watermelon juice, watched you go. Same time next week? MWA! **When: Saturday, November 26. Where: Coco's on Guadalupe. You: Man. Me: Man. #901246**

RIO GRANDE HOTTIE

Had my limit and sat next to you at the bar. Light conversation about the band playing. Paid out without getting your name. Meet up next Thursday to share a dance? **When: Thursday, November 16. Where: Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901245**

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