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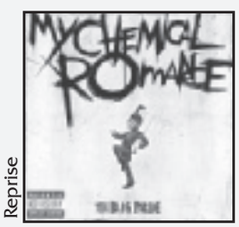

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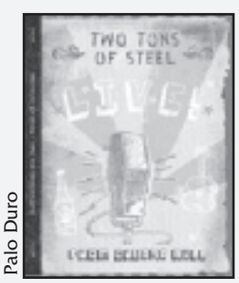

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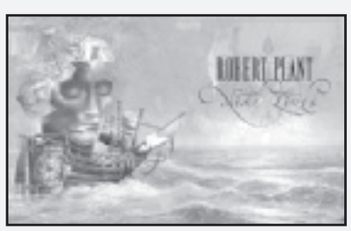

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Sluggish by Design

The only 'original intent' of the Constitution was to foil extremism and maintain a balance of power

BY LOUIS BLACK

It is time to resume discussing the Constitution of the United States, especially in light of the recent elections. Reading and re-reading the Constitution, reviewing *The Federalist Papers*, and studying the period has led to certain thoughts. First, I want to make it clear that I've read none of the many scholarly legal texts on the Constitution, and the histories I have read were of the most basic type – by no means more in-depth than a high school text.

The gatherings that led to the writing of the U.S. Constitution were initially discussions about revising the Articles of Confederation, which had proven insufficient. Under the Articles, each state was more or less sovereign, with any action involving two states or more requiring real negotiation. Thus, governing a country of 13 basically independent states, loosely joined as one nation, was proving impossible. Issues like foreign and interstate diplomacy and trade, as well as the status of the unclaimed Western territories, presented major problems. According to the Articles, both the federal government and the states were able to mint money, which created substantial confusion. States were responsible for taxation; the federal government had to ask for monies from each of them, and this money was rarely provided. Measures passed by Congress had to be approved by nine of the 13 states, but even then, there were no means by which to make the states comply with them. The government was very much dependent on the willingness of the various states to carry out its measures. Unfortunately, states often refused to cooperate.

The Articles were also virtually impossible to amend, so problems could not be brought up, much less corrected.

Nonetheless, the original gatherings began very specifically as an attempt to improve the Articles. Obviously, some who participated were dead-set on maintaining a confederation. Some supported the Articles just as they were, while still others understood some change was necessary but opposed any radical restructuring. There were also quite a few who were willing to begin by discussing the Articles, but all along, their real goal was a federal government, based upon a constitution. Eventually, the Articles' flaws proved too great to mend, and instead a federalist constitution was drafted.

The U.S. Constitution does three basic things: It defines the branches of government and delineates their responsibilities, it sets the process and procedures by which the federal government operates, and it sets some policy. Article I describes the powers, responsibilities, and some of the limitations on the three branches of government; Article II is about the president and Congress; Article III is about the judiciary.

The most important governmental strategy, as mandated by the Constitution, is a system of checks and balances. In describing the various powers and responsibilities of each branch, the Constitution also clearly articulates how each branch has the right and responsibility to question, challenge, or annul what another branch has done. The president can veto legislation passed by Congress. Congress can override the veto and, in extreme cases, impeach executives. Article III invests judicial power in the Supreme Court, noting in Section 2 that "The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made."

Is the Constitution a Living Document?

Just reading the Constitution makes it clear that it is a living document and was so designed. One of the problems with the Articles was that there was no mechanism for amendment, meaning they were set as in stone. Thus, Article V of the Constitution gives both the Congress and the states the right to initiate amendments. This is made very difficult to accomplish, but it is an option.

The document also spells out the rights of Congress in regard to regulating its own members. In Article I, Section 5 it states: "Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own members." It goes on to give each chamber the right to punish, and even expel, members.

As regards impeachment, the process is very carefully explained. The impeachment process and responsibilities are laid out in Article I, Section 2 and Section 3. Article II, Section 4 states, "The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

This obviously allows the Constitution to be changed, as well as empowering different branches of government to assess elected officials on an ongoing basis.

Not only was an amendment process included in the document, but within a year of the Constitution's being ratified (June 1788), James Madison introduced the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. This was a compromise made with the Anti-Federalists in order to get the Constitution approved. Nervous about a too-powerful central government, the Anti-Federalists wanted the rights of citizens clearly spelled out. In December 1791 these amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified.

Demonstrating how the Constitution has been changed over the years as social, cultural, and political realities evolved is part of Article I, Section 2. There it states, "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding the whole Number of free persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons."

This recognizes the rights of citizens, including indentured servants. Although slavery and race are not mentioned, it just as definitely and pejoratively relegates slaves to noncitizen status. The rights of women are not mentioned. Since the Constitution was passed, slavery was ended, and minorities and women have been given the vote.

Original Intent

As with other cherished terms, such as "judicial activism," "original intent" is a bogus concept used when one is catering to one's prejudices while appearing to objectively follow some greater, prescribed standard.

What is meant by "original intent"? Given the truly contentious nature of the Constitutional Convention, the only area that manifests a clear original intention is process. Working out the Constitution was extremely contentious, with numerous factions squaring off: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists, Southerners vs. Northerners, anti-slavery vs. pro-slavery contingents, states' rights proponents vs. those who advocated a strong central government, big states vs. small states, and farmers vs. city dwellers. Hammered out in endless negotiations, the Constitution offers dozens of bitterly argued compromises.

Keep in mind that most Americans at that time had left Europe, many literally fleeing

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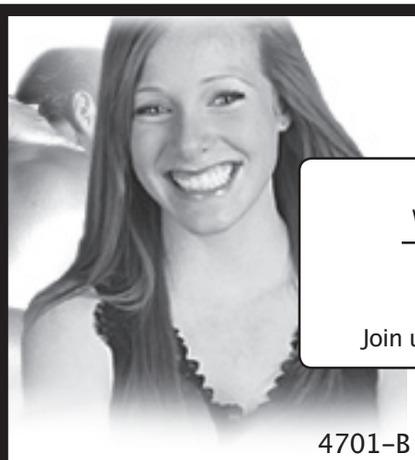

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from different regimes. The states had just finished a rebellion against the king of England. In most European countries, the aristocratic class was either figuratively or literally above the law. Power, class, and authority, for the most part, were vested in men and women by blood. The king or queen could capriciously change his or her mind. Often, lower nobility still had absolute rule over their territories. Americans had experienced such frustration that they eventually revolted against King George III's rule because they had no representation and no system to appeal laws imposed upon them.

The core idea of the Constitution, then, was to provide a representative government for a constitutional republic with three branches, the power and authority of which was constructed into elaborate clockworks of checks and balances. As much as some of the founders didn't trust government, they trusted men less. They were looking for rules based on laws and not on blood. Ideally, it was better the government didn't move than move too quickly, dominated by too few.

Some of them were strong advocates of democracy, while others didn't trust it at all. This country is not a democracy. According to the Constitution, decisions are not and should not be made by the majority. Government is supposed to mitigate public fervor and demand. The notion was not to disenfranchise the people but to have government removed from the heat of the moment. Ideally, people of principles, who would do what's best for the country, would be elected. It was specified that senators would be elected for six years, presidents for four years, and Supreme Court judges for life, so they would very much not be influenced by the sweeping passions of the day, allowing them to take a more reasoned view.

So the notion of original intent, among all these conflicting interests and factions, is ridiculous – except when it comes to this painful, awkward process that pits different branches against one another with an elaborate set of checks and balances. The framers didn't trust one another and were in extreme, sometimes violent, disagreement. What they wanted was a government that responded to the people but that couldn't move too quickly or be dominated by one set of ideas.

People on both the left and right are talking about the Constitution being outdated. Some want more democracy, some want even less. I find the Constitution's ideas about government, given the reality of humans, about as brilliant as seems possible. Ideally, almost all the American people should be unhappy with the federal government almost all the time, because the emphasis is on compromise, as well as on blockading and derailing any kind of ideological purity or dominance. It is not just one of those – but both – that is critical.

There are constant complaints about how the government is broken, has been taken over by special interests, and ignores the will of the people. Actually the government largely functions as it should, creating frustration in every direction – which is healthier than if it moved too smoothly and brought satisfaction and joy to only part of the population.

A lot of ranting against government occurs when it is operating at its best, trying to accomplish what is good for the entire community, despite the passions of the day.

This is one of the reasons I'm against almost all recall elections, the whole notion of citizen propositions, and, especially, way-too-casual impeachment of the president of the U.S. (There are disingenuous fools out there who can go on all day about President Clinton's impeachment having to do with his being an officer of the court, yet committing perjury and obstruction of justice. To those people I say, "Go to hell!" The reality is that, as part of a $50 million-plus investigation into a land deal in Arkansas, they chanced upon Monica Lewinsky and – though she had nothing to do with their investigative charge – they questioned the president about her. The subsequent impeachment of the president absolutely violated the original intent of the Constitution.)

There are those who argue against an independent judiciary, decry the lack of ideological backbone of elected officials too willing to compromise, and are in favor of disenfranchising those with whom they disagree, denying the ideological minority a role in government, restraining an independent press, and limiting freedom of speech. Regardless of how those folks label themselves, they stand in opposition to the Constitution. It seems, in fact, that most people in this country, even those who cite it the most, consider the Constitution a Rorschach test justifying their specific beliefs. *What the Constitution does is empower the people you disagree with as much as it empowers you, and any frustration you feel is an indication that it is working.*

Clearly, one can be dissatisfied with the government because it is corrupt or has abandoned its principles. Just consider the Bush administration, which has brutally violated an extraordinary range of specific provisions and clear intentions of the Constitution. This was done in the name of the "Constitution" itself, as often as it was purported to be for national security. Mostly, however, it was just political bullying of the worst sort. Obviously, there are legitimate discontents with our government. But as often as not, when you hear profound complaints from the left or the right, progressives or reactionaries, Naderites or right-wing talk-radio fans, conspiracy theorists of every stripe, and just common citizens, what they are really complaining about is constitutionally based government. They may cite the Constitution, the founding fathers, the Bible, and/or the Magna Carta, but the real complaint is almost always about their ideas not having legislative pre-eminence. Which is exactly how the Constitution of the United States of America was designed to work. ■

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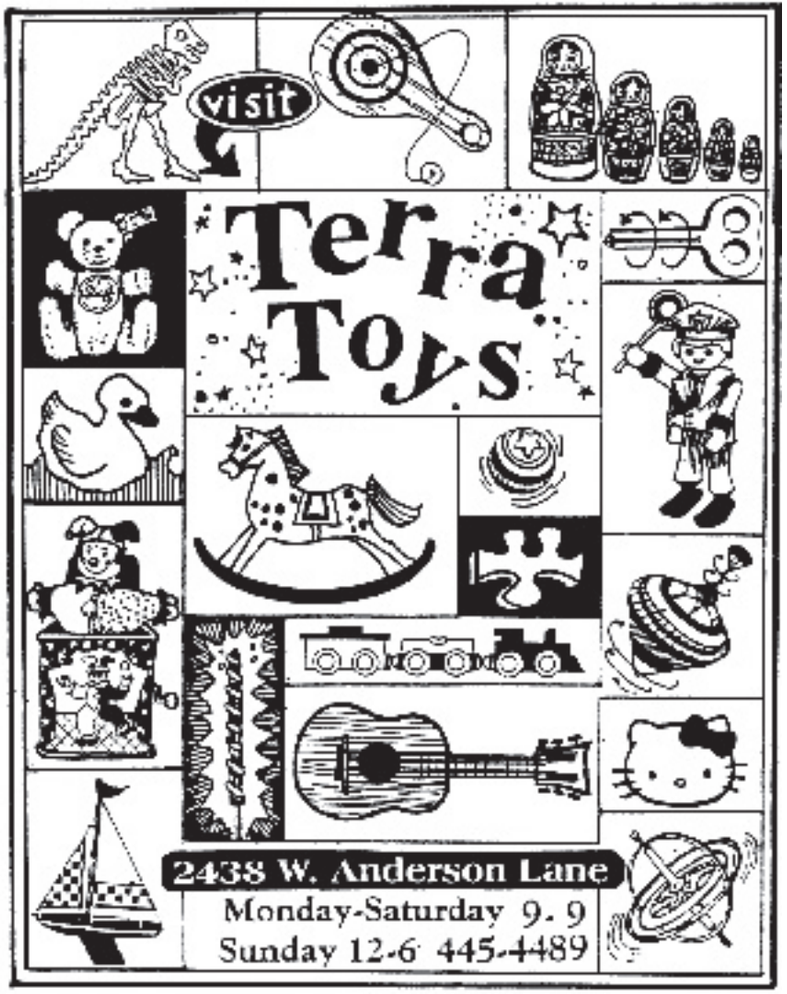

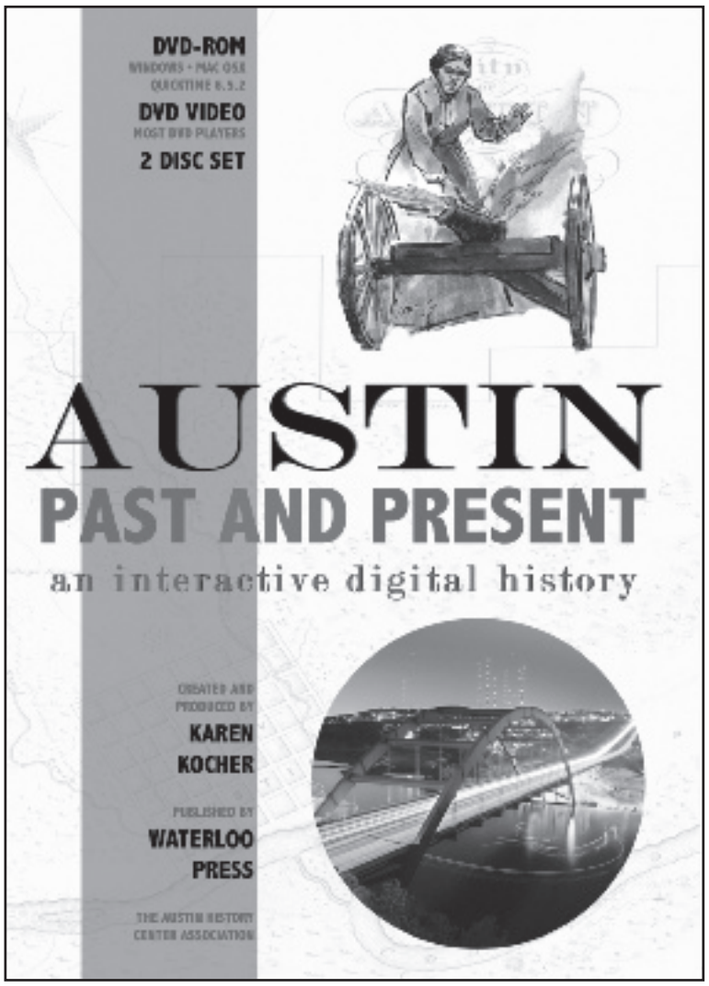

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POSTMARKS

Thankful for Austin Police

Dear Editor,

Nora Ankrum's article on APD's Citizen Police Academy was a real eye-opener for me ["My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1]. Like Nora, my encounters with the police have also included a lot of handing over of licenses and insurance cards. The officers have run the gamut from very professional to asshole bullies. However, in the last few years, I have noticed a definite increase in professionalism in my encounters with the police. APD's strict recruitment policies and extensive training seem to be paying off.

The community policing policy is a fantastic solution to crime. If the officer knows his beat, and the people in it, they are more apt to trust him and give him good information on potential or existing problems.

I am disappointed with some of the issues with APD, such as the Daniel Rocha, Sophia King, and Jesse Lee Owens shootings. However, I realize that the officers have a tough time out there on the streets and must make split-second decisions that may result in a choice between life or death. Until I walk a mile in their shoes, I am in no position to judge how officers react to mentally unstable people or threats to their own lives. I believe the Office of Police Monitor gives citizens some oversight into potential police misconduct and may separate some bad apples out of an overwhelmingly good batch of police officers.

I also disagree with the city of Austin's use of the police department as another tax collection entity with its zealous use of speed traps and exorbitant fines. It seems to me that traffic enforcement would be better served by removing road ragers and incompetent drivers from our highways.

Overall, however, when I read articles about the LAPD and the New York Police Department, I am thankful to live in a city under the protection of our police department.

Frank A. King

p.s. Nora, you are *smokin' hot* in that uniform! Talk about Dream Police!

A Correction to Story

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the article by Nora Ankrum titled "My Semester on the Beat" [News, Dec. 1]. It shows a side of the police department that many people don't see. I would like to comment on one fact in the story that was stated incorrectly. A statement in the "District Representative Program" part of the story is the one in question. "There are nine districts in Austin, with a DR assigned to each one" is wrong. Austin is split up into nine sectors. Each sector is split up into districts. Each sector has around seven districts. Each DR is responsible for about two districts. There are somewhere around 20 to 30 DRs citywide.

Once again, thank you for a good report.

Jason Chiappardi

[Nora Ankrum replies: Austin does in fact have nine sectors, known as "area commands," rather than districts. Each area command has several district representatives (three to six) assigned to it and is divided up into several districts (four to 10). We regret the error.]

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.

General e-mail address: **mail@austinchronicle.com** Postmarks forum: **austinchronicle.com/forums/postmarks**

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Great Cover and Thoughts

Friends,

Thank you for the Celesta Danger photo on this week's issue – a cleverly posed Nora Ankrum said as much with her body language, as captured by Ms. Danger, as we would hope to (and did) find within ["My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1]. Here's hoping you find other ways to bring Celesta's art to your cover.

Louis Black's serial-sequel op-ed on "free speech" has taken on epic hues ["Page Two"], but maybe he's/we're getting there now in our search for the true meaning of "free." I think part of the problem may be trying to simplify the responses to Ms. Maines' spontaneous comment. Some/many were, I believe, exactly as Mr. Black read them to be: hectoring punditry aiming at the speaker, rather than the spoken thought. In that regard, I agree fully with him. However, to the extent that some/many of the "critics" were angrily denouncing the thought expressed, I would agree with Mr. McKendree ["Postmarks," Dec. 1] that the marketplace of ideas can sometimes be a bear market. Let's be thankful that we are all willing to think and argue openly about the consequences of speaking freely and can still do so in publications such as yours.

Jay Brim

Outraged at the 'Chronicle'

Dear Editor,

I'm a friend of Randy "Biscuit" Turner and his family.

How dare Margaret Moser write about the last minutes of Randy's life, as if they were something from a cheap novel ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24]. Speaking as if she were there witnessing his demise. "Mopped the sweat from his forehead," spraying blood. Please!

continued on p.14

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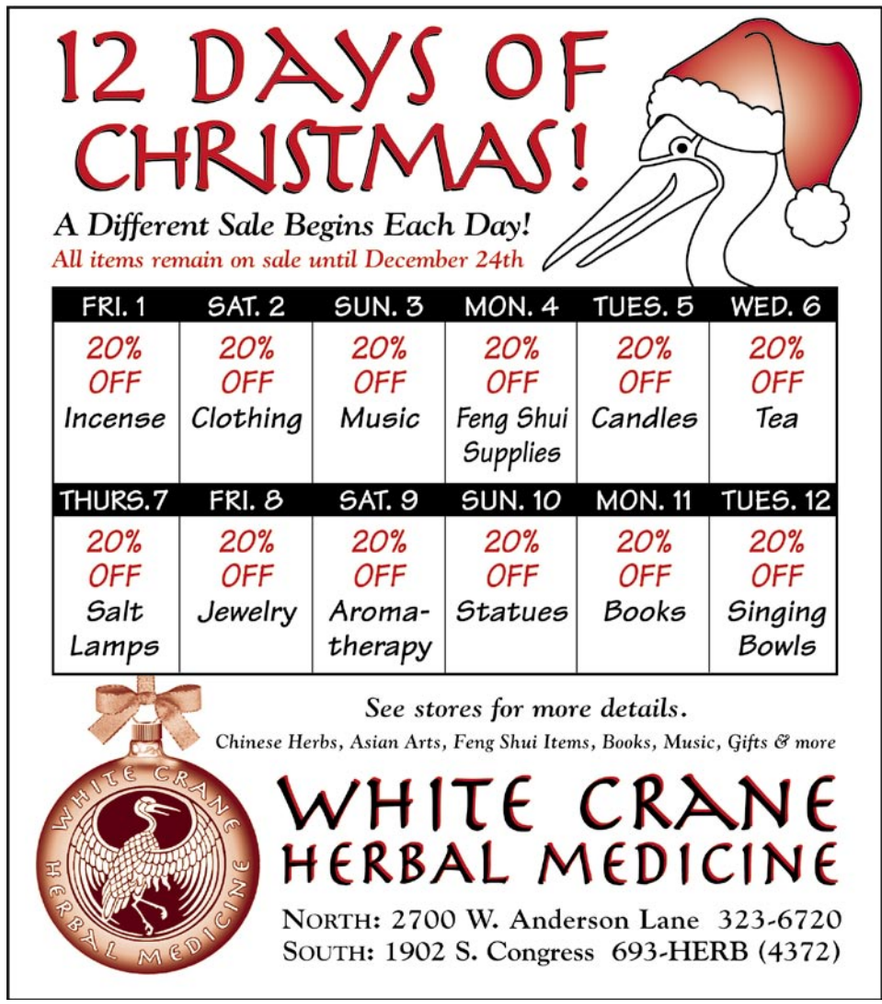

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Randy's family doesn't need to hear the rant of your reporter trying to embellish her story, nor do I.

I'm outraged the *Chronicle*, which supported Randy "Biscuit" Turner as an artist and musician, would print such irresponsible journalism.

Shame on you.

John Claude Axberg

Thanks for Moser's Hep C Story

Dear Editor,

As a longtime sufferer of chronic hepatitis C and enduring a year of failed chemotherapy in hopes of eradicating this underreported epidemic in the U.S. media, I congratulate Margaret Moser for her graphic and well-researched article on this killer disease ["C-Sick," Music, Nov. 24], and I thank the *Chronicle* for making it the cover story.

Ms. Moser's graphic depiction of a person's agonizing death from hepatitis C was right on the money, and reading the accounts of survivors' stories has given me new hope that new treatments and possibly even a cure could be discovered within my remaining lifetime.

If Ms. Moser's article gets just one person concerned enough to be tested for this often fatal disease and to seek treatment if needed, it was well worth it.

Thank you for understanding the importance to make this your cover story.

Yours very truly,
Toby Mauldin
Annandale, Va.

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
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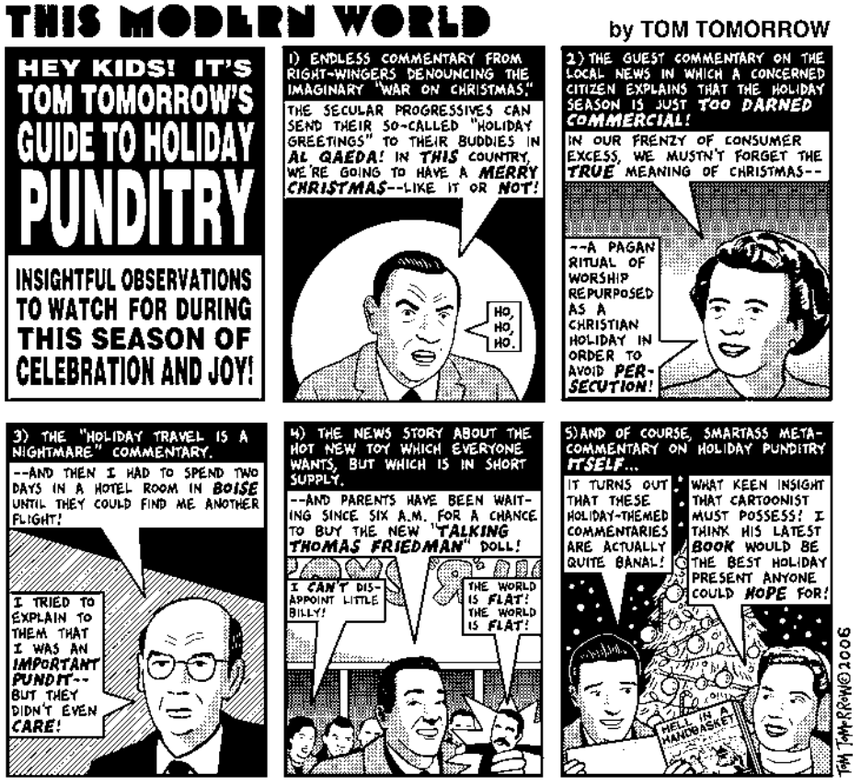

Merry Christmas Censorship

Dear Editor,

Re: *The Year Without Santa Claus* ["TV Eye," Screens, Dec. 1]: This story was also made into a Rankin & Bass stop-motion animated special in the Seventies. It was taken off the air due to protests that it emphasized mythological and pagan themes. There was no mention of Christ, to the chagrin of those who celebrate the eponymous holiday. Until recently, the special was not shown on television but could be purchased on DVD. It has found a home on ABC's Family Channel and is a part of its 25 Days of Christmas. Incidentally, the Family Channel also airs the Rankin & Bass production of *The Little Drummer Boy*, which was also taken off the holiday schedule in the Seventies due to unflattering portrayals of Arabs. Just a little holiday trivia. Merry Christmas!

Jill Phillips

Disrespectful of Biscuit

Dear Editor,

I was so pleased to pick up the Nov. 24 *Chronicle* and find that you had done a feature story on hepatitis C ["C Sick," Music]. But I found myself disheartened after reading the first few paragraphs of an otherwise exemplary article.

How on Earth did you come to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to begin the article with a graphic description of Randy "Biscuit" Turner's death? Your choice to print this account of his final moments betrays a lack of compassion and reverence on your part.

Randy was such a kind, gentle, and circumspect man. He guarded his privacy closely and always tried to conduct himself with empathy and humility. Knowing him, I believe he would have been deeply upset and embarrassed by what you published.

Erika Goyer
Biscuit's neighbor

Keep It Up, Hightower!

Dear Editor,

Re: "The Hightower Report," News, Nov. 24: *Yes*, go get 'em Jim. I'm behind, beside, or in front of you all the way on this one. Good job. I hope we can get the word out to the people before we are subjected to yet another of the Bushites underhanded, under-the-table, behind-closed-door deals and presidential sign statements that screw the American people. Keep it up, pal.

Robin Johns

continued on p.16

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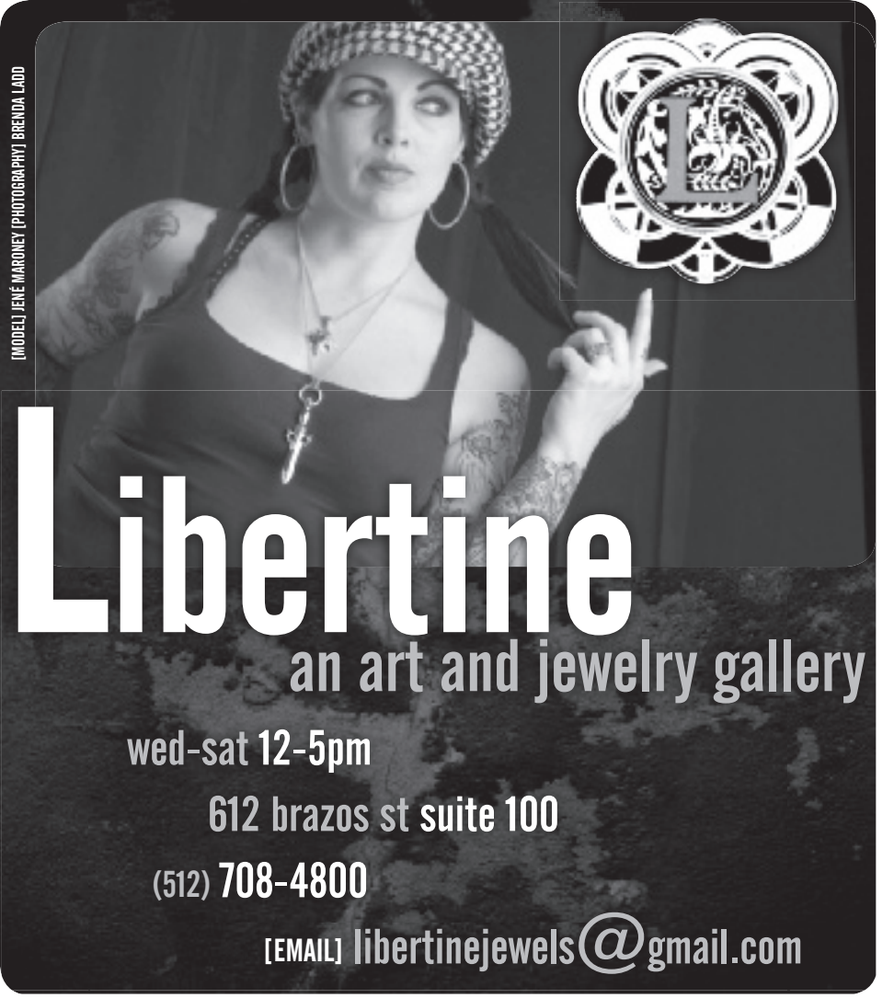

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POSTMARKS :: FROM P.14

Begun by the Left

Mr. Black,

Re: "Page Two," Dec. 1: Would you agree that this tactic to demonize and silence one's opponents did not originate on the far right? It began on the left as an effort to force people to be "politically correct." The right only copied it, and now the left is crying about it. As an example: there are well-meaning people out there who believe that, unlike race or gender, homosexuality is a trait defined by a behavior. Whether that behavior is inherent or learned is for another time. But your own publication, along with others, will ridicule, belittle, and insult anyone who voices such ideas. Does not that qualify as an effort to silence such ideas? Does not your own publication engage in exactly the same sort of tactics as you complain of being used against the Chicks? Whatever side one comes down on in the discussions of "gay rights," why is it acceptable to support the "pros" while completely denigrating (in frequently virulently personal terms) the "antis"? The Chicks have no less right to speak out than any of the rest of us. But just because they can sing, they have no greater right nor any greater level of protection when they do speak. I expect some nasty responses to this letter. It's a risk I accept by jumping into this arena. And it's the same risk assumed by the Chicks when they ventured from singing to politics. Usually, the greater the level of notoriety, the greater the level of response. Seems to me that it goes with the territory.

Scott Sexton

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
UPDATED DAILY

More 'Homo Anal Sex Stories'

Dear Editor,

I agree with Mr. Morrow ["Postmarks," Dec. 1]. I too would enjoy reading an article about "homo anal sex that rambles endlessly for pages," which like the letter writer, pounds at this issue repeatedly.

I think this would be a much more interesting article than say; some dry scientific treatment of how brain research proves psychoanalysts were right about homophobia.

Yours very truly,
Jose Lopez

Bands Without Bass Players?

Dear Editor,

Bassless bands? For some reason, there are many bands today that feel a bass player is not needed. I believe this might have started with the White Stripes, but I am hardly an expert on this. I saw the Hot as Shits recently at Elysium, and bassless, they had the thinnest, most annoying sound you could imagine. As three cute girls, they get away with it, but put three fat dudes in need of a shave up there and there will be a line at the door asking for refunds. The Yeah Yeah Yeahs have this same empty, lifeless sound.

Bass is the foundation of music. Combined with drums, it provides the feel that people want/need to physically connect with the band and the song. Without it, many times the music sounds like a guitar played with a chainsaw. My point here is, I wonder if any experts out there might want to comment on this phenomenon, why these bands are so against having a solid sound, and why people put up with it. As a drummer, the bass player is the most important girl/guy in the room, and I would not do a gig without one.

Regards,
William MacNaughton

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JANA BIRCHUM

Activist groups including CodePink-Austin, Veterans for Peace, Austin Against War, and Women in Black held a silent funeral procession Saturday across the Ann Richards (Congress Avenue) Bridge, to mourn the nearly 3,000 Americans killed in the Iraq war, as well as the Iraqis killed – estimates of the latter range anywhere from 50,000 to half a million. (See www.iraqbodycount.org **or** www.thelancet.com **for attempts at counting civilian deaths.)**

JOHN ANDERSON

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The notice to the neighbors needs to let them know that something more than a site plan has been filed. It needs to be something like, 'All hell is about to break loose, so let's get ready.'"

– City Council Member **Brewster McCracken**, on the way Northcross Mall neighbors were alerted to the incoming Wal-Mart

HEADLINES

- All hell has broken loose in the Northcross Mall area in the past week: Neighbors organized as **Responsible Growth for Northcross** are furious about plans to replace the aging mall with a Wal-Mart. See p.30.
- The Democrats have a chance to further pad their lead in Congress if former District 28 Rep. **Ciro Rodriguez** can oust Republican incumbent **Henry Bonilla** from the District 23 seat in a run-off on Tuesday. For coverage, see our news blog, the Chronic, **austinchronicle.com/chronic**.
- Our CNN Breaking News e-mail alert informed us Wednesday morning that the **Iraq Study Group** has declared that **President Bush's policy in Iraq** "is not working." Um … that's "breaking news"?

NAKED CITY

- Last week a letter to City Council from several Austin environmental leaders urged council to change course on building **Water Treatment Plant 4** at its proposed location inside the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. "We ask that you remove yourself from the box the Utility has unnecessarily put the City in of building in either the sensitive Bull Creek watershed or in the [BCP]," the letter reads. "The criteria used by staff and consultants for the site selection were arbitrarily narrow and eliminated at least one potential site out of hand," they say, referring to findings that a second site in the Cortaña tract met criteria for consideration but was not fully vetted. The letter goes on to say that WTP 4 is predicated on "old technology requiring more land," rendering the city's size requirements artificially inflated, and that slope/grade requirements and a restriction against building on developed properties also kept the number of potentially viable sites low. "We ask that you broaden the scope of the site selection process," they ask. Signers include Bill Bunch, Leslie Pool, Karin Ascot, Phil Moncada, Laura Morrison, and others. See the letter at **austinchronicle.com/chronic**. – *Wells Dunbar*
- Also concerning the **new water treatment plant**, city officials, in hopes of getting Travis Co. to call another hearing on the site, are showering county officials with additional paperwork to prove that the city's proposed Cortaña site is far superior to the permitted site at the headwaters of Bull Creek, according to online newsletter *In Fact Daily*. A split county court dug in its heels at a recent hearing on the issue – unconvinced that the city had thoroughly reviewed every option – but city officials, including former Environmental Board chair-turned-Council Member Lee Leffingwell, would like to see a change of heart. "If the county were to decide there is sufficient new information, they could decide to have another Chapter 26 hearing," Leffingwell told *In Fact Daily*. "We're willing to evaluate the methodology that we used, and we're willing to provide backup information on sites that were rejected." Just to prove the issue is not dead, city officials were scheduled to take members of the Environmental Board and reporters to view the Cortaña site on Wednesday. – *Kimberly Reeves*
- The **Austin Water Utility's bond rating** has been upgraded by both Moody's Investor Services and Standard & Poor's. The upgraded rating will hopefully allow the utility to issue future debt at a lower rate, saving ratepayers money on interest over time. – *W.D.*
- **Landfills** – specifically, a memorandum of understanding with landfill operator **Browning-Ferris Industries** – are back on the agenda at Travis Co. commissioners court Tuesday, Dec. 12. This agreement has stirred the anger of local residents who worry about the potential height of the landfill, but court members see it as a way to get BFI out of the neighborhood permanently. Under the agreement, BFI will vacate the site in 2015, whether they have a new site or not. County Judge Sam Biscoe says the key is that the landowner, as well as BFI, will have to sign the agreement. That means the landowner won't be able to cut any deals to lease the land to BFI's even more popular next-door neighbor, Waste Management. BFI wants the deal signed before Commissioner Karen Sonleitner leaves the court at year's end. Expect to see plenty of landfill opponents spreading less than holiday cheer at next week's meeting. – *K.R.*
- In other county news, the commissioners are rushing to get four **public-private road deals** through the court

continued on p.21

BESIDE THE POINT

Their Northcross to Bear

Council wades into Wal-Mart's waters

BY WELLS DUNBAR

The lunchtime deluge of citizens communications brings many things at City Council – not all of them good. It's parsimonious charity to say that Jennifer Gale's semiregular dislocutions there are among the most well-reasoned and coherent. It was all the more surprising then, last week, that the noontime hour brought such an illuminating, eye-opening discussion.

Speakers from Responsible Growth for Northcross had signed in to speak to council. The ad hoc organization, composed of neighborhood association members surrounding Northcross Mall, formed to combat the Wal-Mart proposed at the ailing engine of commerce. It was their pleas to slow the process – one they maintain they were wrongly excluded from – that led to council's first major public discussion of the proposal. Speaking to their concerns, Council Member Jennifer Kim inquired as to the law surrounding their notification. Assistant Watershed Protection director Tammy Williamson said the plans first arrived in her office as an administrative site plan, meaning, due to its commercial nature ostensibly squaring with the mall's current use, "There was no public hearing associated with it." City Manager Toby Futrell further clarified that if a new site plan stays within the previous zoning category – if there's "no zoning change, no variance, and your site plan is code compliant" – the lesser notification is OK. Yet the expedited approval process didn't preclude any form of notice; Williamson said, "We normally catch everyone," but allowed that sometimes neighborhood associations "fall off of our list." No matter, she clarified, it would have been "a relatively generic notice" anyway.

During the discussion, Council Member Mike Martinez established that staff supposedly had no clue who the tenant would be until it was unveiled in the *Austin American-Statesman*. But when it came to Wal-Mart's secrecy, Council Member Brewster McCracken wasn't buying it. Having examined the site plan for the first time that morning, he said that its mammoth breadth "reflects a freestanding discount super store," before rattling off the tell-tale stats: The center alone would create 10,686 car trips as part of its "24-hour, two-way traffic volume … [more traffic] than the entire amount of Northcross Mall currently." It also would create a footprint of 217,000-plus square feet, which, McCracken repeatedly declared, "makes it the largest retail establishment in central Texas

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outside of Cabela's and IKEA." (Actually, it's bigger than Cabela's, second only to IKEA's 252,000 square feet in Round Rock. The entire retail square footage of the Northcross redevelopment – of which Wal-Mart is only the anchor – is planned to exceed 400,000.) "We have a problem with our current code if this kind of massive expansion is going to happen on a neighborhood street, not a highway," said McCracken. "The notice to the neighbors needs to let them know that something more than a site plan has been filed. It needs to be something like, 'All hell is about to break loose, so let's get ready.'"

Kim asked about expanded notification for small-business owners in the area, moving the discussion toward the tools available to rein in Wal-Mart's worst intentions. McCracken inquired as how to keep the store from operating 24 hours around the clock – possibly via noise or light pollution constraints or its incompatibility with commercial design standards – but only a conditional zoning overlay could prevent it. "It's amazing to me that our zoning code is the only way we have the ability to say you can't be open at 3 o'clock [in the morning]," McCracken said.

Returning to commercial design standards, McCracken's own pet project, he lamented that "we were looking at this area as being a great opportunity for mixed urban use, [and] infill redevelopment," but the project narrowly skirted the standards' implementation date. "This apparently got approved between first and second reading [of the design standards ordinance], so it was deep, deep into the process when this started," McCracken noted. It wouldn't be the only serendipitous instance of suspect timing for Wal-Mart and developers Lincoln Properties either; a timeline issued by Supercenter opponents Liveable City outlines the city's months-long delay in initiating work on the upcoming big-box ordinance, raising troubling questions as to whether the delay was orchestrated to allow Wal-Mart to slide in under the radar. The coincidences have not gone unnoticed – going one better than the application chronology Futrell promised council members, Kim has called on city auditor Stephen Morgan to investigate the entire application process, and the impact on the surrounding area. (For more on the controversy swirling around the applications process, see p.30.)

During the discussion, Council Member Mike Martinez established that staff supposedly had no clue who the tenant would be until it was unveiled in the *Austin American-Statesman*. But when it came to Wal-Mart's secrecy, Council Member Brewster McCracken wasn't buying it.

But for now it'll have to wait. This week's council meeting contains another exceptionally light agenda, the sticky centerpiece being zoning approval of the St. David's expansion, reappearing from last week. Council has another week to mull all things Mart until the big-box ordinance comes before them, Dec. 14. On that, and with their own problem, neighbors are hoping they'll think outside the box. ■

"Point Austin" will return next week.

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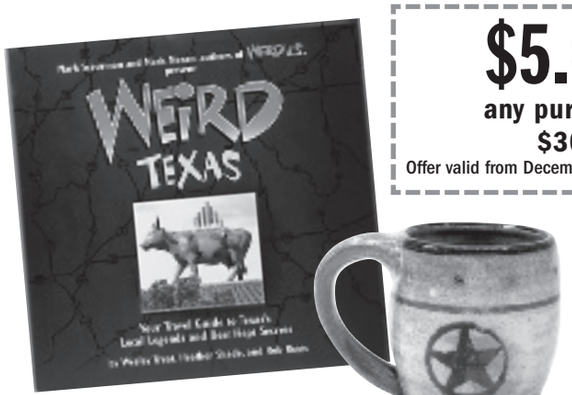

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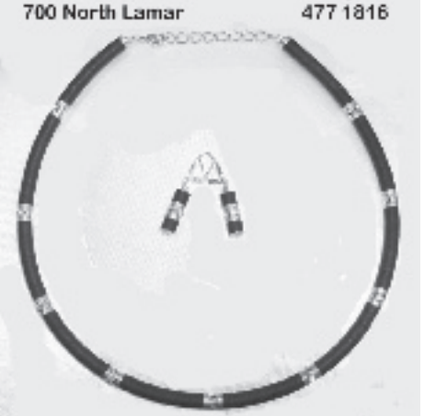

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by the end of the year, meeting the requirements of the bonds passed by voters back in 2005. County commissioners considered a public-private deal on portions of Decker Lane near State Highway 130 last week. Next week it will be portions of Wells Branch Parkway, Braker Lane, and Slaughter Lane. What's missing for the discussion, however, is the city's commitment in writing to a number of the public-private deals. County officials have verbal assurance that the city will participate in some of the deals but nothing in writing. In the case of Decker Lane, inside the city's near-term annexation area, the road's construction would be divided into thirds. If the city were to back out of the deal, the county also would likely cancel its end of the contract. – *K.R.*

- Local biodiesel start-up **Austin Biofuels** was acquired this week by Houston-based **Safe Renewables Corporation** for an undisclosed sum. ABF's sales and marketing success resulted in Austin being recognized last year as having the largest concentration of public biodiesel pumps in the nation. Jeff Plowman, ABF's co-founder, said the "opportunities for small independents are getting slimmer and slimmer. … This is the fuel business after all." He characterized the move as a way for ABF to survive and grow. Safe Renewables, which produces biodiesel in Conroe, has been ABF's primary supplier for more than a year. Plowman touted Safe's consistent fuel quality and also the input they've given ABF in selecting predominantly Texas-grown fuel crops. Co-founders Kurt Lyell and Robby Plenge will join Plowman on Safe's staff. Both companies described the merger as a way to vertically integrate and get closer to the end user. Plowman says ABF's Austin presence won't change, and he expects to add a North Austin pump soon, as well as multiple new 99% biodiesel (B99) pumps next year. Since ABF started in 2003, its annual Austin sales have grown from 6,000 gallons to about 2 million gallons. – *Daniel Mottola*

- Austin state Sen.-elect **Kirk Watson** ended up with the short stick last week when it came time to determine seniority among the Senate's incoming freshman class of four. He'll rank No. 31 in the 31-member Senate when he is sworn into office next month, replacing senior retiring Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos. In the biannual ritual of drawing numbers from a hat to determine one's worth, so to speak, Watson reached in and grabbed No. 4. This means he'll be the last one to choose his office and his desk on the Senate floor, after the No. 3 freshman, radio celebrity **Dan Patrick**, R-Houston, has picked through the leftovers. There are actually five freshman senators in the 2007 class, but Sen. **Carlos Uresti**, a San Antonio Democrat, has already been sworn into office. On the House side, **Valinda Bolton**, D-Austin, fared better, picking the No. 8 spot among the 22-member freshman class. – *Amy Smith*

- Free-market booster **Michael Quinn Sullivan**, the voice behind the voice of the **Texas Public Policy Foundation**, is leaving his VP post to lead a new organization with a similar low-to-no taxes mindset. The start-up, **Texans for Fiscal Responsibility**, seeks to divert the state's $15 billion surplus into the hands of taxpayers and has created a Web site and blog (**www.empowertexans.com**) to further its mission. For more details about the new group, get thee to the reception TPPF is hosting for Sullivan. The festivities are set for 5pm Friday, Dec. 8, at TPPF's headquarters, 900 Congress. – *A.S.*

- The Austin Independent School District will host the seventh **African American Men and Boys Monthly Conference** this month. The event will offer 15 workshops for local African-American youth on subjects ranging from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test to legal advice to health and human services. This month's conference focuses on the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose/personal goals, creativity, and faith. The conference will be at Dobie Middle School on Dec. 16 from 10am to 2pm. For more information, call 585-6696. – *Michael May*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

- Round Rock student protester **Jennifer Avilez** was found guilty on Dec. 2 of violating curfew; her attorneys are considering an appeal. Avilez was charged with violating the youth curfew ordinance when she participated in a march on the Texas Capitol **protesting proposed immigration policy** on March 31. Avilez believes she did nothing wrong. "I know that free speech is not a crime," she said. The defense argued that though the ordinance prohibits minors from being in a public place during school hours, one exception allows minors to exercise First Amendment rights, and another permits students to be in a public place with parental consent, both of which constitute an "absolute defense" in Avilez's case, according to attorney Edmond "Skip" Davis. The jury disagreed, obviously, but not without a battle. "The jury struggled with the verdict until 10am," Davis said, adding the verdict was rendered with only "narrow access to critical contextual evidence" – that is, that Avilez had her mother's permission to march. Ernest Saadiq Morris, representing the Texas Fair Defense Project, believes the case should have been dismissed. "We will not allow an intelligent, socially aware 16-year-old to be made a scapegoat for her strong political beliefs," Morris said, heralding the possible appeal. Round Rock Police issued 204 citations for violating the curfew, disrupting class, or both. The first student protester to be tried, Irvin DeLuna, 15, was acquitted on Nov. 3. "We have been refraining from comment on any of the cases just because we have so many trials, about 40, yet to come," said Will Hampton, communications director for the city of Round Rock. – *Patricia J. Ruland*

- The **Texas Clean Air Cities Coalition**, an organization spearheaded by Dallas Mayor Laura Miller to address the slew of new coal-burning power plants planned statewide, is picking up steam and fighting for the right to testify at permitting hearings for the plants, which began last week. The coalition, now with 24 city and county government members, including Dallas, Houston, El Paso, Waco, and recently Travis County, (but not Austin), has manifold goals, according to Miller, including: requiring the best and cleanest technologies for the plants, a significant cleanup of existing coal plants (which top national charts for smog and mercury pollution), rectifying the TCEQ's "painfully flawed" permitting process so that it considers the plants' cumulative – rather than individual – impact, and to get that permitting process in sync with multimillion-dollar State Implementation Plan air-quality improvement efforts meant to rescue Texas' big cities from federal air-quality violation. Though the coalition indirectly represents about 6.4 million Texans (plus several state community and environmental groups), it's struggling for the right to file comments, present evidence, and call expert witnesses at the hearings – not to mention fighting off significant utility industry opposition. The State Office of Administrative Hearings in Austin will determine Dec. 14 what groups will have standing in the coal cases, among other hot coal-related issues. – *D.M.*

- On Wednesday, Nov. 29, a federal judge in the District of Columbia granted "a request for a preliminary injunction against the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** to prevent the agency from terminating **housing benefits** for hurricane evacuees without first adequately explaining its decisions," according to a press release from Public Citizen, which made the request along with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. FEMA was ordered to "restore short-term housing assistance to all evacuees whom FEMA found ineligible since Aug. 31, 2006, until they receive adequate explanation for the decision and time to appeal," the release reads. "FEMA was also required to pay the short-term housing assistance benefits that evacuees would have received between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30." FEMA issued a statement in response to the ruling: "Because FEMA believes some applicants may have been unaware of either the appeal process or the applicability of the initial ineligibility determination, the Agency sent out follow-up letters which explained the process. FEMA then provided those applicants an additional 60 days in which to appeal and listed the requirements for additional assistance. … FEMA is considering the court's order in consultation with the Department of Justice, determining how the agency will proceed." For more on the lawsuit, see **www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=2323**; FEMA's full response is at **www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=31788**. – *Cheryl Smith*

- Residents throughout the U.S. heaved a sigh of relief last week. The **2006 Atlantic hurricane season** officially ended Nov. 30 with the country spared the grief of any major disasters, as not a single hurricane spanked the U.S. (That is, if you don't count Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's visit to New York in September, when he called President Bush "the devil" during a United Nations address.) The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration had predicted a 75% chance of an "above-normal" season this year – "a seasonal total of 12-15 named storms, with 7-9 becoming hurricanes, and 3-4 becoming major hurricanes." Instead, the six-month season ended with nine tropical storms, five of which became hurricanes. – *C.S.*

- According to statistics released Nov. 30 by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, **one in 32 American adults can be counted as part of the nation's criminal-justice population**. That is, 7 million U.S. adults are now "on paper," either in prison or jail or on parole or probation. According to the BJS annual report, as of Dec. 31, 2005, 2.2 million adults were behind bars – up 2.7% from 2004 – 4 million were on probation, and nearly 800,000 were on parole. And, as it turns out, the steady growth of the prison population is in large part caused by an increase in drug-offense convictions. Inmates convicted of drug offenses in federal court accounted for 49% of the total growth in the prison population since 1995 – including more than 250,000 drug offenders locked up in state prisons. (Indeed, in October, FBI statistics revealed that nearly 800,000 people were arrested last year just for pot-related charges.) And, as the prison population continues to grow, it should come as no surprise that at the end of 2005, state prisons were operating at up to 14% above capacity, while federal prisons were at 34% above capacity. For the entire report, go to **www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/p05.htm**. – *Jordan Smith*

- When leaders of other countries consider the same-sex marriage issue, they first ask themselves, what would America do? And then they do the opposite. At least it seems that way. Consider these recent developments: Two days after seven U.S. states approved constitutional bans on gay marriage, the legislative assembly in **Mexico City**, where the Catholic Church is king, voted 43-17 to **allow civil unions between gay and lesbian couples**. The new law, which goes into effect early next year, extends certain legal entitlements to same-sex couples, such as inheritance, property rights, and health benefits. November was clearly the month for gay rights advances of global proportions. Last month, South Africa became the fifth country to allow gay couples to marry, while the top court in Israel ruled that the country must legally recognize same-sex couples who marry abroad. The U.S. elections did provide one ray of hope on the marriage issue. Arizona became the first state in the nation to reject a proposed constitutional measure outlawing same-sex marriage. You could say that voters in the Grand Canyon State honored their late Sen. Barry Goldwater by following through with his suggestion that the right-wing Rev. Jerry Falwell (and his ilk) needed "a swift kick in the ass." – *A.S.*

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Oaxaca Turmoil Touches Austin

When Oaxacan artist **Gerardo Bonilla** told a Mexican writer back in 2004 that his paintings "take us into complicated stories" and that they have "walkers" who journey to "remote places," he had no way of knowing that he would involuntarily become one of his own "walkers."

On Saturday, Nov. 25, Bonilla, whose work has been featured in Austin's **La Peña** gallery, was picked up in what was reported in the Mexican media as a federal police sweep in **Oaxaca City**, the epicenter of clashes between protesters and law enforcement since late October, when then-President **Vicente Fox** sent federal police. Striking teachers, indigenous groups, students, and leftists, who say Gov. **Ulises Ruiz**'s 2004 election was fraudulent and that his government has consistently retaliated against dissenters, have been trying to oust Ruiz from power for about seven months.

According to Reuters, "Truckloads of police carrying assault rifles regularly patrol the city arresting suspected activists." Mexican police arrested **Flavio Sosa**, a central figure of the protest movement, on Monday in **Mexico City**, "hours after he gave a news conference saying he had come to the capital to start talks with the government. … Leaders who accompanied Sosa at the news conference said that a total of 220 protesters have been detained during the conflict in Oaxaca, though police cite a figure of around 170," the Associated Press reports.

When he was arrested, Bonilla was working in an artist-run cafe gallery he helped UT-Austin graduate student **Emiliana Cruz**, who is from Oaxaca, start in 2001. "He was there at the wrong time," said Cruz, who has not talked to Bonilla but has family in Oaxaca. Cruz says Bonilla's name appears on a list of people arrested during the sweep but doesn't know where he was taken. Another longtime friend of hers, painter and elementary school teacher **Dionisio Martinez**, is also missing. Martinez does not appear on the list of names, however. "We don't know if he's alive," Cruz said. "The family has not been able to get a hold of him."

In Austin last Thursday, about 30 people protested the sweep at the **Mexican Consulate** on Brazos. Some participants carried around Bonilla's artwork, said **Geoff Valdés**, one of the demonstrators. Cruz, along with her daughter, met with **Hugo Rene Oliva Romero**, Mexico's deputy consul general in Austin, about Bonilla and Martinez the next day. Oliva Romero told them he would write a letter to officials in Mexico inquiring about Bonilla and Martinez's cases, Cruz said. As of press time, Oliva Romero could not be reached for comment.

According to the Associated Press, "The violence seemed to come to a head last week when protesters set colonial-era buildings on fire, prompting police to begin arresting demonstrators." The crackdown has apparently resulted in a tenuous, surface-level quiet. "City hall has reopened, taking building permit applications and receiving taxes after months of interruptions. Even Ruiz has been walking the streets," Reuters reports.

The recent arrests and detentions coincide with the swearing in of new President **Felipe Calderón**, who took office amid much protest Dec. 1. (In Mexico's close, contested July 2 presidential election, the state of Oaxaca, one of the poorest in the country, went to the populist Democratic Revolution Party candidate **Andrés Manuel López Obrador**.)

Cruz said she and the people she knows back home are worried about what will happen next. "Right now, Oaxacans are living in a very tense situation." *– Cheryl Smith*

For continuing coverage, see **news.yahoo.com/fc/World/Mexico** *and* **www.narconews.com***; for previous* Chronicle *coverage, see "A Letter to Mexico," Oct. 27, and "Oaxaca Unrest Continues," Nov. 17.*

Lotto Madness Continues in Court

The lawsuit over secrets, lies, and audiotapes concerning a "phantom" disaster recovery facility at the **Texas Lottery Commission** remains alive. On Nov. 17, U.S. Magistrate Judge **Andrew Austin** issued a trenchant recommendation to deny a motion for summary judgment filed by **Gary Grief**, acting director of the Lottery Commission, in the whistleblower lawsuit brought by former employee **Shelton Charles** – in part, Austin concluded, because Grief's arguments for dismissal were just plain "odd." Charles is suing Grief and the commission, claiming he was fired in retaliation for reporting malfeasance at the **Lottery Disaster Recovery/Business Resumption site** and racism in the workplace.

Charles was fired from his job as a systems analyst on Nov. 4, 2005, two days after sending an e-mail to Texas Reps. **Kino Flores**, D-Palmview, and **Corbin Van Arsdale**, R-Tomball, alleging, in part, that the commission was improperly spending millions on its disaster recovery site, a project created to protect essential electronic information in an emergency. Agency officials, Charles charged, knew the site was was not certified operational, but continued funding the project as if it were already up and running. "Management has been hiding this fact through lies and the manipulation of information," Charles wrote. Two days later Grief personally fired Charles – ostensibly for insubordination because Charles declined to answer questions during a recorded interview with agency officials, instead asking for written questions.

In his recommendation to Justice **Lee Yeakel**, who would preside over any trial, Austin wrote that Charles had become "frustrated with … **misuse of government funds** and (in his view) its languishing Recovery Site"; that "**racial discrimination** was rampant at the Commission" – in the form of higher salaries, preferential treatment, and promotions for whites; and that Charles witnessed lottery brass discussing "schemes … to avoid [producing] documents [requested by legislators and the press] concerning the Disaster Recovery Site." Seeking to have Charles' suit dismissed, Grief argued that Charles' e-mail to legislators was simply a work-related communication – part of the normal course of business – so it didn't really qualify as a protected whistle-blower report, meaning in turn that Grief should be immune to any allegation that Charles' termination was retaliatory. Grief denied any involvement in events leading to Charles' termination – noting that he wasn't even present when Charles was questioned.

Not surprisingly, Austin wasn't buying either argument: "The Court finds it hard to swallow" that Charles' regular job duties would include "reporting such things as his employer, the Commission, misspending (or misappropriating) millions of dollars on a phantom [DRS] and hiding this information from the public," Austin wrote. And Grief's contention that he was absent during events resulting in Charles' termination is "rather odd," Austin opined. "It simply doesn't matter that Grief was not in [Charles'] office" when officials were questioning him. Finally, Charles' communication to legislators was protected speech because it regarded a matter of public concern, Austin noted, citing a **5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** opinion that "there is perhaps no subset of matters of public concern more important than bringing **official misconduct** to light." *– Patricia J. Ruland*

More Eight-Liner Seizures

The **Austin Police Department** has seized another 352 **eight-liners** allegedly being used in **illegal gambling** operations around town. On Nov. 30, cops with APD's Organized Crime Division, Centralized Investigations, Strategic Command, and Special Operations descended on eight gaming rooms with warrants to seize the machines and cash – in total, the fuzz copped nearly $81K and handed out tickets (**Class C misdemeanor citations**, punishable by up to a $500 fine) for illegal gaming to 47 people. Additional charges are pending, APD notes.

This is the third major eight-liner seizure operation since last year – in 2005, cops nabbed 733 machines as part of **Operation Casino Flush**, and earlier this year they seized nearly 1,100 machines as part of **Operation Flatliner**. (Apparently, the Nov. 30 bust went off without a hitch even though it seemingly lacked a coy name – like, say, Operation Two Cherries and a Dollar Sign. Perhaps police were more focused on figuring out where to store the cumbersome machines than worrying about a catchy name – lest the machines sit out in the elements, barely covered by a string of tarps, behind the APD training academy for months, which is what happened last time. [See "Psst! Wanna buy some (slightly ruined) eight-liners?," July 28.])

In all, police appear hopeful that the message behind the ongoing raids is becoming clear: "Illegal gambling will not be tolerated in the Austin community," APD reports in a press release, noting that game rooms often attract "suspicious individuals" and "criminal activity" – some of it violent, like robbery. Indeed, in 2005, APD officers fielded at least 26 game-room robberies (likely more went unreported, they say), since the onslaught of coordinated police raids. They've only gotten 14 robbery reports connected to game rooms this year, however. *– Jordan Smith*

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California Tailpipe Rules Could Cruise Into Texas

State Sen. **Rodney Ellis** filed legislation last Thursday that would bring Texas' **vehicle emissions standards** up to par with 11 other states, led by California, which has passed tailpipe measures stronger than those prescribed by the federal government. **Senate Bill 124** (aka the **Clean Cars Program**) would require new rides sold after 2008 to adhere to **California's Zero Emission Vehicle program**, which targets emissions of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds – both ingredients in smog and ozone pollution – in addition to requiring 30% reductions in carbon-dioxide emissions by 2016.

State Rep. **Mark Strama** – who served on Ellis' staff when he filed a similar bill in 1991 that failed due to lack of support – simultaneously filed a companion bill in the House, **House Bill 344**. With 82% of Austin's smog pollution coming from cars, Strama said, "We've got to invest in reductions." Ellis anticipates "tremendous" opposition to the bill at the Lege, but given that smoggy big cities such as Houston are now expected to blow 2010 **federal Clean Air Act compliance** deadlines by up to eight years, requiring state legislators to ask the EPA for an extension to avoid losing federal **highway funding**, Ellis says it'll be interesting to see leaders try and oppose his bill with one hand and beg feds for an air cleanup extension with the other. "The stakes are different in Washington," he said.

Austin Mayor **Will Wynn** was on hand Thursday to back the bill – joining the mayors of Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth, as well as a slew of statewide environmental, community, and health groups. He explained how A-town continues to flirt with air-quality violations, even with our high-dollar **Early Action Compact** (think: vehicle emissions testing). As for public support, Ellis said, "The voters are ahead of us [legislators]. The polling is just off the charts. They get it." **Environment Texas** advocate **Luke Metzger** pointed to a 2002 poll showing 79% statewide support for such legislation – with 54% strongly supporting.

The **Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers** (the auto industry's lobbying arm) does not strongly support the Clean Cars Program. "Texas adopting California's emissions program is unnecessary. Automakers already make vehicles 99 percent cleaner than 30 years ago," said spokesman **Charles Territo**. "There are no benefits above and beyond the federal program, and [Clean Cars] would impose a huge bureaucracy on taxpayers."

Environmental Defense regional director **Jim Marston** said the cost of the program to consumers ($300-1,000 by ED's calculations) would pay itself off in two years at current gas prices. ED regional communications director **Colin Rowan** added that California's program improves upon the federal emissions program with more ambitious mandates for fuel economy increases, something the Auto Alliance consistently fights, Rowan said, even though "other countries are doing it."

"This bill marks Texas' first step toward taking responsibility for our role in global warming," Marston said, something federal rules also don't do. – *Daniel Mottola*

Plug-in Hybrid Cars:
Coming soon to Austin, Detroit, and your driveway?

At last week's **L.A. Auto Show**, **General Motors**, makers of the eco-assaulting Hummer, confirmed months of speculation that they would be the first automaker to announce plans to build a **plug-in hybrid electric vehicle**. Unwilling to cede its green throne, **Toyota** has also publicly entertained producing PHEVs recently.

Since last January, **Plug-in Partners**, a nationwide group initiated and run by **Austin Energy**, has been building support for the technology and goading the auto industry to accelerate PHEV production. While today's hybrids can typically double the fuel economy of their nonhybrid counterparts, plug-ins are expected to double the miles per gallon of existing hybrids by using added cutting-edge, large-format **lithium ion batteries** (like the ones that power laptops and cell phones, but bigger) that can be recharged using a conventional wall outlet, giving extended all-electric-driving capabilities. In AE's ideal view, PHEVs would charge on wind power or other **renewable energy**, but plug-ins will still do a service by turning underused nighttime electricity into emission-free motoring. Not content to wait on GM, the city of Austin is set to announce that it has hired Toronto-based **Hymotion** to convert three of Austin Energy's **Toyota Prius** hybrids to plug-ins this month.

GM spokesman **Dave Barthmuss** declined to cite a production date for the company's plug-in, which will be based on **Saturn's Vue Greenline SUV** – currently a so-called mild hybrid that captures braking energy and deactivates its engine at stops but has no all-electric mode beyond takeoff. "Production timing depends on battery technology development," Barthmuss said. "The technological hurdles are real, but not insurmountable. … Plug-ins are a top priority for GM." (This summer, GM Chief Executive **Rick Wagoner** told *Motor Trend Magazine* that axing the $1 billion **EV1** all-electric car program – the subject of the popular documentary ***Who Killed the Electric Car?*** – was his worst decision.)

Engineer **Jason Mark**, vehicles director for national green group the **Union of Concerned Scientists**, called GM's announcement "exciting news" but emphasized the battery caveat GM placed on production in its announcements. "The big question isn't if they work, but will they last and what will their cost be?" Mark said. "GM's interest will help encourage battery developers to make real progress and force other automakers to change their plans. Certainly the city of Austin has helped to drive much of that interest."

"GM's news means we're having some impact," said former Austin City Council Member **Daryl Slusher**, now deputy coordinator of Plug-in Partners. "Many people around the country are working on this issue," he said, pointing to Plug-in Partners' 489 total members across 41 states, including 50 cities (half of which are among the nation's largest), plus counties, universities, businesses, state and federal agencies, and public utilities, among others. Slusher said the city is spending $14,380 each to convert three of its Priuses to plug-ins. AE senior strategy planner **Mark Kapner** says the PHEVs will have a 25-mile all-electric range (under 35 mph) and that Hymotion will begin the conversions by Dec. 21. Hymotion's Web site (**www.hymotion.com**) referenced this factoid: According to the **Electric Power Research Institute**, half the cars in the U.S. are driven just 25 miles a day or less. "A plug-in vehicle with even a 20-mile range could reduce petroleum-fuel consumption by about 60 percent," says **Bob Graham**, manager of EPRI's Electric Transmission Program.

While automakers have voiced little interest in plug-in hybrid electric cars, the city of Austin and its Plug-in Partners National Campaign, have decided to put their money where their mouth is when it comes to bringing about change in the slovenly auto industry. This month, Austin Energy will have this Toyota Prius and two others like it converted to plug-in hybrids, using currently available technology. – *D.M.*

Austin-based **Valence Technology** is developing large-format lithium-ion batteries for PHEVs. An experimental Prius Plug-in conversion using their batteries stopped in Austin last summer during a national tour; it boasted an impressive 102 mpg average. (This reporter pimped it out in Zilker Park, rollin' hard in all-electric mode.) Valence's **Marc Kohler** said lots of companies (including his) are doing lots of work for the auto market. "Testing is under way but not complete," he said, explaining that batteries must meet requirements for safety, price, performance, reliability, and cycle-life. He estimates it'll be about three years before consumers can go out and buy a PHEV with Valence or another company's lithium-ion batteries, saying, "It's more of a maturity barrier than a technology barrier." For more info, see **www.pluginpartners.org** and **www.valence.com**. – *D.M.*

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Hemp Farming Battle Update

BY JORDAN SMITH

On Nov. 15, **North Dakota** Agriculture Commissioner **Roger Johnson** announced that his state is one step closer to approving and issuing its first-ever **hemp-farming** license. The announcement followed state Attorney General **Wayne Stenehjem**'s final sign-off on the state's hemp-farming rules, signaling that they are in compliance with state law. For nearly a decade, North Dakota has been at the forefront of the push to reauthorize hemp farming, as state lawmakers – from both parties – have worked to craft laws that would allow North Dakota's farmers to cultivate **industrial cannabis**, the non-narcotic cousin of marijuana that contains just trace amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. When the rule finally takes effect, North Dakota will be first in line to challenge the near virtual ban on industrial-hemp farming imposed by the feds in 1937 with the Marihuana Tax Act and championed with myopic vigor by the **Drug Enforcement Administration** since the 1970s with the passage of the **Controlled Substances Act**.

Hemp cultivation was an integral part of the American farming economy from **colonial times** (when it was illegal not to grow) through the mid-Thirties, when reefer madness took hold and federal narcos – and not the Department of Agriculture – were given the authority to also regulate industrial hemp, a move that in turn has led to the near total ban on cultivation of the environmentally friendly crop. (Hemp fibers are among the strongest and have been used to make a variety of products – from paper, clothing, and sails to, in more modern times, composite panels used in a variety of cars, including the Ford Explorer, Dodge Viper, and BMW 3 series.)

According to the **Governmental Accountability Office**, the U.S. is the only industrialized nation without an established hemp crop. And at the center of the ongoing prohibition is the DEA – which has the power to grant, deny, or to simply ignore any and all requests from farmers and researchers who wish to grow the plant. Agricultural, environmental, and scientific reality aside, the federal narcos cling blindly to the idea that legalizing non-narcotic hemp would somehow encourage the covert production of marijuana – a myth long since discredited, in large part because **cross-pollination** would degrade any marijuana planted nearby to the point of being worthless as a drug. Nonetheless, the DEA has so far only ever granted one permit to grow hemp, which has since expired. North Dakota – an intensely agricultural state whose farmers produce a vast majority of some of the nation's top cash crops, including canola and sunflower – has been on the leading edge of the hemp reauthorization movement, but its farmers have been frustrated by the DEA, which has yet to hand down any formal, final decision on a late-Nineties request by **North Dakota State University** researchers for permission – pursuant to state law – to grow a test plot of hemp.

SCOTT T. SAMSON

Still, renewed interest in the sustainable crop continues to grow; since the Nineties, more than a dozen states have passed various laws – either to reauthorize hemp cultivation (though without the stringent controls and determination found in the North Dakota rules) or to authorize expenditures to study the crop and its economic potential. In a true display of Midwestern fortitude, North Dakota's farmers and lawmakers have remained undaunted by federal prohibitionists of questionable agricultural expertise, and this year officials, led by Johnson, were finally successful in crafting a state law to regulate and permit farmers to grow the crop. Patterned on the **Canadian hemp farming law** (Canada reauthorized hemp farming in 1997), the North Dakota rules require farmers to consent to **criminal background checks**, to provide **geopositioning coordinates** for their hemp crops, and to plant hemp seed proven to contain less than .3% THC – among other regulations.

With Stenehjem's approval, the final rules now move to the state's **Legislative Council** for final adoption, meaning North Dakota will soon be ready to license its first hemp farmers. That will bring the state one step closer to what will likely be an inevitable legal battle with the DEA. Under the new rules, North Dakota farmers licensed by the state to grow the crop still need to ask the DEA for permission to do so (a caveat that keeps the state law separate from, yet in compliance with, federal law) – and they're unlikely to back down if the DEA denies or ignores their requests. Unless the DEA backs down, this promises to be a fiercely fought battle, pitting the steady-as-she-goes determination behind North Dakota's agricultural prowess against the hemp-is-pot illogic of federal narcos, which could – once and for all, one would hope – lay bare the inappropriateness of granting a law enforcement agency the final authority over a purely agricultural concern with a vast economic implication. In other words, it will be a battle not to be missed.

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The People Have Spoken:
Here are your icons

They said you couldn't define an icon, that its intangibility was intrinsic to its being. Well, nuts to that! Over the past few weeks, thousands of Austinites clicked through the *Chronicle*'s **"Icon or Eyesore?"** contest, ultimately delivering the last word on what truly constitutes a city landmark. (And City Hall was nowhere to be found!)

And yet, a caveat: While the iconic preservation debate has come to focus specifically on small businesses (as opposed to hallowed grounds and public spaces), our initial offering of places included such technically unqualified Austin landmarks as Barton Springs and the Town Lake hike-and-bike trail. As a result, some reader-nominated icons are of the same grand nature. We've therefore tabulated three lists of results: one tabulating all entries, including the *Chronicle*'s own seed entries (marked so*); one of solely business entries; and for the purists, one of just reader-submitted entries.

The undisputed, all-entry champ is, unsurprisingly, **Barton Springs**, which scored a near-perfect 9.7 out of 10. Nipping at its heels, and first among all businesses, is the **Broken Spoke** on South Lamar. Third best sitewide, and the top reader-submitted entry, is **Deep Eddy Pool**. The top reader-submitted business is the **Austin Motel** and its ribald neon. Rounding out the reader-submission high end are the **Hole in the Wall** and **Toy Joy**.

Those readers who submitted the top two Web site submissions – Deep Eddy Pool and the Austin Motel – are splitting a psychedelic mind-blower of old Austin stems and seeds: Armadillo World Headquarters garb, 1992 and 1993 Austin Music Awards posters, a *Viva Les Amis* DVD, a wall hanging from the Hole in the Wall, Sound Exchange and Club Foot ephemera, and *Austin Chronicle* T-shirts. Do not lick the tie-dye, man.

– Wells Dunbar

Toy Joy: "The most colorful building in the city."

ALL ENTRIES

Barton Springs*	9.7
Broken Spoke*	8.9
Deep Eddy Pool	8.8
Austin Motel	8.6
Scholz Garten*	8.5
Hike-and-Bike Trail*	8.5
Threadgill's North*	8.3
Hole in the Wall	8.1
Toy Joy	8.0
Las Manitas*	7.7

Barton Springs: "If you did not vote 10, the terrorists have already won."

Austin Motel: "Sign is a memorial to the hourly rate days."

READER-SUBMITTED ENTRIES

Deep Eddy Pool	8.8
Austin Motel	8.6
Hole in the Wall	8.1
Toy Joy	8.0
Kerbey Lane Cafe (original)	7.6
Dirty Martin's Place	7.4
Peter Pan Mini Golf	7.2
Draught House	7.0
Avenue B Grocery	7.0
Jovita's	6.9

*Chronicle *"seed" entries*

Peter Pan Mini Golf: "Heard it was on top of an Indian grave site."

ALL BUSINESS ENTRIES

Broken Spoke*	8.9
Austin Motel	8.6
Scholz Garten*	8.5
Threadgill's North*	8.3
Hole in the Wall	8.1
Toy Joy	8.0
Las Manitas*	7.7
Kerbey Lane Cafe (original)	7.6
Dirty Martin's Place	7.4
Peter Pan Mini Golf	7.2

Hole in the Wall: "A lot of my brain cells were killed here."

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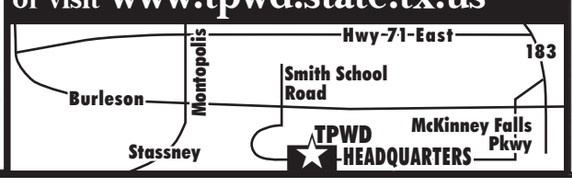

TEXAS STATE PARKS STORE

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

HOW GLAMOROUS IS CHILD LABOR?

Darlings! You'll be ever so pleased to learn that a new, high-fashion superstore has opened in America. It's called Wal-Mart. Yes, the stodgy old downscale store has gone upscale, offering hip new clothing lines like Metro 7!

If you think anything has really changed, however, you might check the labels on these new glam goods to see if any are made in Bangladesh. If so, they might have come from a factory there by the name of Harvest Rich, which produces clothing for Wal-Mart and others.

There's nothing at all hip about Harvest Rich – it's a sweatshop that uses child labor. In a new investigative report, the National Labor Committee, a diligent watchdog group, has documented conditions in Harvest Rich that are grotesque, even by sweatshop standards. Approximately 200 children between 11 and 14 years old work in this factory, sewing garments under contract to Wal-Mart.

The children are forced to work 12 to 14 hours a day, with some shifts going 20 hours. In all of September, these child laborers got just one day off. For the grueling long shifts, they are allowed only about four hours of sleep on the factory floor before being awakened and put back on the machines, sometimes collapsing from exhaustion. Their wages are as low as 6 cents an hour. They are routinely slapped or beaten if they don't meet their production goals, make mistakes, or even take too long in the bathroom.

Wal-Mart washes its hands of this by asserting that it has a "code of conduct" for its contractors, supposedly enforced by apparel industry monitors. Yet Harvest Rich, which is certified by this group, shows that corporate self-monitoring is an abysmal failure – even at stopping the most disgusting practices.

To see the report and join the effort to move children from sweatshops into schools, call the National Labor Committee: 212/242-3002.

A SWEET FIX

Krispy Kreme's plump, sugar-sweet doughnuts were hotter than frying oil just a few years ago. Gaga celebrities lined up to invest in Krispy Kreme franchises, and the media gushed that these sweet-treat purveyors were foodie angels. Ah, but that was then, and this is now – and Krispy Kreme's little dough blobs have suddenly turned satanically stale as a food phenomenon.

The corporation has seen its stock price sink from $50 a share to less than $9 as its sales have sagged and health officials in both Chicago and New York have sought to ban the artificial trans-fatty acids used to make the product.

So, has the corporation responded by eliminating its unhealthy ingredients? Of course not. Instead, Krispy Kreme Inc. has taken the old path of denial and dissembling that was blazed years ago by the tobacco giants. Not only is the doughnut chain going down tobacco road, it has even brought two former tobacco executives into its top management ranks! They are there to help direct its damage-control campaign, and both are expected to bring to doughnuts the same aggressive strategies that were used to glaze over the problems of cigarettes.

Wall Street analysts, who had cheered on the disgusting marketing tactics of the tobacco executives, are now applying their same skewed ethical compass to Krispy Kreme's troubles. Applauding the company's hiring of skilled image fixers, one analyst declared that such a move is essential when health groups are trying "to ban the main product you sell."

There they go again. Health advocates are not trying to ban the doughnuts – just the unhealthy trans-fatty acids that Krispy Kreme uses. They could switch to a heart-healthy oil, as other food companies are doing.

Hey, Krispy Kreme – instead of dumping money into image fixers from Tobacco World and trying to dupe customers, just fix your product and be honest with customers.

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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DEVELOPING STORIES

Northcross Neighbors to Wal-Mart:

You don't want us as enemies

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Never assume North Austin folks are less passionate about our town's special character than Central and South Austin neighborhoods. Citizens in the area surrounding Northcross Mall have done themselves activist-proud the past few weeks, rapidly mobilizing a passionate and intelligent public outcry against a lame plan – already city-approved – for the mall's redevelopment. Responsible Growth for Northcross (love the positive spin), a newly formed group of Austinites from neighborhoods near Anderson Lane and Burnet Road, is pleading for intervention from City Council members – several of whom have rallied to the cause (see "Beside the Point," p.19). A recent Responsible Growth for Northcross neighborhood meeting in near-freezing weather drew a standing-room-only crowd of more than 500 concerned citizens (grandmas to gen-Y's, residents, and small-business owners) from the surrounding Allandale, Crestview, North Shoal Creek, Rosedale, and Wooten neighborhoods. The group wants mall redevelopment, but in a manner consistent with city of Austin initiatives: their neighborhood plans, the Commercial Design Standards, and a commitment to community input. RG4N members feel an urgency to halt the project quickly; demolition at Northcross is scheduled to begin Jan. 8, according to a project subcontractor.

One huge point of contention is that developer Lincoln Property Company has signed a lease with Wal-Mart as the anchor tenant; it plans to build a 24-hour, 219,629-square-foot Supercenter – the largest store ever for Travis County, right next to homes in an established neighborhood. Another is that the developer's uninspired plop-in-the-parking-lot Northcross Center design does not meet the quality level defined by the city's new Design Standards & Mixed Use Ordinance. (The ordinance was enacted Aug. 31 but does not become effective until Jan. 13, 2007; the redevelopment of Northcross Mall according to its standards was specifically discussed during the public process.) The RG4N Web site states, "The redevelopment plan undermines the city's efforts toward a higher-quality, more livable urban development model."

However, it's very difficult – and potentially illegal – for council or city staff to set aside a site plan once it has been approved, as the neighborhoods would like them to do. But evidence gathered by citizens to date indicates that the developer failed to correctly follow the process required by code, according to Jack Kirfman, a founding member of Austin Full Circle, a group that advocates for corporate responsibility and opposes the Wal-Mart. Because the property had been zoned since the 1960s for a mall, and the project required no variances, it needed no favors from City Hall; this gives the city little leverage to get a better project from a developer. Because the developer could quietly put the project through under an administrative site plan, no public hearing was required, and no alarm bells were set off. While neighbors heard Wal-Mart rumors over the summer, and tried to get answers, they could learn nothing. Indeed, the project seems to have flown under the radar of council until after the site plan was released (Aug. 8), the deed for Northcross was officially transferred to Lincoln Property (Oct. 11), and the lease with Wal-Mart was signed (likely soon after that date). Council Member Brewster McCracken says he was briefed on the Wal-Mart Oct. 31 by a Wal-Mart representative who led him to believe the store would be a 39,000-square-foot "neighborhood market." But he did not know the site plan had been approved. He said other council members were briefed that same week.

But was no one at City Hall aware of the project earlier? Most troubling are rumblings that city management may have intentionally slowed the city process of forwarding a proposed big-box ordinance to City Council – and perhaps also the adoption and effective-date of the Commercial Design Standards – to allow this specific project to slide through. At key stages in the process, big box was stalled out three different times (for four months, two months, and two months) according to a chronology assembled by Liveable City, with help from Northcross neighbors and other citizens. Meanwhile, the Wal-Mart deal was done. Advocates of the big box ordinance, including Kirfman and Liveable City members, believe that big box – whose provisions would have required a public hearing, expanded neighborhood notification, and a council vote on a conditional use permit for the Wal-Mart – could have been enacted in time to change the project.

JOHN ANDERSON

Jennifer Kim has requested an official audit by city auditor Stephen Morgan of all procedures and processes related to the project.

City Manager Toby Futrell

JOHN ANDERSON

Most troubling are rumblings that city management may have intentionally slowed the city process on the big-box ordinance – and perhaps also the commercial design standards – to allow this specific project to slide through.

The site plan itself strongly suggests that the developer had Wal-Mart in mind early on (despite overt denials to neighbors by the developer and owner over the summer). As McCracken points out, the enormous building footprint, heavy traffic projections, and use of the term "supercenter" point damningly to the big W. "When you see very large square footage for a single user, it's probably one of just a few," conceded City Manager Toby Futrell. "But we never ask about users. That's not what we do."

Futrell's husband is employed as a salaried HVAC service manager with Wal-Mart, according to a Conflicts Disclosure Statement she filed on Jan. 23 – coincidentally, just three days before the Northcross site plan was filed. When asked about the conflict, several council members said they'd had no idea that Futrell's husband brings home a Wal-Mart paycheck. But Futrell said that her husband of 33 years, Don Futrell, has worked for Wal-Mart for four or five years and that she files the conflict-of-interest disclosure annually. She described her husband as "a working-class guy on rooftops" with "no involvement in politics or policy," and said that since he's worked for the mega retailer, "I've never been in the direct chain of any development decisions related to Wal-Mart. Including this site plan."

Futrell and Assistant City Manager Laura Huffman, who sit at the top of the city's neighborhood planning and zoning food chain, asserted in a phone interview Tuesday that they were clueless about the Northcross site plan and Wal-Mart's anchor role before the news broke publicly. "I read it in the newspaper," said Futrell. (A glowing story announcing the upscale Wal-Mart Supercenter ran in the *Austin American-Statesman* on Nov. 8.) Huffman said she learned the news only the day before. Asked if she had ever discussed the project with powerful real estate attorney Richard Suttle, the agent for Wal-Mart, Futrell said, "I cannot remember the last time Richard Suttle was in my office. I did not have formal, informal, online, or offline conversations about it." Huffman also said she had never discussed the project with Suttle.

Asked if she had any prior knowledge about the project, of any kind, Futrell said she did not. She stated, "I had no conversations whatsoever with the developer or their agent. ... To the best of my knowledge, this project was not brought to City Hall."

But the anti-Wal-Mart contingent is skeptical. "It's unfathomable to think that top city management would have been unaware that this was happening, given that it's the largest single retail structure ever proposed for Travis County," said Kirfman, who worked for the city for nearly 15 years.

"I don't know which would be more alarming, that they knew about it or that they didn't know about it," said McCracken. "Even with the most charitable explanation, we have a huge problem." He added, "The access to public information that directly impacts people's lives should not be virtually impossible to find." McCracken is particularly frustrated by the city's approval of the site plan because it thumbs its nose at the commercial design standards he spearheaded. "The task force spent a lot of time focusing on this specific site," he said. "We had in place a very public process to do something different – mixed-use, appropriate scale, neighborhood-serving retail, with residences above." McCracken said he learned that the Northcross site plan had already received city approvals only on Nov. 10: "That was a huge and highly unpleasant surprise to me. I live in the area. So this is personal for me too. I spent three years on this because I really wanted to make a positive difference."

Under state law, according to Futrell, a project done under the site plan application filed Jan. 26 had to conform only to laws in place at the time; this exempted it from conforming to either the commercial design standards (enacted Aug. 31) or the big-box ordinance (yet to be enacted). At that point, the big-box ordinance was only at the subcommittee level of the Planning Commission. (While it should have been moving through interdepartmental reviews in December, that process rather mys-

teriously did not begin until April 4.) Futrell has said the point is moot; because the site plan was already grandfathered in, it didn't matter when big box or design standards were enacted later.

But concerned Northcross neighbors and citizens point to the fact that on July 24, the site plan expired. It then required an extension from the city to remain valid; a 60-day extension was granted. They assert that if neighbors had been properly notified of the project, as required by code (they believe they were not), they could have rallied against Wal-Mart and the overall mall design much earlier and intervened, with the proper standing as interested parties. If big box had made it to council and kicked in before July 24, then it could have applied when the developer refiled the site plan. Says Kirfman, "That was fully feasible, if city management had fast-tracked the ordinance."

Council Member Jennifer Kim has requested an official audit by city auditor Stephen Morgan of all procedures and processes related to the project. According to the online city politics newsletter *In Fact Daily*, the deep-fishing request includes a thorough examination of the site-plan approval process, responses to citizen open-records requests, the chronology of events, and any correspondence with delays in the big-box ordinance. Futrell said she also is conducting an in-depth review of the traffic-impact analysis previously done, as well as analyses of actual traffic at similar projects; McCracken indicated this may prove fertile soil. Whether the audit turns up solid grounds for setting aside the Northcross site plan should be clear by the time of the council meeting on Dec. 14 – at which the big-box ordinance is also scheduled for a vote. Kim, Council Member Lee Leffingwell, and others have emphasized that the city would need very tight legal grounds to set aside the site plan.

Kirfman agreed: "You're talking about the biggest retailer on the planet, and a real powerful hired gun locally. If you haven't got solid grounds, they'll sue you." He added, "The investigation by the auditor's office could prove whether there were flaws in the site plan process, or intentional delays, or we may never know." After learning that Futrell had cited a conflict-of-interest with Wal-Mart, a RG4N representative questioned whether an independent, rather than internal, audit should be required. "I have no reason to believe it did not meet every requirement we review for," said Futrell of the site plan. "I don't see anything on the technical end that's going to change this story."

Futrell has been notably cool to the big-box ordinance, particularly its economic impact analysis provision. But this week, asked if the Northcross Wal-Mart outcry strengthens the case for enacting the big-box ordinance, she answered, "Obviously."

For futher information: **www.responsiblegrowthfornorthcross.org**, **www.austinfullcircle.org**. "Design Standards and Mixed Use" for commercial projects are available at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/commercial_design.htm**. ■

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Ho-Ho-Homegrown Holidays

Austin's independent 'iconic' businesses hope we'll all put them on our list

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

"Think independently. Shop locally owned."

That's the motto of the Austin Independent Business Alliance, an especially timely message this holiday season. The local indie-biz group works to raise awareness of the value – economic, cultural, and keepin'-it-weird – of patronizing stores, restaurants, and companies that are locally owned and independent. After building steam since 2002, the grassroots AIBA now finds itself aligned with a broader zeitgeist around town. With heated public debate this month over a proposed big-box ordinance and a Wal-Mart on steroids for Northcross Mall and with the community searching for solutions to protect beloved "iconic" businesses like Las Manitas (whose existing lease runs out Dec. 31), AIBA's advocacy and message fit right in.

The 350-member group – an affiliate of the American Independent Business Alliance – advocates not only for the interests of its member businesses but also for their value to the community at large. Supporting Austin's unique homegrowns preserves the city's special character, says AIBA; by contrast, patronizing only national chains and big-box megaretailers contributes to a slide toward Anywhere, USA.

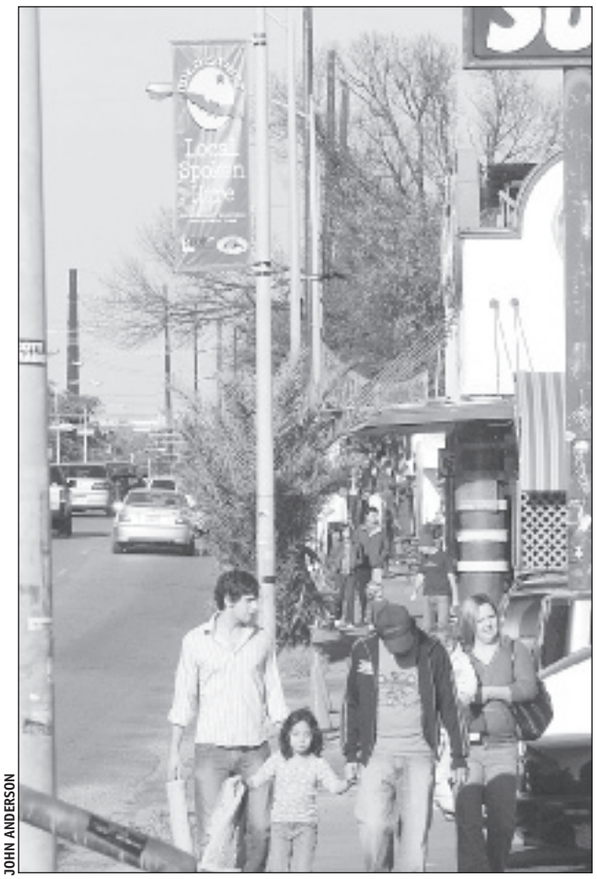
"If each household in Travis County simply redirected just $100 of planned holiday spending from chain stores to locally owned merchants, the local economic impact would reach approximately $10 million." – ibuyaustin.com

Especially as we shop-till-we-drop and eat-drink-be-merry this December, Austin's indie-biz alliance encourages us to spend our dollars locally. "If each household in Travis County simply redirected just $100 of planned holiday spending from chain stores to locally owned merchants, the local economic impact would reach approximately $10 million," notes the nonprofit's Web site (**www.ibuyaustin.com**). Economic activism or "voting with your dollars" is indeed particularly powerful this time of year; national statistics show that for retailers, the holiday season brings in up to 40% of annual sales and 75% of yearly profits. AIBA sings the praises of keeping those sales and profits in our local economy, a message that appeals just as much to Austin's business set as to hippie-dippie progressives.

An economic impact analysis co-sponsored by AIBA and Liveable City (an activist group specializing in quality-of-life issues) in 2002 showed that "for every $100 in customer spending at Borders, the total local economic impact is only $13. The same amount spent with a local merchant yields $45, more than three times the local economic impact." That's because the revenues of Austin-owned business owners are disproportionately spent, in turn, on local salaries, suppliers, and purchases. AIBA hopes that if they keep Austin both economically robust and hip-n-cool, we'll make the effort to do at least some of our holiday shopping at BookPeople (not Amazon), Toy Joy (not Toys "R" Us), and stash visiting relatives at the Austin Motel, not the Marriott.

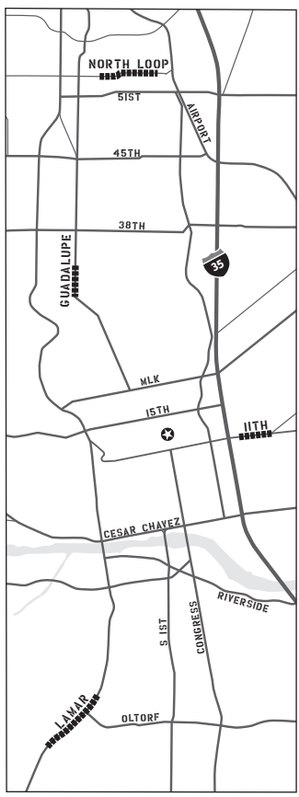
AIBA's "Shop Locally Owned" position would appear to have widespread support; in a 2004 opinion poll (also conducted by Liveable City), for example, 71% of Austinites said the City Council should do more to promote the interests of local businesses over those of national big-box chains. A new big-box ordinance – requiring a public hearing and advance notification before a megaretailer can invade a neighborhood – is scheduled for a final public hearing and vote at City Council on Dec. 14. As if on cue, a 24-hour Wal-Mart has been announced as the anchor store for a redeveloped Northcross Mall, stirring up the wrath of neighborhood groups (who claim they were not properly notified or consulted) and even Council Member Brewster McCracken (see p.19). Opponents, organized as Responsible Growth for Northcross, list among their objections Wal-Mart's well-documented track record of driving locally owned stores out of business. The surrounding Anderson Lane and Burnet Road area is home to many small, locally owned businesses, which sensibly fear for their survival if the announced 24-hour gargantuan Wal-Mart (which at 219,629 square feet would be much larger than Cabela's and second in size only to IKEA regionally) invades the neighborhood.

A primary reason that Austin's independents have banded together as AIBA is to hold competitive ground against such megaretailers and chains, which are backed by powerful national marketing operations and corporate deep pockets – not to mention city tax breaks and financial incentives luring them to town. One need, for example, is to have equal opportunities to open shop (or add a new location) in Austin's major new retail and mixed-use developments. Toward this end, AIBA has initiated an annual May trade show dubbed CLIC (Connecting and Linking Independents With Commercial Developments) to provide matchmaking for local entrepreneurs with developers, commercial brokers, and lenders. Not only does CLIC help the independents, it also helps strip centers and malls in the sprawling burbs get an infusion of Austin character. For example, a CLIC sponsor, locally owned Endeavor Real Estate Group, points to success in getting Waterloo Ice House, Austin Java, and Amy's Ice Creams into Southpark Meadows, a new complex rising at I-35 and Slaughter.



JOHN ANDERSON

IBIZ Districts



Last weekend, shoppers perused the Wheatsville Co-op Arts Fair under banners demarcating the Guadalupe IBIZ district, one of four such districts (see map above and sidebar, next page) created by the Austin Independent Business Alliance.

AIBA's CLIC program is synergistic with city of Austin efforts to include local businesses in new urban developments in which it has a stake. For the city-subsidized Second Street retail district, the city's agreement with AMLI Austin Retail set a goal that at least 30% of tenants would be locals; according to the city, more than 80% of the signed leases in the two blocks that have been built out are with local businesses. At the city-subsidized Domain in North Austin, the city required Simon Property Group to allocate a $1 million fund to assist small local businesses in locating at the mixed-use development; that assistance can include rent subsidies, loans, marketing, and interior finish-out. At Mueller, the city has required Catellus to include at least 30% locally owned businesses in Mueller Town Center – specifying a preference for those that "reflect the nature and character of Austin through décor, merchandise and cuisine." Even City Hall is getting into the spirit, opening an on-site Austin City Store this month to sell the goods of local artists and artisans. (If that's you, call 974-7852.)

AIBA also has begun working cooperatively with the city's Small Business Development Program (**www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp**), an initiative of the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office. SBDP regularly talks to AIBA members about the office's free support services, such as assistance with business plans, finding capital, commercial loan submissions, and government procurement. Early next year, SBDP will expand its Development Information Resources Services to help small locals (who generally can't afford high-dollar real estate

Choose Austin First

Oddly enough, Austin has *two* different indie-biz groups – both started in 2002, with the same basic goals and mission. The smaller group, with just more than 100 members, is Choose Austin First. Also an alliance of locally owned, Austin-based businesses, it differs from AIBA chiefly in that it eschews a public activist or advocacy role. Its leadership also shuns city or other governmental programs in trying to help local businesses. Instead, Choose Austin First promotes low-key member-to-member networking, mutual support and patronage. According to member Megan Poore, the group's central mission is to "let consumers know which companies are local."

Like AIBA, CAF encourages us to do business with Austin-owned stores, restaurants, and other companies as a way of preserving unique local character. Although CAF has no paid staff, and thus more minimal programs than AIBA, its consciousness-raising efforts include similar media outreach, lease-space initiatives, public events, networking events for members, and cooperative programs for marketing and advertising. Both groups even have cute animal logos. (While AIBA is personified by a hip armadillo in shades, CAF has a doggie with the slogan "Do Your Business Here." Hmm ... explain to us again the marketing zing of being associated in people's minds with dog you-know-what?)

attorneys) through the confusing maze of city processes related to permitting, zoning, parking, and other commercial property issues.

"AIBA is high-energy; they plan well, they execute well, and they collaborate well," said SBDP's Rosy Jalifi. "Our missions dovetail and support one another."

A first co-initiative is city funding (through SBDP) for new streetscape banners identifying Independent Business Investment Zone districts. The AIBA program designates neighborhood business districts with a cluster of locally owned businesses offering unique goods and services; the city-sponsored banners feature the AIBA logo and announce "Local Spoken Here." Already fluttering in the Guadalupe IBIZ (between 29th and 32nd), the banners will go up by March in the three other IBIZ districts organized to date: North Loop Strip, East End, and South Lamar. Each IBIZ district also will have a brochure listing its indie-biz participants. More districts are planned.

"The city has been very supportive of the program," said AIBA's Melissa Miller. "And they appreciate having AIBA as a liaison to independent local businesses, to facilitate communication and understanding of their needs."

Beyond marketing support, how else might the city give local businesses within IBIZ districts a helping hand? That's where an interesting dialogue has emerged out of the Iconic Preservation notion forwarded by Planning Commission Chair Dave Sullivan. (See "Developing Stories: Austin Iconography," Nov. 3). Sparked by the epic struggle between Downtown's Las Manitas Avenue Cafe and Escuelita del Alma childcare center, which are losing their leases, and the multihotel Marriott complex muscling them out of the way, Sullivan's informal proposal suggested a city ordinance to offer special assistance and protection to a handful of superspecial "iconic businesses." But as Sullivan tested the idea with various groups around town this fall, it evolved into the concept of a broader city program – one that would provide supportive assistance not just to the iconic few but to a breadth of independent, locally owned businesses.

Sullivan is meeting this week with interested parties, including AIBA, to discuss how the Iconic Preservation concept might merge with the IBIZ District program. By benefit of his long tenure on the Planning Commission, Sullivan was able to assemble a pragmatic list of creative ways in which the city could help its iconic independents. (This could serve to level the playing field with chain locations that already receive other forms of city incentives.) Still in the early-draft stage, Sullivan's list includes programs similar to those already offered by SBDP, such as assistance with financing, information technology, and advertising. Other ideas potentially offer a natural fit with streetscape and building needs within IBIZ districts. These could include:

- Streetscape upgrades, à la the city's Great Streets program
- Assistance with sidewalk repair, flood prevention, graffiti removal
- Higher priority for repairs to city infrastructure (e.g., potholes)
- Parking requirements assistance
- Permitting, zoning, and other development assistance
- Post-disaster reconstruction assistance
- Possible tax breaks (such as those for historic preservation)
- Matchmaking with developers who need to earn a density bonus

The Zones & Ordinances subcommittee of the Planning Commission is expected to take up the matter in January.

One community group bullish on Iconic Preservation, and now discussing that idea in the context of IBIZ districts, is the Heritage Society of Austin. "We're excited about participating in this deal – we're interested in any way to preserve what is cool about Austin," said HSA President-elect John Donisi. With its broadening mission "to promote the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage," the Heritage Society sees opportunities to encourage adaptive reuse (rather than teardown) of older commercial buildings in IBIZ districts that have lineage and character. Notes Donisi, "Adaptive reuse tends to be done by locals, not chains."

"It's great that the desire to help independents is there," notes AIBA's Miller. Where it's all going, no one yet knows. For now, as shoppers head out gift-shopping and dining this December, AIBA just hopes they'll be intentional in choosing the most satisfying shopping experience – and the future for Austin they want to support. ■

A directory of AIBA members – searchable by type of business or business name – is available online at **www.ibuyaustin.com/aiba-member-directory.php**. *A print version of the directory can be picked up at member businesses, such as Waterloo Records and BookPeople.*

Another difference is that the nonprofit AIBA utilizes membership dues ($175/year) to pay staff and execute. Choose Austin First membership dues ($120/year) are primarily used as a fund for community charitable giving.

The obvious question: Why haven't the two groups joined forces? After all, the chief benefit of having a "little-guy" business association is to better compete against big-behemoth national companies. United we stand, and all that. Wouldn't Austin indies be even more powerful as a single coalition?

Apparently, political differences have been the stumbling block. While neither group is overtly political, AIBA hews to a more true-blue liberal world-view, whereas Choose Austin First started from a more conservative, even Libertarian sensibility. In its early days, AIBA had a more radical, protest-oriented tone; that apparently didn't sit well with the CAF founders, who included the owners of Amy's Ice Creams, Mangia Pizza, and Pok-e-Jo's. "We have tried to come together, but they want to do their own thing," said Miller. Although they share some members, the two alliances have not worked collaboratively, and they admit to a certain initial competitiveness.

"I think at some point maybe we will merge the groups," says Steve Simmons, a CAF founder and the crema grande of Amy's Ice Creams. "I'd like nothing more than for them to handle all of our members' networking," said AIBA's Melissa Miller. But neither has gotten down on bended knee to make a proposal. – K.G.

Holiday Shopping: The Anti-Mall

For those who loathe the mall experience, IBIZ districts offer a way to find that perfect gift at clustered – but far more eclectic – stores with neighborhood character. Or eat a soulful meal. – K.G.

GUADALUPE IBIZ DISTRICT

Along and off Guadalupe, between 29th and 32nd

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Wheatsville Food Co-op, 3101 Guadalupe, 478-2667

Antone's Record Store, 2928 Guadalupe, 322-0660

Celebration! Eclectic Gifts, 3110 Guadalupe #100, 453-6207

Oat Willie's, 617 W. 29th, 482-0630

Breed & Co., 718 W. 29th, 474-6679

Next Event: "Third Thursday" evening, Dec. 21.

NORTH LOOP STRIP IBIZ DISTRICT

North Loop, between Chesterfield and Martin

Sample stores:

Austin Modern, 306 E. 53rd, 419-0488

Forbidden Fruit, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090

MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925

Room Service Vintage, 107 E. North Loop, 451-1057

The Shanghai Collection, 401 E. 53rd, 517-0576

Next Event: Holiday Shopping Block Party, Sunday, Dec. 10, noon-8pm.

SOUTH LAMAR IBIZ DISTRICT

South Lamar, between Hether and Bluebonnet

Sample Stores:

SoLa, 2005 S. Lamar, 441-7370

Amelia's Retro-Vogue & Relics, 2024 S. Lamar, 442-4446

Bead It, 2058 S. Lamar, 693-2323

Roost Home Decor, 2110 S. Lamar, 916-4445

Irie Bean Coffee Bar, 2310 S. Lamar #102, 326-4636

Next Events: Holiday Party, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7-10pm, 2110 S. Lamar shopping strip

Holiday Shopping Happy Hour, Thursday, Dec. 14, 7-10pm, 2310 S. Lamar, Irie Bean patio.

EAST END IBIZ DISTRICT

East 11th, between Branch and Navasota

Sample restaurants:

Ben's Long Branch Bar-B-Q, 900 E. 11th, 477-2516

Ms. B's Authentic Creole Restaurant, 1050 E. 11th #100, 542-9143

Gene's New Orleans Style PoBoys & Deli, 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600

Dandelion Cafe, 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542

Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 472-8669

Next Event: "Fourth Friday" evening, Dec. 29.

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Turnaround Tale

Annie's List jumps out of the red and into the blue

BY AMY SMITH

It was after 11pm on election night, and some of the guests at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel were calling the front desk to complain about the ruckus coming from one of the rooms. A hotel employee was dispatched to the 12th floor to try to quell the noise. Stationed in the hallway outside the suite, the young man in the crisp uniform frowned each time the elevator doors popped open to deliver another set of revelers to Room 1210.

The arrival of a TV news camera crew was the last straw. Another hotel staffer, this one with more authority, asked the entire group to move the party to the downstairs ballroom, where Democrats were celebrating a wild night of state and national election victories.

The gathering upstairs was supposed to have been a small, private affair, where Valinda Bolton would hole up with campaign staff, friends, family, and political number crunchers to wait out the election returns. It was a long evening. As precinct reports trickled in for House District 47, Bolton and the Democratic Party looked to be on the verge of capturing the last Republican-held House district in Travis Co. That's when more people started showing up on the 12th floor, and the crowing grew louder. Oddly enough, most of the celebrants were stone-cold sober.

In the hallway and on the elevator ride downstairs to deliver her victory speech, Bolton, mindful of the scolding from the hotel hall monitor, spoke in an ecstatic whisper. "This campaign has just been an amazing experience," she said. "Other than marriage and motherhood, this has been the best thing I've ever done." Bolton attributed a large share of her win to Annie's List, a 3-year-old campaign PAC that supports Democratic women candidates in Legislative races. In the primary, Bolton ran against three opponents, including Jason Earle, who, as the son of popular District Attorney Ronnie Earle, had assembled an impressive war chest with the help of wealthy establishment Democrats. While it was clear to many that Bolton was the stronger of the two candidates, a lot of folks were squeamish about publicly backing Bolton, out of concern that their support would appear as a sign of disloyalty to the elder Earle, one of the most powerful members of Travis County's old guard.

Clearly, Jason Earle was getting in the way of Bolton's ability to raise some respectable money. When you can't raise the big money, people start to question your worth. That's when Annie's List, whose donors include some of the state's wealthiest and most well-connected women, stuck its neck out and endorsed Bolton. With that single gesture and a check, Bolton's fundraising efforts were no longer in doubt. Other donors started putting money into the collection plate, but Annie's List turned out to be Bolton's largest donor, investing a total of $80,000.

Bolton was one of three winners out of a slate of five women House candidates on whom Annie's List had focused most of its resources. Besides Bolton, the two other incoming freshmen to the 2007 Legislature – Paula Hightower Pierson of Dallas and Ellen Cohen of Houston – managed to trump heavily financed incumbent Republican Reps. Toby Goodman and Martha Wong, respectively.

Considering the red landscape of the state, the addition of three Democratic women to the House next year is a pretty remarkable achievement. Until the election, there were only 14 female D's in the 150-member House. And that includes two recent arrivals – Austin Rep. Donna Howard, who won a special election in February to replace Republican Todd Baxter, and Houston Rep. Ana Hernandez, elected in late December to succeed Joe Moreno, who died in a vehicle accident during the 2005 session. Annie's List supported both women.

The role of Annie's List in the election is only part of a larger story about a fledgling pro-women's PAC that started 2006 on the brink of ruin, underwent a swift and dramatic turnaround, and is now ending the year on a bittersweet note and a question mark. The group's surprising recovery and success at the polls was followed by the post-election resignation of executive director Kelly White. A confluence of personal events over the summer, including the death of her father, led to her decision to leave Annie's List after the election, she said.

"I didn't thoughtfully go out and seek this job," White said of her tenure with Annie's List. "I went into it because I cared a lot about it, and I had good friends who were in fact running for office. I really felt strongly that I could fix it, and I did." Leaving the group, she added, "was a really tough decision, but I just got some real clarity over the summer about this cycle in my career and my life. Annie's List is in a wonderful place right now. I would never have left if it had not been in good shape."

White, a gifted networker and fundraiser with a track record of building Austin SafePlace into a national model of advocacy against domestic violence, took the reins of Annie's List early this year, at a time when the group was in turmoil. The group's executive director, Sherry Boyles, had just left the organization amid questions concerning the PAC's expenditures in 2005, an off-election year. Financial records from that year show the PAC spent more than 80% of the $325,000 raised in contributions. Boyles' salary and management fees came to $81,400, and travel, restaurant, and catering costs added up to more than $50,000, according to records filed with the Texas Ethics Commission. (Boyles, a Dallas resident and the 2002 Democratic nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission, did not respond to e-mail requests seeking an interview for this story. Directory assistance in Dallas County shows no listing for Boyles.)

Donors were understandably angry that they had no idea how their money was being spent.

JOHN ANDERSON

Kelly White (center) rebuilt Annie's List to become a major player in the 2006 legislative races. White has since resigned as executive director but continues to stay involved in the organization's growth. She's flanked here by deputy director Mel Abel and political director Robert Jones. The three hold displays of their winning candidates.

With Boyles' departure, Austin attorney and major Annie's List donor Alice London stepped in to provide legal services (as an in-kind contribution), and the old board essentially agreed to fire itself and appoint a new board of three, which eventually expanded for wider representation. "The [former] board of directors had questioned Sherry's expenditures and requested her to reimburse the organization because they felt like she spent some money inappropriately," London said. "And the board, in order to regain the donors' confidence, felt like they needed to take some responsibility." The new board includes two local women, London and Rosie Mendoza, a CPA who took over the PAC's treasury and financial filings with the Texas Ethics Commission.

"We were under this cloud," London recalled of those first early weeks of uncertainty. "We didn't have any time to waste because we had these [special] elections coming up in February with Donna Howard and Katy Hubener, and then Valinda's primary in March."

White brought in two of her most trusted political allies – Robert Jones as political director and Mel Abel as deputy director. Both had worked with White on her unsuccessful bid for a House seat in 2004 (narrowly missing the same District 48 that Howard later captured). Jones also had worked at EMILY's List, the Washington-based national women's PAC upon which Annie's List is somewhat modeled. Jones had directed a training program there for a new generation of political operatives; he runs a similar program for Annie's List and sent this year's crop to work on each of the five campaigns the PAC targeted. (While EMILY stands for Early Money Is Like Yeast – it helps the dough rise – Annie's List honors Annie Blanton, who in 1918 became Texas' first woman elected to a statewide office, that of superintendent for public instruction.)

"Kelly came in at a critical time," London continued. "She made it very clear that there would be no room for compromise, that she was going to hold this group to a high ethical standard, or she wasn't going to get involved and wasn't going to put her credibility on the line." Once on the job, White immediately took control of the group's assets and infrastructure and put Abel in charge of getting the books and the database in order. New bylaws and operating procedures were put into place.

"We believed that if we didn't do something very quickly, we would lose the opportunity to make the group viable, and we'd be losing the chance to change history," London said. "I think that's what made the difference, that there was this compelling sense of urgency and the belief that this election year would be different."

There were also moments of doubt. "All of our candidates got outspent three to one, or four to one, and there was the question of whether our discipline and the concept of having a centralized organization to create efficiency could beat the high dollars on the other side," London said. "We all had these questions of whether it was going to work, and the sense that it *had* to work."

Jones likes to point out that Bolton refers to herself as the poster child of Annie's List. While Bolton had a strong campaign staff with consultant Glen Maxey and campaign manager Elizabeth Hartman, among others, Earle's high-profile name presented a serious threat – not just to Bolton but to the Democratic Party. It was widely believed that if Earle won the primary, he would not likely survive the general election against GOP hopeful Bill Welch. "Valinda is our big success story because this was a solid Republican seat that folks weren't really looking at until [former Rep.] Terry Keel announced he was resigning," Jones said. "We knew that she was the right candidate for that district, and we knew she'd be the one to get Republican women to cross over."

Before getting to that point, however, the old and new board members made some painful financial discoveries and subsequently reported them to the Texas Ethics Commission. According to the corrected filings, Boyles had made $22,600 in "personal and unauthorized expenses" that included clothing purchases of more than $1,220, monthly payments for TiVo, and movie tickets. Both Boyles and Annie's List paid fines, and financial records show that Boyles has since reimbursed the group the full $22,600.

It's possible the former board could have avoided the situation had it heeded early warning signs. Several original members of Annie's List resigned from its steering committee (since disbanded altogether) in 2004, and former state Rep. Ann Kitchen, who co-founded the group with Boyles in 2003, laid out her concerns in a letter to the board. She cited the insular nature of the board and the lack of an audit mechanism in the group's bylaws. "An annual audit of the books and records of the organization by an independent third party is a fundamental and prudent business practice for nonprofit corporations," she wrote, "particularly one handling over a quarter of a million dollars in contributions."

Today, Kitchen has only kind words to say about the group and White's ability to turn things around in time for the election. "My hope is that it will continue to evolve and will fulfill its potential to be a real catalyst at a grassroots level to motivate and organize women to sup-

port women candidates with their money," she said. "There's a huge potential for that."

With White's departure, the board is looking for a new executive director to continue building the group. The company line at Annie's List is that White had only intended to stay a year to get the group back on its feet and drum up the cash needed to reinvent it as not only a financier of women candidates but as a resource to help first-time candidates run effective campaigns. Still, some of White's friends outside the organization speculate that perhaps some sort of conflict with the board, or part of the board, may have prompted her decision to leave. White says she appreciates the loyalty of her friends but insists that her decision "is my issue, not the board's issue."

White's legacy continues with Jones and Abel already planning for the 2008 legislative races; they've kicked off the next round of training and recruitment workshops in cities around the state. Still, Annie's List supporters wonder how the group will survive without White at the helm. London believes that it will continue to thrive because women are energized by their newfound standing in both Texas and Washington.

"I'm going to hold on to the 2006 hypothesis – that when you raise money in smaller donations from lots of women statewide, it communicates broad-based support, not some agenda or special interest," London said. "That's the hypothesis I'll hold on to for 2008. Then we'll ask the question, did we really learn a lesson in 2006, or was this just a one-time deal?" ■

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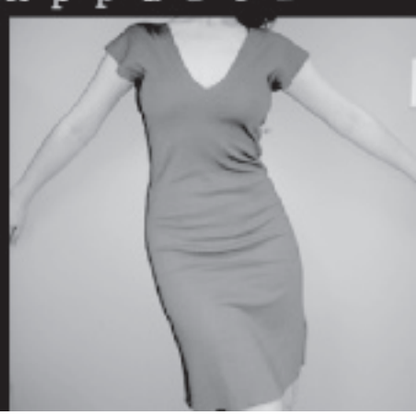

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Babble

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Once upon a time, in a town far, far away, I went to the movies for a living. The town was perched inconveniently and conspicuously upon a fault line, wedged between the desert and the sea, where it was and is a good town for overheated imaginations and a better town for shysters buying the souls of the overheated. My soul was on the market, too, but, as I've sometimes been told, it's an "old soul," long out of fashion, as difficult to sell as it is to live with. If your soul won't sell in Fault-Line City it won't sell anywhere, and you'd best find other wares to peddle. (Sometimes we're kept honest simply by the gift of being unfit for mass consumption.) Anyway, not to stray too far from where this paragraph began, I was a film critic.

Hardier souls can make film criticism a life's work, but my old soul tired after a few thousand movies, and I reached a point where, for some years now, it's become rare for me to see more than three movies per annum. Maybe five. Mostly pictures in which the world almost ends. But I don't go for the movie, I go for the movie theatre. To sit with strangers in the dark again. Eat popcorn. Watch imaginations overheat and (usually) stall. But lately the novel I'm writing has been moving glacially at about a paragraph a night, and I've clocked many miles pacing my apartment; in my resultant desperation I've been going to any movie that isn't animated and isn't a comedy (the strain of guffawing is bad for my heart). I mean to see one movie a day, more or less, until the year runs out or until I run out of the theatre (not screaming, I don't scream, but perhaps yelling). But, misled by its print ads, the first movie I saw turned out to be a comedy after all, and it endangered my heart considerably. By the time those angelic little white kids got lost in the desert, I'd long passed the point where I could stop laughing.

To restore my health and get back to work, I must tell you about this comedy. Writers do that; they inflict their afflictions upon the unsuspecting and expect payment in return. That's why we make poor spouses.

This comedy intercuts four storylines. I'll take them one at a time. We open in a generic Islamic middle-of-nowhere desert – it's Morocco, but it could be anywhere Islamic and deserty. There's this straight-out-of-central-casting Third World peasant family. Everyone eats with their fingers, and nobody's very bright. Pop is so dumb that when he trades a goat for a rifle, he gives the gun to his early teen sons, Ahmed and Yussef, about whose characters Pop seems clueless. Yussef, a pervert, watches his sister bathe naked, and she (another pervert) likes it. We're invited to be pervs, too and view Yussef's masturbation. (Who decided we had to know that about the brat?) This Yussef, he picks up a Winchester bolt-action hunting rifle and hits what he aims at on his first shot. Pop tells his boys, in rough translation, "Take that rifle, herd them goats, and shoot jackals." Why do we believe a father would behave thus? Well, not all of us do. But the believers believe because this is the Third World, where thousands of years of hard living haven't taught folks a damn thing. As for Yussef, well, you really never know about Third World Islamic males. Born terrorists, right? Instead of jackals, Yussef shoots at a bus. Perverse Yus never considers that there are people on just about any moving bus. Well, what Third World kid would? By the time Yus plugs his bus, I'm laughing. Haven't I happened upon a brilliant satire exploring and exploiting the prejudices of the affluent West? Well, haven't I?

The bus is packed with affluent Westerners like lily-white Susan from San Diego, whom we meet in a reeking-of-poverty village. Susan's first line is to a waiter: "What do you have here that doesn't have fat in it?" So white girls are stupid, too, but about different stuff. Then Susan asks her husband the one bright question in this picture: "Richard, why did we come here?" She's punished for that swiftly. She's the gal in the bus who gets shot by Yus. Since in this movie there is no such thing as an adult who keeps his or her head, there ensues much anguished confusion among many bedeviled people in several languages. (As in *Babel*, get it? Come on, really, do you get it? These picture-makers really want you to get it. It is the one thing about which they aren't bullshitting.) In fairness, one old woman makes one apt move: She gives hysterical, bleeding Susan a couple of tokes on a hashish pipe. Susan falls right to sleep, where she belongs.

After more fun than I've space to relate, a Moroccan cop drives to the village where Susan bleeds and Richard bleats. The cop tells Richard there will be no ambulance. Richard "Fuck you's" profusely while neither he nor the cop notice that now they don't need an ambulance 'cause the cop's car is equipped with, behold, a back seat. Why don't they transport Susan to the hospital in the vehicle that's *right there*?! It never occurs to them. These people just aren't as smart as us. *That's* what's wrong with the world! Folks not as smart as us gum shit up.

Here's something I learned back in Fault-Line City: When there's no one in the movie who's half as smart as the director thinks he is, nor half as smart as the audience thinks it is, something's fishy. The filmmakers are wallowing, and inviting the audience to wallow, in their innate superiority. In the darkened theatre, and to the consternation of total strangers, I can't stop laughing. Hey, I like feeling superior as well as the next writer. What better way than guffaws to demonstrate my superiority to nearby total strangers?

Back in San Diego, Richard and Susan's housekeeper Amelia is at her wit's end. Her son Lucio is getting married in Mexico, but Richard calls and tells her to skip her own son's wedding and mind his two angelic little ones. (That's a little much even for a rich white guy.) We will learn that Yussef-shot-the-bus is headlining every newscast (Terrorism in Morocco!), so you'd think the friends and families of the Richard-Susans would flock to their home unbidden to tend their kids. Isn't that what you'd do if your people were stranded and bleeding in Morocco? But in this picture

nobody's as smart or nice as you. So Amelia's stuck. She takes these angelic white children to Mexico for the wedding. Everybody parties. In the wee hours Amelia and her white angels get set to drive with drunken Santiago back to San Diego. Would you let your undocumented mother drive with a drunk at god-knows-what-in-the-morning to brave the Border Patrol with two suspiciously white angels asleep in the back seat? Of course not. But Lucio does. He doesn't love his mother as much as we love ours.

As for Santiago, according to this comedy, nobody is stupider than a drunken working-class Mexican. At the border he out-stupids everyone in the picture. In the car chase that ensues, the cops are not a quarter mile behind him; yet Santiago has time to stop the car, push Amelia and the kids out, and escape, while the cops hot on his tail don't notice. So Amelia and those two lily-white angels are lost on foot in the desert. I am not in the habit of laughing at lost children (anyway, not out loud), and some children need to get lost, the better to find the unexpected. But these baffled little whiners make you long for that monster Yussef, a kid with grit if ever there were one. Oh, don't worry. All the affluent make it through this picture intact; all the poor people get screwed. Every comedy needs a little realism.

I've no space to explain how the deaf-mute, horny teen girl in Tokyo fits into this story, but take my word for it: She fits. This kid's got grit. She flushes her panties down a toilet and flashes her pussy at giggly boys in public places. In one day, she makes passes at a silly boy, a dentist, another silly boy, and a cop. She's rejected every time. I'm a stickler for some conventions, but by the time she disrobes for the cop, you can't help but wish she'd get some action. No dice. Then Daddy comes home. (He started this whole mess; he gave the rifle to the guy who sold it for a goat to Yus' pop.) Daddy sees daughter naked on the balcony, 40 stories above Tokyo. He goes to her. She takes his hand. They embrace. That's the last laugh of this comedy: middle-aged daddy, naked hot daughter, embracing on a balcony far above the chaos of Tokyo. Oh, I don't know … if that's the emblem of the peace that passeth understanding, I'd sooner not understand … but that is, no kidding, how this comedy ends, and fade to black, and then the director dedicates the picture to his daughter … no, I ain't going there. Not there. Not ever.

Babel won awards at Cannes, and not for Best Comedy. It seems I'm fated to laugh alone. Oh well. Old souls get used to that. ■

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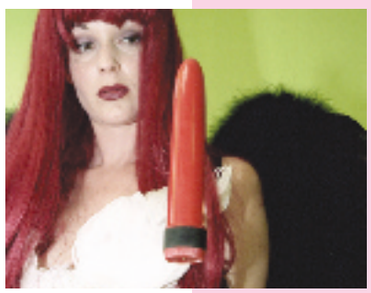

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Notes on Kitsch

... or W.W.S.S.T. (What Would Susan Sontag Think) about Austin's love of camp?

BY KATE X MESSER

Was It Grandpa or Snoopy?

"I never really thought about it," laughs Linda Lou Von Hochtritt, the designer and purveyor of Lucky Lou Shoes, a company run out of her South Austin home office, from where she ships vintage-inspired shoes all across the globe and sometimes onto the tootsies of the rich, hot, and famous.

"Why *am* I so 'into' the Forties? Well, my grandfather was a pilot for the Luftwaffe before surrendering to the Brits in World War II," she reveals. "But when I was little – late Sixties, early Seventies – I was really into Snoopy. I loved when he fought the Red Baron. Granted, that was supposed to be World War I."

Somehow for Von Hotchtritt, decades later, Snoopy's and Grandpa's adventures morph together to inform her aesthetic sensibilities.

"I came across my first pair of Bahuykabo or 'souvenir shoes' for $3 in 1994 on the streets of San Francisco where some homeless guy was selling found items," Von Hochtritt remembers. These original "souvenirs" were made in the 1940s by native carvers in the Pacific and made popular stateside by soldier boys eager to impress their intended. "I had no idea they were from World War II. I just loved them and wanted to know where to get more. So I began doing research."

Her search paid off when she found the carvers – the grandchildren of the original artists who popularized the style in the 1940s – practicing the art today and negotiated to work with them to develop a line of shoes, near-replicas of a raging style from another era.

Boutiques across the U.S. and Europe now carry her lines of tiki tropicalia. The sassy wooden souvenirs have found their way onto the arches of *Charmed*'s Rose McGowan; the Black Eyed Peas' lead lady, Fergie; and über rocker mama Gwen Stefani.

KATE X MESSER

Spaghetti swag lights at Room Service Vintage

Gift Guide

The shoes appeal to a certain sensibility: For some, they are trips back to the postwar boom, and for others, they fit right into recurring lounge and exotica revivals. It's easy to associate the look with Martin Denny, mai tais, and Yma Sumac. But fans of rockabilly and drag-race culture (think: Ed Roth and Rat Fink, not NASCAR) have tapped into the look as well.

How does that work? Why do certain kitschy artifacts hold such sway with certain groups? Why, for example, are some people "into" collecting ceramic chickens (totally ridiculous) or owls (okay, I can relate), for example?

Back in 1964, culture critic Susan Sontag wrote the landmark piece "Notes on 'Camp,'" exploring the nature of American culture to fetishize and endear material artifacts. As opposed to a dry academic treatise, Sontag's piece flits and floats around a variety of concepts, playfully putting into context our affection for crap: "Camp taste is, above all, a mode of enjoyment, of appreciation – not judgment. Camp is generous. It wants to enjoy. … People who share this sensibility are not laughing at the thing they label as 'a camp,' they're enjoying it. Camp is a tender feeling."

LuCretia Sisk, owner and manager of Room Service Vintage, which has been outfitting Austin with delightfully tacky trinkets and postwar pop cultural aesthetics from their North Loop location for 25 years, laughs. "Every week we hear some customer get real excited, 'Dude! Duuuuude! I used to *have* this!' And it will be some totally common, mass-produced thing, obviously with some nostalgic appeal as opposed to antique-y value."

"That's less true for the home-furnishing aesthetic," says fellow store dealer Lori Goodpasture. "Say you are drawn to a certain lamp. It's usually because you like a certain style, like midcentury modern, for its lines, not because you literally had it as a kid."

Sisk elaborates, "We are selling nostalgia more than kickass records, for example." She remembers when her boyfriend, record collector Eric Lord began as a dealer at the store and sniffed at a *Brady Bunch* LP. "I had to break it to him that that's not how things work around here. It's not like the regular serious record-collecting world. It's fun, it's funny. Someone would totally buy it, not for it's value but for what it means to them."

Sisk and Goodpasture deal in everything from gorgeous Heywood-Wakefield dining sets, festive spaghetti lamps, and black jaguar TV mascots to *90210* and NKOTB swag. "My goal," says Sisk, "is not to have a museum here. It's about turnover and nostalgia."

KATE X MESSER

"Souvenir" heels with two-tone straps; hand-carved heels (r) by Lucky Lou Shoes

"That's why she's the queen of vintage," Goodpasture laughs. "Who knows how people's tastes come about? I'm always asking myself what makes somebody listen to country music."

"What's also interesting," says Lucky Lou's Von Hochtritt, "is how taste and interpretations of it change.

"I was talking to Prince from Atomic City [which carries Lucky Lou shoes] about life in the Fifties. When he was growing up, wife beaters and leather jackets were *not* the fashion. Nobody had that stuff." We can thank the kitschy shorthand by TV shows like *Happy Days* for promoting such misleading memories.

"Take for example rockabilly: Have you noticed how it went from poodle skirts and saddle shoes to corsets and tattoos? Most women didn't have tattoos in the Fifties."

Certainly a love of kitsch – the byproduct of its attendant sensibility, camp – is the product of lots of leisure time. According to Sontag, there is a relation between boredom and camp taste, which is, "by its nature possible only in affluent societies capable of experiencing the psychopathology of affluence." (Some might argue that this type of pop-culture analysis falls under a similar purview.)

Is it possible to revel in the cultural detritus of pop sensibilities, to wallow in rubber duckies, to scour the globe for Gorillaz action figures, to get giddy over gnome knickknacks and still be aware of the sometimes complicated and messy triggers for such impulses?

Like our old pal Sontag says, "It's embarrassing to be solemn and treatiselike about Camp. One runs the risk of having, oneself, produced a very inferior piece of Camp."

With that, dear readers, we invite you to venture out yourselves and explore the treasure troves of American excess, of stuff, of junk, of kitsch, of crap, right here in Austin. Then write your own paper. ■

Shopping Austin's Vintage Vanguard

BY KATE X MESSER AND RICHARD WHITTAKER

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KATE X MESSER

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web extra *See our complete Kitsch/Vintage Guide online at* **austinchronicle.com/kitsch**.

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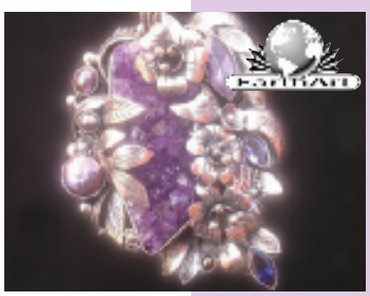

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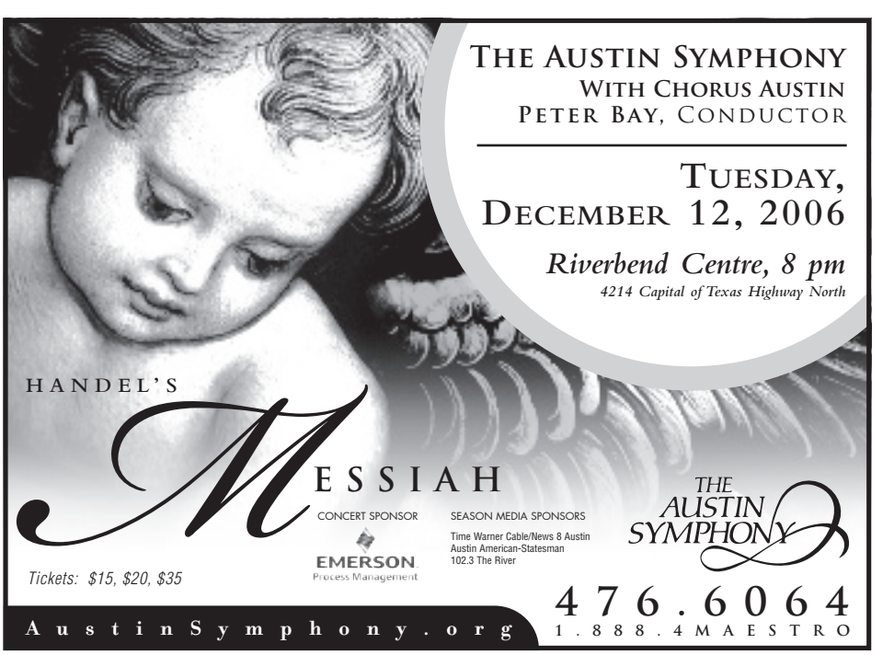

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XMAS UNWRAPPED:
Doff we now our gay apparel

Shrewd Productions took 2006 by storm. The company introduced itself to the Austin theatre scene in 2005 with *Xmas Unwrapped! A Holiday Burlesque*, which played to sold-out houses. Its spring production of Cyndi Williams' *Where Are They Now?* garnered six Austin Critics Table nominations and took home two awards, including Best Production of a Drama. It juried a nationwide search for short scripts and produced eight of them in *Cheater*. The company doubled in size, adding four new members to the four founders. Now, the Shrewds are bookending their powerhouse first year with a remix of *Xmas Unwrapped!* Their particular breed of burlesque combines sexy, smart, and a dash of sass, complete with naughty elves, bar girls serving hot cocoa, Shanon Weaver and Michael Whelan as emcees, and a veritable feast of pasties!

Andrea Skola is one of Shrewd Productions' four co-artistic directors. When she isn't producing/directing/designing for the Shrewds, she serves as technical director of Hyde Park Theatre, sings for the band Crystal Flavola, and holds down a day job at the *Chronicle*. Skola took time out of her insane schedule to discuss the Shrewds' first year and their latest installment of *Xmas Unwrapped!*

□

Austin Chronicle: *What inspired Shrewd Productions to do burlesque at Christmas time?*
Andrea Skola: During the holidays there are many events that cater to a younger crowd. *Xmas Unwrapped!* is definitely an evening that gives adults a chance to get out and have a good time! Not to mention that we didn't have any city funding for our first season, so the fundraiser had to be rather … lucrative.
AC: *Did the four of you have previous experience as burlesquers?*
AS: We all have experience with dance and movement, comedy and improv, but none of us had ever done a burlesque show. In that regard, this was a great opportunity to exercise new muscles. We did a good deal of research regarding burlesque, but in the end we gave it a bit of a "Shrewd treatment" based on our collective and individual interests.
AC: *Any memorable moments from last year's run of* Xmas Unwrapped!*?*
AS: Pasties! Pasties! And more pasties! … They can be quite a challenge. Last year they chose some inopportune times to pop off the dancers. But you have to hand it to the ladies for handling it so well. Now that I think of it, I wonder if the audience even knew that the pasty wasn't fantastically rigged to pop off at that very moment!

When asked how long they would stick with the burlesque format, Skola says, "As long as it's fun." Then she had to take off for a session of band practice between *Xmas Unwrapped!* rehearsals. It's hard to argue with hard work. So join the crowds at Hyde Park, because whether you're into whips or Donna Reed, this night of sassy seasonal burlesque is sure to leave you begging for more. – *Hannah Kenah*

Xmas Unwrapped! A Holiday Burlesque *runs through Dec. 16; Thursday-Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 8 & 10pm; at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. For more information, call 535-6643.*

'LA PASTORELA':
A funny thing happened on the way to 'La Pastorela'

Every *Pastorela*, the reenactment of the shepherds' journey to see the newborn Jesus and triumph over temptation by diablos, is unlike any other. After Franciscan missionaries brought the nativity story to Mexico, the converted indigenous people seasoned it with their culture. Half a millennium later, local artists pull together in the Austin Latino Theater Alliance to create something totally new.

Just as a family might reunite once a year for Christmas, the alliance companies come together every fall for the sole purpose of putting on *Pastorela*. "The religious aspects of it have taken a back seat to the cultural aspect," says J. Jimenez-Smith of SONAV Productions. He's the latest to serve as director for ALTA's *Pastorela*, a position that shifts among the alliance companies. "Because the artistic director changes every year, the vision and presentation changes," says Nushank Theater Collective's Marita de la Torre, who took the job of media relations this year. "They flesh out elements in the show so each one has a different story. One year, you may follow a group of shepherds. Last year, the women in the show had issues."

Jimenez-Smith says this year's edition will feature brighter colors and crazier costumes, lights, and set. He's also adding more comedy and a hush-hush angle with the angels. "I told my actors that reality left the door the day we started rehearsal." As this is the only theatre some people see all year, he says he does *La Pastorela* as "kind of a Chicano postcard to the rest of the community."

The alliance is always looking to involve more members of the community. This year features musical direction by Clemencia Zapata of Conjunto Aztlan and choreography by Marisa Limon of Aztlan Dance Company. One of the cast members, Donato Rodriguez, is from the Mexican American Cultural Center, where ALTA has high hopes of doing the show next year if some of the performance space is completed. For the alliance's pachanga fundraiser this fall, the members went beyond their own circle to include 13 other Latino groups, such as Ballet East, Proyecto Teatro, and Latino Comedy Project. Everyone is drooling for a chance to take part.

Any child who walks into the audition has a part in the show, says de la Torre, who was cast in the first production nearly 10 years ago. "I formed relationships with the younger kids. They would come up to me like, 'You have an agent?'" Jimenez-Smith sees it as an opportunity for younger actors. "We have people of all skill levels: professional actors and people who've never done theatre before." Happily for disciples of Latino theatre, *La Pastorela* hails from an intrepid alliance that celebrates passionately. – *Patti Hadad*

La Pastorela *runs through Dec. 17; Thursday-Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 3pm; at the Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo. For more information, call 474-TIXS.*

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS: Week 5

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 5: Hyde Park Theatre (Ken Webster, director)
Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 12-13, 8pm, at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. Reading by actors Monika Bustamante, Margaret Hoard, Christopher Loveless, Marisa Pisano, Jessie Tilton, Michelle Keffer, Kelli Bland, Marc Frost, Adam Sultan, Julie Wright, Jenna Cox, Andréa Smith, and Maggie Wilhite. Admission: pay-what-you-can. For more information, call 479-PLAY, or visit **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.

AUSTIN EURYTHMY ENSEMBLE:
Our bodies, our instruments

Mention the word "eurythmy," and, more often than not, you'll be met with an incredulous blank stare and the question, "What?" At least part of people's confusion concerning eurythmy can be attributed to its relative youth as an art form, as it was created less than 100 years ago by Rudolf Steiner, the Austrian philosopher probably best known for his development of Waldorf education. Eurythmists embody sound through movement, both sounds made by instruments and sounds made by spoken words. Thus, most eurythmy performances are accompanied with both musical instrumentation and spoken-word texts.

"You cannot look at us as dancers because that is not what we do," says Markus Weder, one of the three eurythmists that compose the Austin Eurythmy Ensemble, which will present *Touched Twice* at One World Theatre this Sunday in celebration of its 10th anniversary. "I love dance, and we have connections to the dancers here in town, we go to their performances, but they do something very different than us. In eurythmy, we express the sounds of a word, the consonants, the vowels, also the coloring, anything that can be expressed through speaking. The human body becomes a sculpture in motion expressing poetry. We call this speech eurythmy. We also perform what we call music eurythmy, in which we express the tones, the intervals, the harmonies. We go very much by a score, like a pianist does. A violinist plays the music on the violin; we play the music using our bodies as the instruments."

Touched Twice had an interesting genesis. "We had a European tour planned in 2004 with a piece called *Voices of the Hereafter*," says Weder. "Eurythmy is much more popular in Europe than in the States, so it's a lot of fun to go there and perform. A month before we were to leave, my wife and I were involved in a car accident, and we had to cancel the tour. As we went through the aftermath of the accident, we had this inspiration of being touched in different ways. And you know, it just comes naturally – if you're touched once, you must be touched twice."

Included in the program will be pieces by Turkish composer Fazil Say, Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály, and poet Mary Oliver. Accompaniment will be provided by violinist Rebecca Browne, pianist Brent Watkins, and spoken word artist Ellen Burke, with a special preshow performance by Austin singer-songwriter Rachel Loy. – *Barry Pineo*

Austin Eurythmy Ensemble will present Touched Twice *on Sunday, Dec. 10, 5pm, at One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd. For more information, call 32-WORLD, or visit* **www.austineurythmy.org**.

Kitsch Kringle

What we really want when we want Santa

BY NIKKI MOORE

"You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town."

What peaceful days of bliss this timeless song predicts for parents and children in the weeks before Christmas! The lyric writer assures us that, with Santa's visit looming, even the most temperamental of kids won't tempt the Man in the Red Suit by misbehaving. Yet, every year at Christmas, a new group of schoolchildren "grows up." Whether it's the neighbor kid, an older sibling, or an insensitive adult who lets the cat out of the bag makes no difference: When Santa is unmasked as Mommy, Daddy, or Uncle Jim, when the reindeer and the elves and the North Pole are no more, something dies. The era of belief is over, and being good is a choice, not an imperative, because the little stuffed Santas are no longer symbols of the real thing. Rather than the promise of toys, presents, and, ultimately, happiness, no matter how temporary, Santa comes to symbolize the holiday that once was, the wholeness that could have been – the "all is merry" that now will never be.

Of course, when most of us learned that Santa was a myth, we were too little to put together the consequences of our own fall from belief. And since Mom and Dad came through with the presents anyway, and even seemed content to continue to play pretend Santa, the sharp pang of dread that might have come at the sight of an empty fireplace stoop was at least temporarily assuaged. And maybe more than temporarily: As we fill our homes with Santa-inspired kitsch and holiday cheer, we draw back into our childhood and bask in the era of belief. We look for something more in the rosy cheeks and white beard. That "something more," according to Joshua Gunn, a rhetorical critic and assistant professor of communication studies at UT-Austin, is what psychoanalytic theorist Jacques Lacan called, parenthetically, "the little object of our desires," meaning that when we look at images of Santa or his reindeer, it isn't the reindeer we want or even Santa himself; we want the something more than Santa in Santa. Gunn describes this as the "occultic" character of Christmas kitsch, a character that is widespread in popular-culture phenomena, from designer clothes to Thomas Kinkade "paintings" to romance novels. In his book *Modern Occult Rhetoric: Mass Media and the Drama of Secrecy in the Twentieth Century* (University of Alabama Press, 2005), Gunn argues that mystification and the occultic – that is, the notion that there is "something more" to the surface of things, something behind it, perhaps something that is secret – are central to our daily lives. Santa's appeal is what he seems to promise, what he was when we were children, what he was when we believed (if we ever truly did).

So OK; so far this seems like common sense. Most of us don't buy Christmas paper plates with Ol' Saint Nick on them thinking that wish-fulfillment and bliss will be in the package as well. On the other hand, while kitsch looks like "all is merry and bright," its simplicity is both a screen and a denial. The happy face of life-enhancing kitsch masks the hard truths of life and, essentially, the reality of death. Santa isn't old. His round belly won't lead to heart disease or cancer. And all the cookies and milk he can take will never rot his teeth or give him the runs. This is because, in kitsch's secondary function, it covers over the abject. It paints smiles over shit and delight over decay. That is how it works to make us forget, because, frankly, if we worried about Santa's coronary state, we might worry about our own.

Pamela Mendrick, ca. 1965, from the "Scared of Santa Gallery," www.southflorida.com

So, from Santa to his little helpers and beyond, holiday kitsch is made up of icons and tokens that invoke our desire, promise wish-fulfillment in easy prepackaged answers, and dress themselves up as universal solutions that are nothing but clean, shiny, and life-filled. Harmless enough maybe, when we are talking about Santa Claus, but the fundamental problem with kitsch is that it provides such easy answers that we forget to look deeper. And while we can laugh at ourselves as we desire the something more Santa than Santa (i.e., our every wish fulfilled by a jolly, loving, omniscient father figure), it is easy to forget the role of kitsch when we transfer that same desire for the "something more" into our relationships, our politics, and our art world. Here, where life and kitsch begin to lose their firm distinctions, Gunn points out, is where things can get really nasty.

From Santa to his little helpers and beyond, holiday pieces are kitsch, pure and simple: icons and tokens that invoke our desire, promise wish-fulfillment in easy prepackaged answers, and dress themselves up as universal solutions that are nothing but clean, shiny, and life-filled.

In the outpouring of public art since September 11, created around the collapse of the World Trade Center, Gunn sees evidence that even where violence is its most base and brutal, kitsch sneaks in to clean things up for us. He points to the images of strong firemen (à la Kinkade), their backs toward the viewer, entering a smoky haze, which somehow heightens their yellow hero gear and sets them apart from the chaos inside. Such images saturated the airwaves following the attacks, fill galleries and monuments of memory and honor even today, and continue to circulate on the Internet in supposed homage to fire departments and rescue crews worldwide. Gunn argues that such paintings or photos actually belittle the work of the rescue crews who acted in those minutes and days after the attacks. If the firefighters rushed *only* into a haze, we wouldn't call it bravery. And while the mass of death, stench, and panic they did rush into was often "beyond words," this numbing of the terror they met is an injustice to the work and service they performed.

So it goes with kitsch, art, and violence. And what about kitsch and love? It shows up in our terms of endearment – "sugar," "sweetheart," "baby" – and Gunn proposes that cooing like small children at the objects of our desire is part and parcel of both the move to love and the reason we turn toward kitsch in the first place. He finds the desire for connection beyond kitsch, the desire to access something real, and our fallback into the language and imagery of kitsch all to be based in the bond between mother and child in infancy. In these early years of life, without an understanding of individuality and with only the sweet relief of a loving (m)other on demand to feed and hold us, we feel connected, we feel bonded, we feel one with our desires and the source of our assuaging. In the loving mother, our life patterns are set to desire wholeness, someone who will answer our every call and anticipate our needs before we ourselves know them. Yet everyone's mother herself breaks this illusion: Sometimes when we cry, she doesn't answer. Sometimes when we're hungry, she doesn't feed us. As we grow from infant to child, the gap between ourselves and our mothers becomes clear, and we learn that what we are beginning to love is not the mother who has other children, who has an adult love, who has a life of her own, but the mother she is to us, the mother who is fulfillment of our needs and our desires. In this realization, our illusions of unity are broken.

So, Gunn suggests, we love the something more in mother than mother just as we want the something more in Santa than Santa. In the end, we want to be whole. We want to sit on Santa's lap, on mother's lap, and know that our diapers will be changed before we realize what's in them, that our mouths will find food before pangs of hunger cloud our thinking. We want to be loved, we want to hold hands around the Christmas tree, and we want Santa back. "That such longings are impossible to fulfill finds easy evidence at the shopping mall," says Gunn. "Some children see through the mystification of this pot-bellied saint the moment you put them on the stranger's knee. Those horrible screams coming from the mouth of some perspicacious tot, they betoken recognition of the veiled shit of life just on the other side of red velvet pants. The Santa screen is like the emperor's new clothes. You only get down with the kitschness when you learn how to properly make believe, and that is the primary skill of adulthood. Christmas kitsch is about seeing Santa's naughty bits and denying it. As Milan Kundera argued, the other side of kitsch is shit."

That doesn't mean one cannot or should not enjoy the yuletide. "Quite the opposite," Gunn insists. "Kitsch is just as much a part of our everyday 'reality' as the nasty stuff. If we didn't have our distractions and screens, if we didn't have repression, if we didn't have the joy of kitsch, then I think we would go absolutely bonkers. Our tidings of comfort and joy are not only necessary but also quite sincere and, indeed, all the more significant because such reports are made despite the ugliness of human behavior. I think most adults enjoy the trappings of holiday cheer knowing, at some preconscious or unconscious level, that unfortunately it cannot be sustained. I think this is why no one needs the yuletide more than the families of soldiers and service persons: They know better than most the sincerity and necessity of holiday love. And this is precisely why we enjoy our holiday kitsch so much, why the child screaming on Santa's knee eventually learns to suck it up by her teens: The rituals surrounding the kitsch of Christopher Radko and other decorative moguls keep the Monday mornings, funerals, and wars at bay, if only for a little while. Hence, the paradox of kitsch is that its garish excess becomes an avenue of genuine collective sentiment, however cheap."

Besides, Gunn quips, "isn't this why we're all depressed after the new year? No month is more depressing than January as we have to wait – kitsch-less – until February 14 for the next commercially sanctioned explosion of love-despite-it-all." ■

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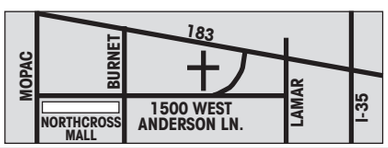

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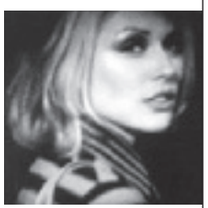
Q&A with director Amos Poe following the screening



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Radical NY! is co-organized by the Grey Art Gallery at New York University and the Austin Museum of Art and is generously supported by Michael A. Chesser in memory of Virgil Young. ▼ The exhibition *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974–1984*, is curated by Carlo McCormick in consultation with Lynn Gumpert and Marvin J. Taylor, and made possible in part by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, Philip Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, M.D., the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, the New York University Humanities Council, Ronald and Frayda Feldman, the Buhl Foundation, Frank and Mary Ann Arisman, MRB Foundation, Frederieke S. Taylor, Larry Warsh, NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science, and the Abby Weed Grey Trust. ▼ The exhibition *Abstract Expressionism: 1940s–1960s* is organized by the Grey Art Gallery at New York University and the Austin Museum of Art and is curated by James Housefield. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art 2006 Exhibition Sponsors are Berman Family Foundation; Green Family Foundation; Chris Mattsson and John McHale; Bettye and Bill Nowlin; Still Water Foundation; Susman, Tisdale and Gayle Architecture and Interior Design; Rosemary Haggar Vaughan Family Foundation; Vinson & Elkins LLP; and Joan Hohlt and J. Roger Wich Foundation. ▼ 2006 Education Outreach is generously supported by 3M, James Armstrong, Bank of America, Katelena Hernandez Cowles and James Cowles, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Nordstrom, donors to the Education Fund, Laura W. Bush Endowment for Education and Outreach, and an anonymous donor. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art 2006 Promotional Sponsors are News 8 Austin and Time Warner Cable, *The Austin Chronicle*, KUT Radio 90.5, and The Decoder Ring Design Concern. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art is funded by The Austin Fine Arts Alliance, Museum Trustees, Members, and Patrons.

BLAB! VOL. 17

edited by Monte Beauchamp
Fantagraphics, 120 pp., $19.95 (paper)

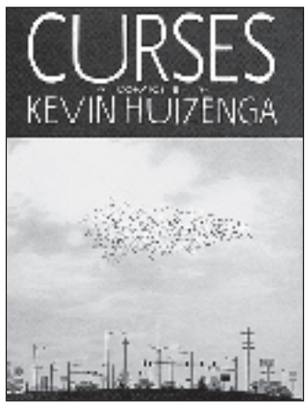
Each year, Monte Beauchamp harvests and designs a collection of work from the world's diverse crop of illustrators, sequential artists, and the graphically obsessed. Each year, Fantagraphics publishes this collection in a glossy-paged, full-color edition. And each year, we receive the thick and perfectly bound document, eager to see if Beauchamp can replicate or better his successes. There's no disappointment to be found this year: Image after image, alone or in the context of some potent narrative, sears itself into our rods and cones, while still others serve to soothe those burning receptors with pastel hues and whimsical setting. Sue Coe's unnerving rendition of Judith Brody's take (in verse, no less) on the Katrina tragedy plunges us into a swamp of sympathy and righteous anger; Amy Crehore's gentle depiction of a Polynesian idyll floats us on a lagoon of enchantment; "Sun Rays of Death" by Ryan Heshka captures, in bold Forties-era style, the way the media play upon the public's shallower fears; Peter and Maria Hoey's "Out of Nowhere" chronicles the rise of the Quintet of the Hot Club of France with visuals that the jazz age would've hocked its alto sax for; and Steven Guarnaccia's "Max Vesta, Matchbook Artist" and "The Pungent Gaul" by Greg Clarke are, simply, a hoot and a half. And there's more, from the likes of Spain, Shag, Brian Cronin, Gary Baseman, and Paco Alcazar, as well as a showcase of *Bazooka Joe* comics and vintage roller-skating labels, all presented in a wraparound cover by Jonathan Rosen that faintly evokes Hieronymus Bosch, Salvador Dalí, and Rube Goldberg in the same hellish vision.

– *Wayne Alan Brenner*

CURSES

by Kevin Huizenga
Drawn & Quarterly, 145 pp., $21.95

With a simple drawing style reminiscent of *TinTin*'s Hergé, Kevin Huizenga uses the comics medium to brilliant effect. He wouldn't have to, considering the subtlety of his characterizations, the natural (but naturally weird) unfolding of his plots, the way a narrative often goes deep enough to be mostly interior: He could be just another pictureless writer exploring that intersection of the quiet suburban drama with the phantasms of magical realism, the sort whose name you'd see in the tonier literary journals, whose face you'd glimpse across the room at some publisher's soiree, and whose first book, although critically acclaimed, would sell poorly and be remaindered soon after its release. But that's not Huizenga. Huizenga has a mastery of scope and definition and renders his narratives, with impeccable rhythm, into sequential drawings, as well as words. Huizenga is the man who's given us Glenn Ganges, his major character, whose life (and the lives of those around him) is captured in the stories of *Curses*, the excellent new hardcover from Canada's Drawn & Quarterly. Witness ye the tale of a Victorian priest haunted by an animal spirit and how it relates to Ganges' own life; the incorporation of a dozen million starlings, an enchanted gas station, and a Sudanese folk tale into Ganges' search for a cure to his infertility; and, in the full-color "Jeepers Jacobs," the internal struggles of a theology professor who writes about hell and loves to golf. Witness also, as a treat for your design sense alone, the mirrorlike juxtaposition of roadways and tree branches in the two bottom panels of p.51, the nearly kinetic depiction of nighttime bike-riding on p.104-105, and the entire arc of "Case 0003128-24" with its unpopulated landscapes like those of the Ming Dynasty's Chen Zhou. Witness, hell: Buy this book of thoughtful, well-told stories for a friend. That way you, too, will be using the comics medium to brilliant effect. – *W.A.B.*



web extra — For Wayne Alan Brenner's reviews of Alternative Comics' *The Mother's Mouth*, *The Placebo Man*, and *Pizzeria Kamikaze*, as well as Drawn & Quarterly's *Moomin*, see **austinchronicle.com/webextra**.

ALSO THIS WEEK ...

The postmark deadline for the 15th annual *Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest is Dec. 15. A brief refresher: Your work must be unpublished, typewritten, and no more than 2,500 words; all entries must be accompanied by a separate cover letter, which contains the name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of the author, as well as the title of the story; the author's name must not appear anywhere in the manuscript; and only one entry per person. Submit to Short Story Contest, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765. For more information, see **austinchronicle.com/shortstory**.

As if your literary life could get any better: Issue 1.0 of *Front Porch*, the Web journal put out by Texas State MFA students **Michael Wolfe**, **Evelyn Lauer**, et al., and headed up by the great **Tom Grimes**, is available at **www.front porchjournal.com**. It includes fiction, poetry, and essays from the likes of **Roddy Doyle**, **Charles D'Ambrosio**, **Heather McHugh**, **Charles Wright**, and **Richard Ford**. Highly recommended.

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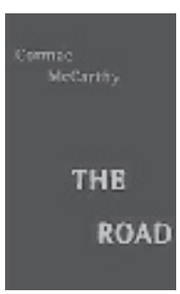

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The holiday season is all about being close to your loved ones, and *The Road* is a book that shows the true importance of that sentiment. Though set in an apocalyptic future, at its core the story is about a man and his son. This story is a fierce moving picture of those who try to remain human after humanity is all but gone. *The Road* is a welcome back for many fans of McCarthy, a step forward in his writing, and a great starter for first time readers.

GOOD VS. EVIL UNICORN SET
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- Who has to sit by smelly Aunt Mertle?
- Who gets the first play on the new video game?

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Sun., Dec. 24: 12pm - 6pm
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The University Co-op present Celebri-Trees 2006 as a fundraiser for the UT elementary school, with fabulous trees up for auction designed by *The Austin Chronicle*. Oh, and of course there's other trees too, by the likes of Sara Hickman; Ray Benson; Judy Maggio and Ron Oliveira; Sally and Mack Brown; Will Wynn; Augie Garrido; Kathy Valentine; Andy Roddick; and many more. Bidding can be done at the Co-op and online through December 19. Details at www.universitycoop.com/ePOS/form=cat.html&cat=951&store=108.

2007 PREDICTION Look for **Madonna** and **Angelina** to found a new online resource called **eBay-B** in which they can bid furiously against each other for children in a dazzling array of colors.

MOVIN' ON UP... To the Eastside. A new women's apparel boutique and day spa, **Solid Gold**, has opened at 1601 E. Fifth at Comal. The Solid Gold collection includes apparel, gifts, accessories, and bath and beauty and specialty skincare products. Owners **Anya Jack** and **Katie Friedman** say that the Solid Gold clothing collection is focused on unique pieces with interesting design details and high-quality fabrics rather than prints (thus the "solid" in Solid Gold). The designers and lines are chosen for an edgy, urban, and fashion-forward feel. Open Monday through Saturday, 11am-7pm, and Sunday, noon-5pm.

I WANT A NEW TOY *Oh-weh-oh.* The hottest toys of the season may not be on the store shelves but live in your imagination. Thanks to **Lene Lovich** and **Datalounge**.

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The Rev. Haggard's My First Meth Lab Watch the Rev. Ted Haggard's drug use go from casual to calamitous and his career go from holy to homo.

The Anderson Cooper Closet Organizer For when the closet becomes a wee bit messy.

The Mel Gibson Action Figure It drunkenly shrieks ethnic obscenities and then apologizes.

The Rush Limbaugh Pill Pouch With pockets to organize all your pain-relief medications: The blue pockets are for your prescriptions, and the pink pockets are for the drugs you secure through your illegal-immigrant maid.

GIFTS FOR THE ALSO-RANS It'll be a sad Christmas for so many – especially those who dumped their hearts, souls, and bank accounts into failed political campaigns. Just imagine the joy that will overcome them on Christmas morning when they see what Santa brought them:

Carole Keeton McClellan Rylander Strayhorn Burton Burton Warner Fortensky A new last name and hundreds more grandchildren to keep this tough grandma feeling fresh.

Chris Bell A solid identity so that next time he does battle with those who are better-known than he, we will know who he is.

Kinky Friedman Some new boots. With platforms.

ONLINE Where ***Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*** collides with the occult: **www.thomasscoville.com/metrosexual**

AGENDA Friday, Dec. 8, the **Umlauf Sculpture Gallery & Garden** shows off more than 50 sculptures, drawings, and paintings it has been given since the museum opened in 1991. Through Feb. 11. Further info is at **www.umlaufsculpture.org**... Sunday, Dec. 17, at the **Four Seasons Hotel**, the **Andy Roddick Foundation** presents its second annual **Charity Gala & Auction**, with emcee Andy Roddick and special musical guest **Lionel Richie**. See **www.arfoundation.org** for tickets and more 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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A Baker's Half Dozen

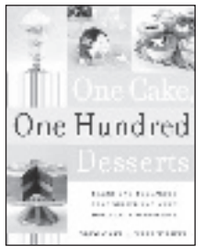
After all my years as a baker, I consider it a very good sign when a recipe grabs my attention and demands to be made. Here are some new books that have inspired me in the kitchen this fall. – *V.B.W.*

***Maida Heatter's Book of Great Chocolate Desserts* by Maida Heatter (Andrews McMeel Publishing, $24.95):** The divine Maida was one of my early baking inspirations, and her recipes were among the popular standards of my dessert business. This wonderful collection of chocolate delights was a big hit when it was first published in 1980, and I'm thrilled to see a new edition on the shelves. I hope a whole new generation of bakers will be introduced to Maida and come to love her as I do.

***Baking: From My Home to Yours* by Dorie Greenspan (Houghton-Mifflin, $40):** Greenspan is both the baker and author behind such award-winning books as *Baking With Julia* and *Desserts by Pierre Hermé*. This time out, she's writing and baking as herself, serving up a delectable selection of recipes designed for home bakers. All the recipes are clear and concise with tips for serving and storage, plus occasional suggestions for variations. A worthwhile addition to any home baker's library.

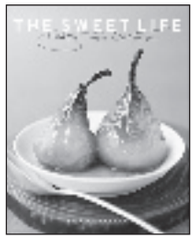
***The Essence of Chocolate* by John Scharffenberger and Robert Steinberg with Ann Spivack and Susie Heller (Hyperion, $35):** The founders of one of America's premier boutique chocolate operations have put together this elegant homage to the revered "food of the gods." The beautifully illustrated book offers everything from fascinating information on the history and cultivation of cacao to insights into the development of a unique chocolate business to a distinctive collection of both sweet and savory recipes designed as a showcase of their fine chocolate. A must-have for serious chocolate aficionados.

Gift Guide



***One Cake, One Hundred Desserts* by Greg Case and Keri Fisher (Morrow, $29.95):** Have you ever stared at a bountiful array of desserts on an elegant hotel buffet and wondered how they create so many different desserts every day? Pastry chef Greg Case discloses one of the secrets of his profession and shares a basic cake recipe that can be used as the building block for 100 different sweets. It's a good book idea that makes for a functional resource.

***The New York Times Dessert Cookbook* edited by Florence Fabricant (St. Martin's, $29.95):** *Times* food writer Fabricant researched 10 years' worth of the paper's culinary archives and delivered an enormous selection of recipes for every kind of sweet to make at home. She has chosen well: This book could replace a drawer full of fading newspaper clippings. There's everything here from comforting home-style cobblers, crisps, and crumbles to the elegant dessert stylings of NYC's top bakers and pastry artists.



***The Sweet Life: Desserts From Chanterelle* by Kate Zuckerman (Bulfinch Press, $35):** The longtime pastry chef of the acclaimed NYC eatery Chanterelle, Zuckerman shares recipes for her highly touted, flavor-inspired desserts. Many of the recipes are simple and approachable for the home cook, and there are informational sidebars with explanations for more complicated procedures "beyond the basics." There are plenty of good ideas here.

EVENT MENU :: DEC. 7-14

Both locations of **Opal Divine's** (700 W. Sixth, 477-3308; 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237) are in the spirit of the season tonight! **Kacy Crowley** headlines a musical fundraiser for the Miracle Foundation (**www.themiracle-foundation.com**) beginning at 6pm at the original. At Penn Field at 7pm, tickets to the fourth annual **Whisky Festival** are $45, and the evening will include samples of some of the finest malt whiskies from all over Scotland, paired with a lavish holiday menu. Proceeds from that party benefit **Meals on Wheels & More**; Thursday, Dec. 7.

Have a green, green Christmas at Austin's first ever **Green Holiday Festival** at the December edition of the **Sustainable Shopper's Ball** (**www.sustain-a-ball.org**) this weekend. **Twang Twang Shock-a-Boom** will provide the solar-powered musical entertainment, while more than 60 green-living vendors and educators sell their wares and share their knowledge. There will be plenty of family fun. This event is hosted by the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market** (Toney Burger Center parking lot); 9am-2pm, Saturday, Dec. 9.

If you've been inspired by the gingerbread challenges on the Food Network recently, here's an outlet for your talent: The **Texas Culinary Academy** (11400 Burnet Rd., 837-2665; **www.tca.edu**) hosts their fourth annual **Gingerbread House Competition & Open House** this weekend. Entries from all ages of amateurs and professionals are encouraged, and judging will be based on appearance, creativity, difficulty, execution, and consistency of theme. Awards will be announced during the Open House, which will also include cake- and cookie-decorating workshops, refreshments, caroling by the Austin Girls' Choir, and the opportunity to have photos taken with "Chef Santa"; noon-3pm, Saturday, Dec. 9.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY: Pear Bread

JOHN ANDERSON

One of my favorite bites from last year was the sample of a sweet bread shared by Miles Compton (aka Miles of Chocolate). The Pear Bread sample was a tantalizing taste of things to come, a treat scheduled for the 2006 holiday season, set to be the second product from his company. Moist, fine-textured, chock-full of toothsome chunks of fresh pear, spiced with ginger, and accented by the occasional crunch of sliced almonds, it makes a wonderful companion to tea or coffee, and it is delightful plain or toasted. In fact, toasted slices were irresistible when slathered with softened cream cheese mixed with a little chopped candied ginger. According to Compton, the Pear Bread will be limited to the holidays, so be sure to get it while you can. Look for loaves of Miles' Pear Bread at the Boggy Creek Farm stand, Central Market, Whole Foods Market, Grape Vine Market, and P&K Grocery. – *V.B.W.*

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Kudos to the **Chuy's** folks: Their annual **Children Giving to Children Parade** collected 42,000 toys for local kids on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Those donations make up one-third of the total number of toys that will be distributed to local kids by Austin's Blue Santa operation on Dec. 16... Austin's own **Mangia Chicago Stuffed Pizza** (six locations around town) just announced the debut of their new e-commerce Web site, **www.mangiapizza.com**, where their distinctive deep-dish pies can now be ordered online for overnight shipping via FedEx. The pizzas are partially baked and then flash frozen before shipping to ensure that all the recipient has to do is pop the pizza in the oven for a few minutes before indulging in a mouthful of Austintatious goodness. Mangia's signature football-shaped pizzas can be sent to the sports fans on your holiday gift list, and they'll gladly ship the heart-shaped pizzas to your long-distance love after the first of the year... *Chronicle* contributor **MM Pack** served the McPherson Sangiovese to a surprised and appreciative group of Bay area foodies last month, not a Sauvignon Blanc as I erroneously reported earlier... Chef instructors at the **Culinary Academy of Austin** (6020-B Dillard Circle, 451-5743) have been busy this fall. Longtime Austin pastry chef **Alain Braux** has been recognized as a certified executive pastry chef by the **American Culinary Federation**, adding to his many degrees and certifications. CAA co-owner, chef **Steve Mannion**, has recently returned from his fourth tour of duty as a guest chef instructor aboard the *USS Cowpens*, a Navy cruiser stationed off the east coast of Japan... Look for those delicious homemade pies from **Royers' Austin Pie Empowerment Project** at the **Austin Farmers' Market** (Cesar Chavez between Colorado and Lavaca) every Saturday until Christmas. Pieman **Bud** says he's in negotiations for convenient midcity and Westlake locations for drive-through pie pickup locations for the week before Christmas, so we'll keep you posted... Tamale days are under way at **Santa Rita Cantina** (1206 W. 38th, 419-7482). The delicious Chicken Tomatillo and Pork Tamales are made from the secret family recipe of chef **Julio Dominguez** and come in frozen packs of a dozen for $14 with a 16-ounce container of your choice of sauce. Dec. 11-24, just give the restaurant 24 hours' notice, and grab some good Tex-Mex comfort food for the holidays!

recently reviewed

FINE DINING: **THE BELMONT** This gorgeous eatery and bar serves superb drinks to a sea of young professionals decked out and looking for fun. The service is the best in town, and the food is superb on some nights and middling on others. ***305 W. Sixth, 457-0300 $$$***

CHINESE: **ASIA CAFE** Funky counter service in the back of the Asia Market grocery provides the best and most authentic Chinese food in town. Unadulterated Sichuan cuisine well worth the drive from anywhere. ***8650 Spicewood Springs Rd., 331-5780 $***

COOKBOOKS

Gift Guide

101 MARTINIS

by Kim Haasarud
Wiley, 128 pp., $15.95

I admit it: I'm one of those "purists" who insists you can't call every cocktail a martini just because it's served in a martini glass. A martini consists of gin, a splash of vermouth – or not – and perhaps some olive juice or lemon twist, to taste. That's a martini. Having said that, I'm not against interesting cocktails served in martini glasses (or any other kind of glass, for that matter). In turn, I found Kim Haasarud's book a very compelling, fun, and eye-pleasing effort. The recipes range from the classic martinis to some of the most unusual drink combinations I have encountered. Haasarud's presentation encourages experimentation and play with mixology.

For instance, I entertained a couple of recent dinner guests with the Crantopia Martini, which was a huge hit. The recipe calls for cranberry relish, but I used Austin Slow Burn's cranberry habanero jam, instead. The zippy yet subtle chile and the fresh rosemary sprig garnish added an extra dimension to this excellent drink. Another seasonal cocktail that intrigued me is the Pumpkin Martini, which could be a perfect alternative for dessert – or a great accompaniment to it – this holiday season. And for next summer, I'm already savoring the idea of the Lemon Granita Martini and the Lychee Martini. Persimmon Martini? You bet I'll try it. And I'll even invent my own cocktails based on her inspired concoctions.

In addition, all of Haasarud's cocktails are labeled to pair with sweet, salty, sour, or spicy foods. This is one of the reasons she calls herself a "liquid chef" rather than just a bartender. – *Claudia Alarcón*

THE SAN FRANCISCO FERRY PLAZA FARMERS' MARKET COOKBOOK: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO IMPECCABLE PRODUCE PLUS 130 SEASONAL RECIPES

by Christopher Hirsheimer and Peggy Knickerbocker
Chronicle Books, 288 pp., $22.95. (paper)

SIMPLE SOIRÉES: SEASONAL MENUS FOR SENSATIONAL DINNER PARTIES

by Peggy Knickerbocker
Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, 224 pp., $35

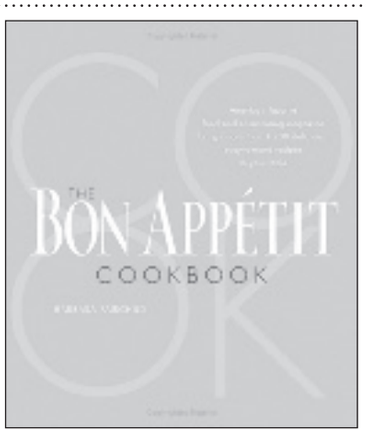
The Farmers' Market at Ferry Plaza in San Francisco is by no means the oldest farmers' market around, but I'd bet money that it's one of the largest in the country. Since its reopening in 2003 at the restored Ferry Building on the San Francisco Bay, this food-centric hot spot has become one of the top three visitor destinations in the city. In a region of world-famous tourist attractions, there are several reasons for that, including the ever-expanding role of local, fresh produce in the public consciousness and how effective the placement of a produce market in a beautiful, historic, commercially vibrant setting can be.

Christopher Hirsheimer (a founder of *Saveur* magazine and food photographer extraordinaire) and Peggy Knickerbocker (longtime San Francisco-based food writer) have collaborated to create *The Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market Cookbook* as a handy guide that celebrates local food products of Northern California and provides preparation suggestions and recipes from well-known Bay area chefs and critics. Organized first by season and then by individual product, this little book is an answer to those times when you see a beautiful vegetable at the market but have no idea what to do with it.

Of course, many of the items so lovingly photographed and described (cherries, artichokes, almonds, stinging nettles) will never be seen on a Central Texas farm stand, but a significant number of them will be, and the information about choosing, storing, preparing, freezing, and cooking everything from tomatoes and corn to beets and dandelions certainly apply to our regional produce, too. If you visit the Ferry Plaza Market, this book is a great memento, and if you haven't, it'll inspire you to make the trip. Meanwhile, use this book as a reference when you visit Austin's own terrific farm stands and farmers' markets.

And once you've shopped local markets for seasonal bounty, of course you'll want to share it with friends. Knickerbocker (with lush Hirsheimer photos) to the rescue once more with *Simple Soirées*, a dinner-party menu cookbook based on seasonal ingredients, unfussy recipes, simple hospitality, and graceful entertaining. Knickerbocker is a well-known hostess, as well as writer, and she shares her philosophy and strategies for planning and executing small, relaxed dinner parties to maximum effect with minimum anxiety and with emphasis on recipes that use local, seasonal ingredients. Again, what is local and seasonal in San Francisco isn't the same as in Austin, but there is plenty of common ground, along with the common sense and common courtesy that help make entertaining rewarding, no matter where you live. – *MM Pack*

THE BON APPÉTIT COOKBOOK



by Barbara Fairchild
Wiley & Sons, 816 pp., $34.95

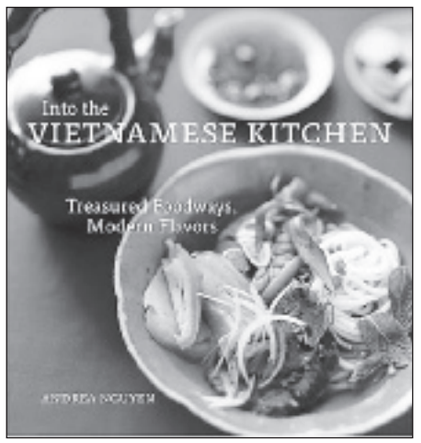
At the precise moment of the party when it's photo-op perfect, my friend Janelle and I know our cue to exclaim, "Great cook! Great party!" and strike a pose with our glasses raised and happy, animated faces on. We know this because we are both longtime subscribers to *Bon Appétit* magazine, in which a monthly feature spotlights fabulous hosts in the throes of one of their fabulous soirees. Some years ago the feature's name was changed from "Great Cook! Great Party!" to the less effusive "Entertaining With Style," but we're old-school and prefer the original.

The feature captures what is fun about *Bon Appétit*: It's not just a cooking/recipe magazine. I loved the entertaining-menu guides of the Eighties that always suggested the proper highball (scotch & soda, gimlet) to start things off. Today's guides are less boozy, but they still offer practical menus culled from the month's recipes (low-carb meal, low-sodium, etc.) and whimsical ones (book club menu, preconcert dinner). It's that kicky personality that's missing in the new *Bon Appétit* cookbook, a comprehensive collection of favorite recipes from the past umpteen years.

The volume is organized in the traditional way: breads, appetizers, meats, fish and shellfish, pies, cakes. It's a tried-and-true method of arranging a cookbook and not a bad one, either. Most of my favorite books adhere to this format. With this being a *Bon Appétit* book though, I missed the suggested menus for poker night or a baby christening or a Fourth of July barbecue.

Compiled and edited by longtime staffer and current editor Barbara Fairchild, the collection of recipes is that of favorites from the past 20 or so years. And yet, I found that many of my favorite *Bon Appétit* recipes are not included. The pecan praline cake that I rely upon for the holidays, the ridiculously rich sausage and penne bake with tomatoes: None of these made the cut. These omissions likely say more about me than they do about the editors, but it confirmed that this book will not allow me to toss out my ancient, dog-eared copies of the magazine when I want to strike my "Great cook! Great party!" close-up. – *Barbara Chisholm*

INTO THE VIETNAMESE KITCHEN: TREASURED FOODWAYS, MODERN FLAVORS



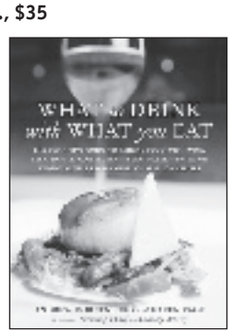
by Andrea Nguyen
Ten Speed, 344 pp., $35

Cookbooks dealing exclusively with Vietnamese cuisine are rare. Rarer still are excellent ones, those books that reach deepest into the soul of the food. This new release from Andrea Nguyen does just that. The food writer and culinary instructor left Saigon with her family one week before its fall to the North, her mother carrying little besides her treasured family recipe collection. That collection became the basis for this book and a means to bridge the family's old and new lives, combined with the knowledge and culinary skills Nguyen has acquired in the ensuing 31 years.

Nguyen's 175-plus recipes take the reader into the village kitchens of Vietnam's grandmothers, presenting a wide range of recipes that are clearly written and easy to follow. From snacks translated from the native language as "gifts to the Mouth" to sweets to palate-refreshers, she includes all aspects of Vietnamese cuisine. There are especially comprehensive sections on charcuterie and pickling, themselves essential elements. Her headnotes explain not only what Vietnamese cooks do, but how and why they do it. She passionately interjects personal anecdotes into the descriptions, which make the book an entertaining memoir for those who never plan on cooking a single dish. Most importantly, Nguyen provides a culturally rich and delicious tour of all Vietnam has to offer on the plate: a dynamic description of a nation's culinary heritage told through the focus of her family's kitchen. – *Mick Vann*

WHAT TO DRINK WITH WHAT YOU EAT: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO PAIRING FOOD WITH WINE, BEER, SPIRITS, COFFEE, TEA – EVEN WATER – BASED ON EXPERT ADVICE FROM AMERICA'S BEST SOMMELIERS

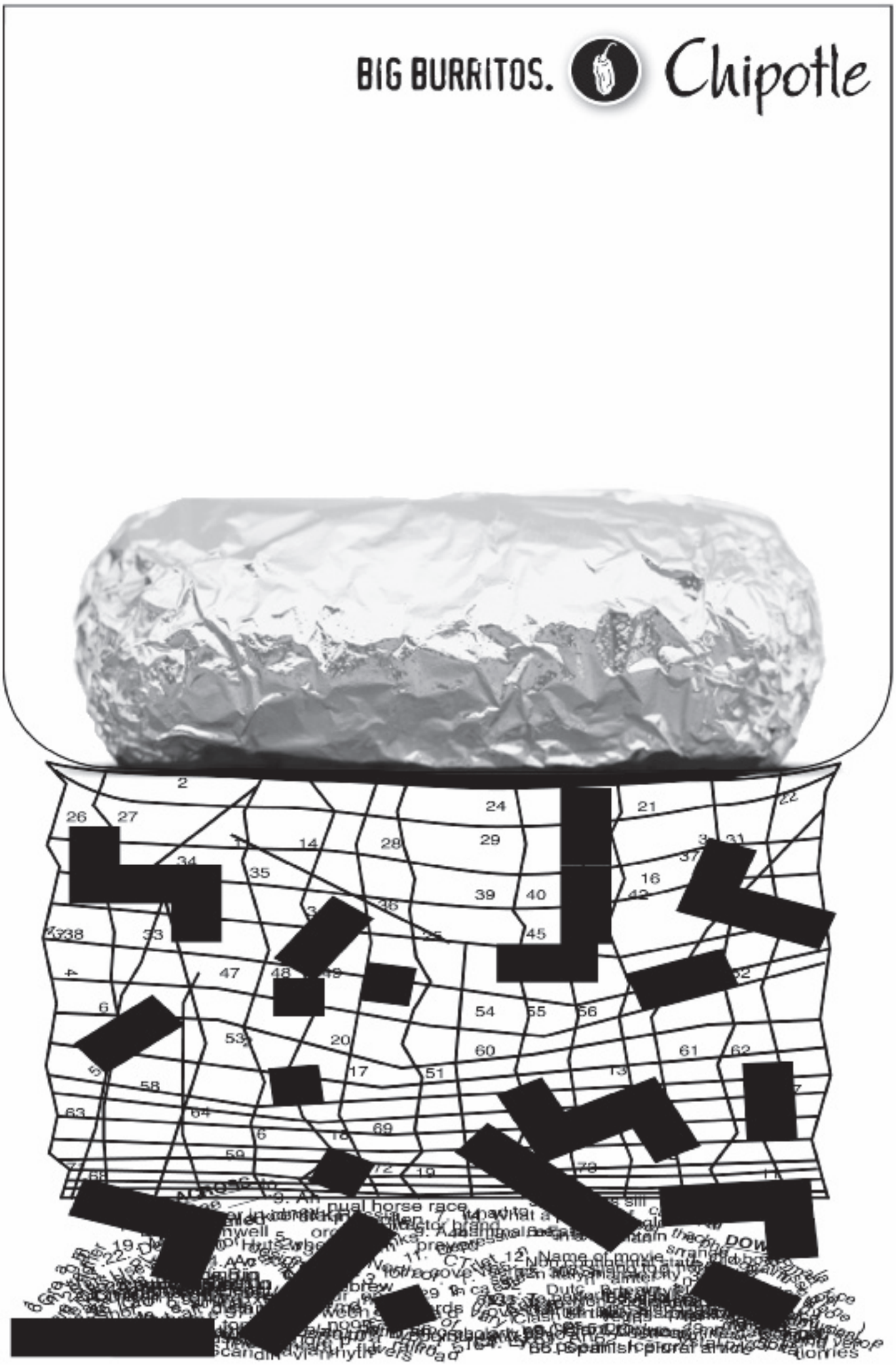
by Andrew Dornenburg and Karen Page
Bulfinch Press, 358 pp., $35



Which wine goes best with Oreos? How about with Salt Lick's rich, sweet barbecue sauce? Crumpets? Hamachi nigiri-sushi? The point is that occasionally milk or beer or tea or *sake* is the best beverage for a food. Granted, wine goes with 90% of the world's foods, but there are so many wines to keep track of. What about the other 10%? Enter Andrew Dornenburg and Karen Page, authors of award-winning books *Becoming a Chef* and *Culinary Artistry*. Their concept is

continued on p.54

BIG BURRITOS. Chipotle



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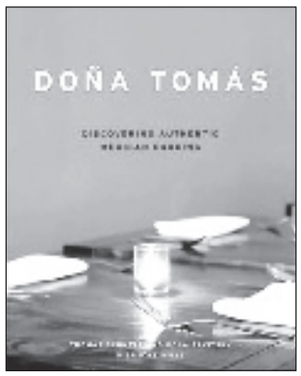
that every food needs a beverage, so how do you find that single libation that creates synergy with your food?

The answer is through exhaustive interviews with the nation's top chefs and sommeliers. After a few chapters to set up their rules for pairing and selecting, they launch into the meat of the book, two long chapters devoted to pairing food and beverage. Here's the best part: The authors recognize the fact that some of us – probably most – decide on a dish, then try to figure what to drink. That's the first of the main chapters, an exhaustive look, by food, of what beverage works best. Having paella? Then zoom straight to the dry rosés from Spain or Provence. Having a hot dog? Then buy a beer – especially a lager – or a German Riesling Kabinett. The second main chapter is written for the select few who decide what beverage to drink, then build the food around it. It's Beaujolais season, so I checked the authors' recommendation, and it was spot on: a roasted chicken or pork chops. Rioja lovers should try a Manchego cheese or braised lamb shanks. Wondering what to do with that bottle of Honjozo *sake* in the refrigerator? Try fried oysters or vegetables tempura.

The final chapters offer some of the country's most innovative restaurants' wine-food pairing menus, followed by a listing of desert-island drinks from some of the chefs and sommeliers. The book is a wonderfully unsnobby research compendium for picking a beverage for a food or vice versa, but its highest calling is as an idea generator, perfectly fit for that little inspirational kick you need for planning your next meal. – *Wes Marshall*

DOÑA TOMÁS: DISCOVERING AUTHENTIC MEXICAN COOKING

by Thomas Schnetz, Dona Savitsky, et al.
Ten Speed, 216 pp., $29.95



Chef Thomas Schnetz and partner Dona Savitsky have studied the regional cooking of Mexico, including dishes from Oaxaca, Veracruz, and Yucatán, paying tribute to the huge diversity of Mexican cuisines. Although the book's title refers to "discovering authentic Mexican cooking," to my mind, it does much more than that. Both chefs seek to present and preserve traditional Mexican dishes, while at the same time contributing to the culinary evolution by adding contemporary personal touches.

The restaurant – and hence the recipes in the cookbook – emphasizes the use of fresh local produce and organic ingredients wherever possible. The recipes are easy to follow, accompanied by beautiful food photos that literally make the mouth water. A recipe that has caught my attention is the *pozole de pato* (duck stew). While some might consider this dish untraditional or pretentious, to me it represents 600 years of Mexican culinary history. The Mexican people of what is now Mexico City have been cooking delectable stews with all sorts of waterfowl, including duck, since the 1400s, long before the Spanish brought us the miracle of pork. Flavored with *epazote* and *hoja santa*, this rich hominy stew sounds as though it would be heavenly on a cold Sunday morning after a long Saturday night. The book is divided into "course" chapters: "Breakfast," "Lunch," "Salads and Sides," "Dinner and Broths and Sauces." The first chapter, "Basics," is a compendium of terms, description of ingredients and utensils, and cooking techniques. I recommend this book as an excellent gift for those with a real curiosity for traditional Mexican cooking and those seeking a view into what Mexican food in America could be. I can't wait to get my apron on. – *Claudia Alarcón*

THE SUSHI EXPERIENCE

by Hiroko Shimbo
Knopf, 280 pp., $40

Hiroko Shimbo's first book, *The Japanese Kitchen*, was an impressive feat, ranking at the top of the best English-language cookbooks on Japanese cuisine. Her second title, *The Sushi Experience*, matches or exceeds the brilliance of the first. It's loaded with step-by-step photos to carefully guide the neophyte through every stage of the sushi-making process. Shimbo begins with the culture of sushi and the sushi bar, including proper etiquette when dining out, not to mention the language. Next is an exhaustive compilation of every component needed by the cook, including tools, ingredients, teas, and *sake*.

Recipes are laid out starting with a single master recipe, accompanied by added variations on that basic theme. Hiroko seduces the reader into more complicated dishes without fear. Sauces and garnishes are included, as are thick and thin rolls, inside-out and hand rolls, cone rolls, pressed rolls, scattered forms, decorated bowl forms, nigiri-rice-ball forms, sashimi cutting techniques, as well as cooked and craft forms. Moms will also find a chapter on kid's sushi in whimsical shapes using cooked, kid-friendly ingredients.

Next follows an amazingly detailed buyers guide and chapters that deal with side dishes: cooked seafood, vegetables, soups, and desserts. Meanwhile, Hiroko's exhaustive sidebars provide insight into an incredible range of topics: history, obscurities, how the finest sushi knives are made, and the like. *The Sushi Experience* is total immersion into sushi on the highest level, presented with clarity, passion, and beauty. – *Mick Vann*

SAKE: A MODERN GUIDE

by Beau Timken and Sara Deseran
Chronicle Books, 120 pp., $18.95

This is the perfect book for the *sake* curious. Beau Timken discovered the wonders of *sake* while at a sushi bar – in South Africa, of all places. His introduction to a premium *sake* by some Japanese diners led to a near obsession and years of research. Timken's book is full of unpretentious information about the history of this ancient beverage and includes an in-depth examination of its rituals and preparation. He explains the many types and categories of *sake* and how to properly taste their complex flavors. He discusses common Japanese *sake*-related terms. I didn't know, for instance, that *sake* is the Japanese word for all alcoholic beverages; what we commonly know as *sake* is actually *nihonshu*.

The "50 Sakes to Try" chapter is a comprehensive guide that provides the beer-and-wine-flavor equivalents of different *sake*s to give a better idea of the characteristics. I absolutely love the names of the different *sake*s. While I have thoroughly enjoyed "Devil's Mask" at Uchi, I long for the day when I can taste "Summer Snow," "Mirror of Truth," and "10,000 Apricot Blossoms."

Although at first I was apprehensive, I tried my first *sake* cocktail at my friend Miho's house and loved it. In this book, Timken and co-author Sara Deseran present recipes for 30 *sake* cocktails, as well as 15 tantalizing *sake*-friendly dishes that sound intriguing. Armed with my new weapons, I am ready to embark on a quest for more knowledge. Kampai! – *Claudia Alarcón*

TALKING WITH MY MOUTH FULL: CRAB CAKES, BUNDT CAKES, AND OTHER KITCHEN STORIES

by Bonny Wolf
St. Martin's Press, 272 pp., $24.95

My mother once queried how *Greater Tuna*, the two-man play performed by Joe Sears and Jaston Williams, found an audience outside of Texas. It appeared to her so Texas-centric, she wondered how Ohioans or New Yorkers could relate to Aunt Pearl or Vera Carp. The answer

is that every region has small towns, and small towns are inhabited by characters more like the residents of the fictitious Tuna than not. So it is with the culinary meanderings in Bonny Wolf's *Talking With My Mouth Full*, a collection of essays and recipes from the NPR commentator.

Wolf hails from Minnesota and is a longtime resident of Washington, D.C. I've never so much as visited her home state, but her story of the Iron Range version of antipasto (a relish to be slathered on crackers) vs. the meat and cheese platter more commonly served outside of her native region had the ring of familiarity. What Texan hasn't met a bowl of beans and tomatoes advertised as chili with smug incredulity? The particulars may vary from region to region, but Wolf perfectly captures the cultural and familial allegiances to food in this delightful collection.

Her chapter on roast chicken confirmed my suspicion that we are kindred spirits: Like a true devotee, she has spent whole decades of her life in search of the secrets of the ideal roast chicken. Some of us cooks are convinced that a simply and beautifully roasted bird, juicy and flavorful under crackling skin, is the zenith of cooking. It's a quest that can consume the fanatical and stupefy the indifferent. Her obsession is apparent in her opening: "a recipe for roast chicken looks like something a child could make. Put a chicken in a pan, season it with salt and pepper, and stick it in the oven. What could be easier? Almost anything." Too true.

– *Barbara Chisholm*

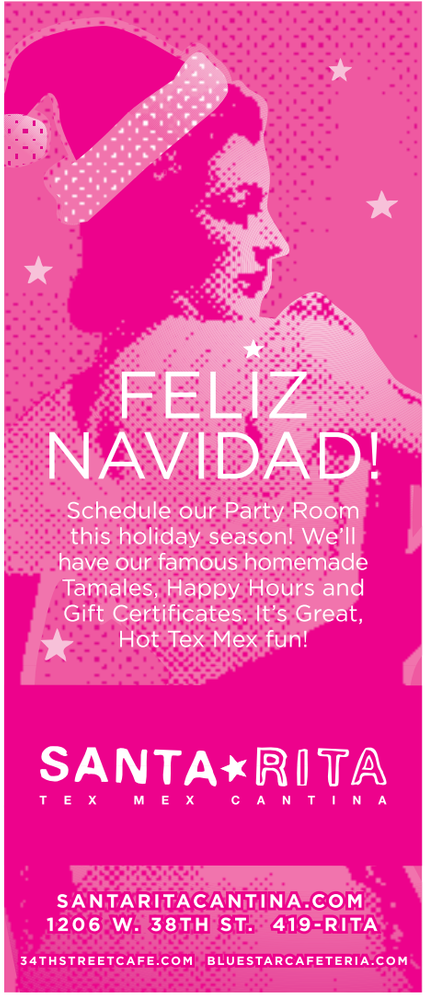
CRADLE OF FLAVOR: HOME COOKING FROM THE SPICE ISLANDS OF INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, AND MALAYSIA
by James Oseland
W.W. Norton, 384 pp., $35

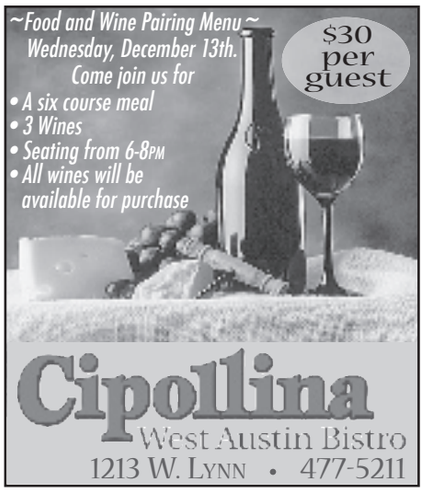
There's an old Indonesian folk saying that asserts "If you don't know it, you can't love it." Because so few Indonesians live in the States, few Americans have ever had the opportunity to taste the cuisine. James Oseland's *Cradle of Flavor* showcases his talents as a culinary and cultural translator, a man on a personal mission to introduce America to the varied and exotic cuisines of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. The editor in chief at *Saveur*, he traveled to the region for the first time 24 years ago, and every year he is drawn back to his adopted home to cook and learn in the kitchens of strangers he meets in markets, street vendor stalls, and cafes all through the islands. The book tells their stories in a captivating manner, exposing the reader to not only the foods of the region but to the people as well.

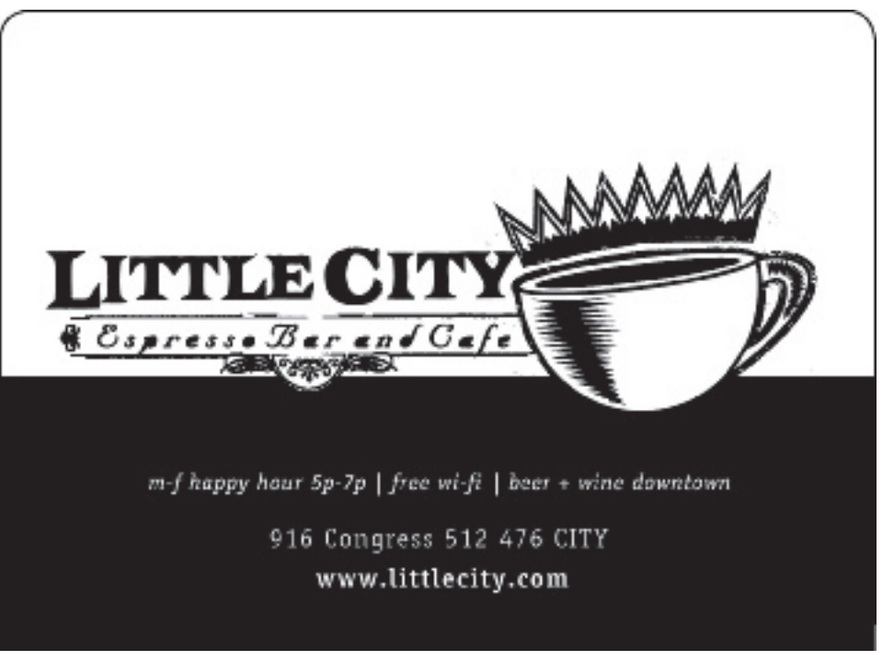
In making the richly spiced but simple fare, the ingredients might perplex a novice were it not for the 50 pages devoted to the detailed nuances of the components. Basic kitchen equipment is required, and the accessible recipes are written in a comprehensive style enabling anyone to produce exciting, authentic results.

The 100 recipes in *Cradle of Flavor* focus on classic home-style dishes, each beginning with a headnote explaining the context of the dish and each recipe ending with menu suggestions. The tastes and aromas of this food will make your head spin, whether it's a Nyonya-braised pork dish from Malacca (described in the accompanying cook's notes as tasting "like a great, big hug") or a thick, seductive Sumatran beef rending or an ethereal Sulawesi grilled coconut chicken with lemon basil. With every paragraph, you can smell the spice markets, hear the gamelan music, see the lush jungle, and feel the salty humidity. The bonus, of course, is the glorious food Oseland persuades us to prepare.

– *Mick Vann*







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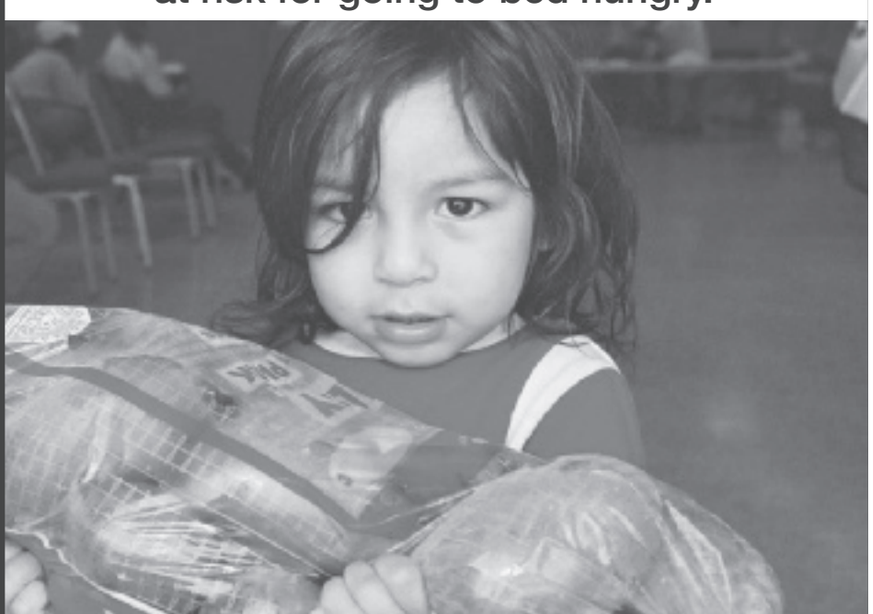
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DOWNTOWN

TEX-MEX: **COPA BAR & GRILL** The newest Latin dance club in town features drinks, eats, live salsa and merengue on Fridays, as well as a Saturday DJ. *217 Congress, 479-5002 $*

STEAKHOUSE: **FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR** The main attraction is perfectly prepared beef presented in a comfortable, clubby setting and enhanced by an extensive wine list and accomplished service. *320 E. Second, 457-1500 $$$$*

BURGER JOINT: **HUT'S HAMBURGERS** The legend rests not on its laurels but often atop beef eaters' picks for Best Burger. Notorious for their two-for-one specials. *807 W. Sixth, 472-0693 $*

TEX-MEX: **JAIME'S SPANISH VILLAGE** Traditional Tex-Mex is complemented by the famous Margarita Jaime – a frozen margarita with fresh sangria on top. *802 Red River, 476-5149 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KATZ'S DELI & BAR** New York, New York! Austin's own posh-nosh, a sit-down deli for the late-night crowd. *618 W. Sixth, 472-2037 $$*

JAPANESE: **KYOTO** This elder statesman of Japanese restaurants offers scrumptious sushi and other Asian fare. Non-sushi items cover the basics in Japanese cuisine, but don't expect surprises. *315 Congress, 482-9010 $$$$*

MEDITERRANEAN: **LOUIE'S 106** Crisp, elegant, multitiered setting for Austin's original tapas. The beautifully lit bar is the perfect place to make your pitch. *106 E. Sixth, 476-1997 $$$*

MEDITERRANEAN: **MARAKESH** Large portions at reasonable prices and some of the best and most authentic Middle Eastern food in town make this place the total experience. *906 Congress, 476-7735 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: **MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Seriously, really, really good fish and chips, and we love the bargain-priced shepherd's pie. Folks rave about the Bluegrass Gospel Brunch at noon on Sundays. *715 W. Sixth, 478-7747 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **OLD PECAN STREET CAFE** For more than 25 years Pecan Street has been serving crepes and salads, Fat Chocolate cake, and wonderful coffee to a loyal clientele. *310 E. Sixth, 478-2491 $$$*

FINE DINING: **RESTAURANT JEZEBEL** Owner/chef Parind Vora's delightful spicing and inventive combinations of flavor show his Indian heritage. The service is gracious and attentive as well as bilingual! *914-C Congress, 499-3999 $$$$*

TEX-MEX: **TACO SHACK FROST PLAZA** Good, substantial, and cheap Tex-Mex at several locations. *402 Brazos, 473-0101 $*

EAST

TEX-MEX: **ARTURO'S TAQUERIA** This brightly painted spot still offers seafood specials on weekends. The soul of the sea is evident in their atmosphere and menu. *7210 Cameron, 451-5318 $$*

SEAFOOD: **CAPTAIN'S SEAFOOD & OYSTER BAR** A full range of both fried and broiled seafood. Especially popular are the oyster or shrimp diablo appetizers and Captain Dan's Crawfish Pirogue. *5700 N. I-35, 452-1417 $$*

TEX-MEX: **DOS HERMANOS MEXICAN FOODS** Even the employees don't know exactly who the two brothers are, but they've been cooking reliable, tasty Mexican food at this location for more than 10 years. *2730 E. Cesar Chavez, 474-9655 $$*

CAFETERIA/BUFFET: **DOT'S PLACE** They're fighting their way back from a devastating fire, but Dot Hewitt is still serving a scaled-back version of her comfort-food menu for lunch on weekdays. *13805 Orchid, 255-7288 $*

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

TEX-MEX: **JUAN IN A MILLION** Find one of our favorite "heart attack" breakfasts: gorditas with chorizo and fried eggs slathered with chile con queso. Arteries may harden around the room, but no one seems to care. *2300 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-3872 $$*

TEX-MEX: **LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** By the smells and bright brick and tile interior you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. *2944 E. 12th, 472-4841 $*

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

TEX-MEX: **MI REY MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CAFE** "My King" boasts *guisado de puerco en chile colorado*, plump chile rellenos, and light, tasty gorditas. *1505 E. Seventh, 476-4211 $$*

SEAFOOD: **TJ'S SEAFOOD** With a drive-through window for seafood lovers on the go, the menu here is a hybrid of Southern American and Asian fried foods. *1900 E. Seventh, 469-9038 $*

LAKE

FINE DINING, STEAKHOUSE: **BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE AND GARDEN BAR** More than a steak house, it's a darn good restaurant, and so it seems a shame to limit oneself to steak when visiting. *21814 Hwy. 71 W., 264-2223 $$$*

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

TEX-MEX: **IGUANA GRILL** A medium-priced menu offers most of the standards, but the flautas and sauces really stand out. Fabulous margaritas and a stellar beer selection go well with a killer view. *2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439 $$*

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE, CHAIN: **BENNIGAN'S** The Irish-themed grill and tavern has a lengthy menu with something for just about everyone. *7604 N. I-35, 451-7953 $$*

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. *10225 Research #1010, 345-9586 $*

CHINESE: **MANDARIN HOUSE** A respectable and frequently replenished lunch and dinner buffet is the main attraction here. Popular items include General Tso's chicken and above-average egg rolls. *8929 N. Lamar, 837-6361 $$*

JAPANESE: **MIDORI** Given its location, you'd expect lots of lunch traffic, especially considering the bargain lunch specials. A nice array of entrée choices is available for dinner and takeout. *13435 Hwy. 183 N., 257-1411 $$$*

PIZZA: **OASIS PIZZA** Start with crumbled feta, biting radish slices, and parsley garnishing a basket of hot flatbread. Kebob plates are another option, with tender meats and lightly charred vegetables. *14735 Bratton #105, 251-5777 $*

JAPANESE: **ORIGAMI** Origami is considered one of the top five sushi bars in the area. It's known for its expansive selection of rolls, and the sashimi and sushi menus cover every conceivable want. *110 N. I-35 Ste. 200-B, 238-6522 $$$*

BARBECUE: **POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE** We swear by the moist and delicious pork loin and slices of smoked turkey breast, and the homemade hot sausage wraps are both cheap and addictive. So-so cobbler but very good banana pudding. *9828 Great Hills Trail, 338-1990 $*

ITALIAN: **ROMANO'S MACARONI GRILL** Always consistent and usually crowded, this eclectic Italian restaurant chain offers plenty of pastas and a lively atmosphere. This restaurant is also particularly kid-friendly. *9828 Great Hills Trail, 795-0460 $$*

STEAKHOUSE: **SALTGRASS STEAK HOUSE** The casual, noisy atmosphere makes this an appropriate family steak house. The Denny's-esque menu also offers foods other than steaks, most of which have been heavily breaded, fried, and smothered in cheese. *2300 N. I-35, 238-0091 $$*

VIETNAMESE: **SEA DRAGON** They have a four-page menu loaded with choices, and they're especially heavy on the spicy and the seafood specialties. The portions are big, and the service is fast and efficient. *8776-B Research, 451-5051 $*

CHINESE: **SUPER CHINA** The old China Garden location still offers spiced-up standards that leave you red-faced and satisfied. They also have a daily lunch buffet. *11657 Research, 527-8888 $$*

NORTH CENTRAL

TEX-MEX: **ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA** There's a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satellite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience here, but staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate. *7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070 $$*

MIDDLE EASTERN: **ARARAT** This popular temple of Middle Eastern cuisine oozes with atmosphere that is midway between a yurt and a Hollywood film set. *111 E. North Loop, 419-1692 $$*

BURGER JOINT: **BURGER TEX** Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. *5420 Airport, 453-8772 $*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **DOLCE VITA INTERNATIONAL BAR** Offers a delicious assortment of handmade Italian ice creams and fruit sorbets, along with a variety of coffee drinks, spirits, and cordials. *4222 Duval, 323-2686 $*

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

continued on p.58

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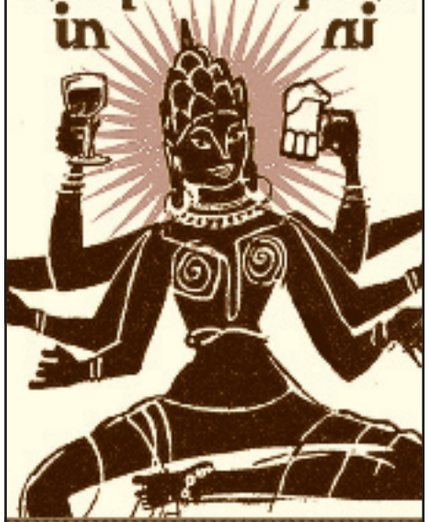
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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.56

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **LEO'S TASTY WINGS** If a variety of wings turns your head, this is the place to stop. The Angus beef burgers and fried fish will get your attention as well. *5111 Airport, 377-3677 $*

ITALIAN: **RIVER CITY PIZZA COMPANY** Offers pizza lovers more than 40 ingredients for mixing and matching to make the perfect pizza. Only open for dinner. *1600 W. 35th, 419-1900 $$*

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

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

SOUTH

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **BROKEN SPOKE** When you need your Lone Star cold, your chicken-fried steak hot, and the ghost of Ernest Tubb on your shoulder, the Spoke is it. *3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189 $$*

TEX-MEX: **HABANERO MEXICAN CAFE** Fans of Dos Hermanos: The restaurant with the new name on the same site is actually a spin-off. The recipes, friendly atmosphere, and kind service stay all in the family. *501 W. Oltorf, 416-0443 $*

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, 899-2700 $$*

TEX-MEX: **JOVITA'S** Part community center, part restaurant, part music venue, and all fun. Honest Tex-Mex and ice-cold beer. Check out Cornell Hurd on Thursdays. *1619 S. First, 447-7825 $$*

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, 899-8525 $$*

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

CHINESE: **MARCO POLO RESTAURANT** It lures quality-lovers in with the promise of a never-ending lunch buffet, but diners are seduced by the surprisingly fresh choices laid out every day. *2200 S. I-35, 445-5563 $$*

TEX-MEX: **MAUDIE'S TOO** In this "Tex-Mex Heaven" they serve breakfast every day and make their margaritas with fresh-squeezed juices. *1212 S. Lamar, 440-8088 $$*

CAJUN/CREOLE: **THE OLD ALLIGATOR GRILL** Built to please with its Cajun-style specialties, generous happy hours, and Real Gator Meat. Plus, no cover charge for live blues. *3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117 $$*

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: **POLVO'S** We're addicted to the tacos. Rolled by hand and packed with tasty fillings (try the al pastor). *2004 S. First, 441-5446 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **RUTA MAYA** This community-oriented coffeehouse has expanded their menu to include falafel, tamales, made-to-order sandwiches and more. Live music daily. *3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637 $*

THAI: **SAWADEE THAILAND** Authentic Thai served in a homey setting. It doesn't get any friendlier, and the food is worthy of repeat visits. Check out their lunch buffet. *5517 Manchaca, 383-9908 $*

BARBECUE: **TED & GARRY'S BAR-B-Q** Try the chicken-fried steak if you're not in the mood for fantastic barbecue. Either way, you can pick up family-sized side orders for a crowd. They have also expanded the breakfast menu. *1815 W. Ben White, 326-9328 $*

UT

JAPANESE: **BANZAI SUSHI & GRILL** Part of a new wave of world-wise fast-food eateries. Tasty, accessible, and inexpensive Japanese food is offered here. *3914 N. Lamar, 323-2151 $$*

BARBECUE: **BONGO BBQ & BEER BARN** Sit-down barbecue and drive-through beer! Life doesn't get much sweeter or more convenient. *1004 W. 24th, 478-7427 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **CAIN & ABEL'S** This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but could soon be the neighborhood hot spot for casual dinners and late-night dining. *2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201 $*

DELIVERY, PIZZA: **GUMBY'S PIZZA** What would college life be without pizza in the wee hours? Stick to the established toppings like pepperoni, onions, and mushrooms, and you'll do fine. *2222 Rio Grande, 472-3278 $$*

MIDDLE EASTERN: **GYRO KING** They carve your spiced meat from one of those rotating triangles. A take on the sandwich beyond the ordinary. *2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 479-6222 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **HOLE IN THE WALL** Music: It's not just for breakfast anymore. Food is finally back on the menu here. Try a burger at one of the picnic tables in back. *2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KERBEY LANE CAFE** Famously fabulous for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. It wears its groovy legacy on its sleeve, with Frisbee-sized pancakes, pastas, black beans, and great coffee. *2606 Guadalupe, 477-5717 $$*

MIDDLE EASTERN: **KISMET CAFE** Serving Mediterranean/American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. *411 W. 24th, 236-1811 $$*

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **PLAYERS** These fry-boys will outfit you with the tastiest of grub on the go. Burgers do go with that shake. *300 W. MLK, 478-9299 $$*

WEST

BARBECUE: **BERT'S BBQ** The chicken still rocks the yard, but with those ribs as an opener, you can't lose. *3563 Far West, 345-2378 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Good food and good prices, and a gorgeous outdoor venue for eating Steak Frites (actually a ribeye and french fries) under the big oak. *12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648 $$*

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

PIZZA: **ROUNDERS PIZZERIA** Their pies are hand-tossed into a thin crust and baked until crispy. Fresh salads, made-to-order calzones, and an abundance of available ingredients are sure to please. *1203 W. Sixth, 477-0404 $*

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AFS TEXAS DOCUMENTARY TOUR: Heather MacDonald's 'Been Rich All My Life'

Been Rich All My Life is the spirit-lifting, toe-tapping tale of the Silver Belles, five former Apollo Theater and Cotton Club chorus dancers of the Harlem Renaissance era who, well, just gotta dance … and, so, they still do, even though the youngest is 84 and the oldest was 96.

Sure, the taps had to go, removed from the shoes years ago – "We don't want to be breakin' nothing; no tellin' how long it'll take to heal, so we've just sacrificed the noise for the muggin'," quips Marion Coles, one of the gals – but, believe it, their muggin' more than makes up for any silence from below. For anyone who dreads going quietly into that dark night, Heather MacDonald's *(Ballot Measure 9)* film will cause you to rethink the inevitability of that scenario. The message here is if you've got a driving passion and the requisite sass, you'll survive the broken bones, pacemakers, even bouts with cancer. For the Silver Belles, the journey has been a Shim-Sham Shimmying blast, as we see from the archival Cotton Club footage of the Cab Calloway, Jimmie Lunceford, and Duke Ellington era of the Thirties and Forties and all that fabulous honky-tonk, big band, and bebop music.

Been Rich All My Life
Heather MacDonald in attendance
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7pm
Alamo Drafthouse Downtown
Admission: www.austinfilm.org

Of course, the ride was not always bump-free. In the old Cotton Club days, where the show and the waiters were black and the audience white, the pay was pathetic. At one point, 16 mad-as-hell chorus girls unionized and shut down the Apollo, holding out until management agreed to pay more for their brutal schedules, including time spent in rehearsal. During the war, the girls went on the first black USO tour but remarkably still had to abide segregated facilities; even at Fort Bliss, the restaurant and restrooms were "whites only." Then, of course, there was the forced change in career directions at that time when chorus girls were no longer in vogue and employable.

While the Silver Belles were keen to have MacDonald make their film, there were production challenges. Mainly, MacDonald recalls, "dealing with six very strong, stubborn, independent, opinionated, fierce women, too long on the Earth to do anything they didn't feel like doing at that minute – and who was to argue with that earned privilege? If you're 89 years old, and you don't feel like doing an interview on a particular day, it doesn't much matter that the crew is waiting, the equipment is rented, and the lights are set. There was no cajoling or convincing of my point of view. I had to respect all their wishes and give them that respect. And of course, this very same ferocity is what made them such great subjects."

The five Silver Belles have been performing together since 1985, but, sadly, their collective spunk and sass can only carry them so far. When Cleo is temporarily sidelined by a broken hip, she can move her feet to the beat in her wheelchair while the others simply "dance bigger to cover her space on stage," but, well, at some point, the music has to stop, as it does for the legendary Belles organizer and mentor, the 96-year-old Bertye Lou Wood. Still, it's hard to avoid the feeling, watching the hootin' and hollerin' at Bertye's memorial service, that even for her, this will entail anything but a short intermission.

– *Anne S. Lewis*

DVD WATCH

METHADONIA

HBO Documentary Films, $24.95

"By the time someone has gone from heroin to speedballs, methadone, and prescription drugs, the magic is over. The fantasy now is what other people might call a routine day."

Even for someone who has never snorted, injected, smoked, puffed, or popped, one look through director Michel Negroponte's camera as it scans a group of middle-aged recovering drug addicts at the New York Center for Addiction Treatment Services, and it's easy to imagine the fantasy as they feel it. For the next 18 months, this documentary follows the members of this group as they undergo methadone treatment, chasing after dreams of warm houses to come home to, children to look after, and a mental life free of visions, voices, and fog.

Unlike the wag-a-finger-at-you dramas that portray the obvious regarding drug addiction (e.g., *Requiem for a Dream*, *Spun*), *Methadonia* instead spends its time outlining the inherent flaws of legal methadone treatments for opiate addiction.

Negroponte profiles eight addicts, of various stages of recovery and relapse, and studies their experiences living in "methadonia," an in-between stage where relapse threatens constantly and innovative addicts have learned how to simulate an authentic heroin high by mixing methadone with benzodiazepines ("benzos"), a class of drugs given to recovering addicts to treat other symptoms of addiction such as anxiety, insomnia, and voices. When popped in large doses with methadone, these benzos, which include Xanax, Klonopin, and Valium, produce a high that removes the "boring" nature of methadone from treatment and helps addicts remain addicts. Negroponte explores his subject objectively, providing intimate close-ups with the patients and their inconclusive stories, all the while administering a fade-in/fade-out shooting technique comparable to the wayward nature of methadonia.

A year after the film's original release, *Methadonia*'s DVD offers worthwhile special features, including two shorts: one on the general subject of addiction and methadone and the other a sequence of follow-ups on the eight profiled characters, as well as myriad sources and Web links for addiction and treatment services. – *Sofia Resnick*

ALSO OUT NOW

The Education of Shelby Knox: Sex Lies & Education **(InCite Pictures, $26.95):** An Audience Award winner at South by Southwest in 2005 and receiving much acclaim elsewhere, this documentary details the story of the 15-year-old who campaigns for sex education in Lubbock high schools, stirring trouble with her conservative Baptist neighborhood along the way.

I'll Sing for You **(Les Films du Paradoxe, $29.95):** Beautifully shot documentary on Boubacar Traoré, the legendary Malian political musician who has long been off the radar. His music and message are remembered through an old recording found by a music producer.

TIGER WOODS PGA TOUR 07

EA Sports
$59.99

This year's *Tiger* achieves EA Sports' goals like no game before it. When I say this, however, I'm assuming that EA Sports' ultimate goal is to destroy my marriage.

In a brilliant move to trick me into playing this game with my wife, this year's model includes more multiplayer options than ever before. In addition to the usual tournaments, skins games, and Tiger Challenges you find in online and single-player modes, *Tiger 07* offers several home-wrecking games apparently designed by divorce lawyers. The new One Ball mode requires you and your life partner to alternate shots on the same ball, pitting you in a hateful struggle to land the love of your life in a sand trap, so you can be the first to sink the putt.

Set the TiVo to record your upcoming appearance on *Cops*, because it's time for Battle Golf. Win a hole, and remove a club from your opponent's bag – this is where strategy comes in, because you have to weigh the advantages of taking your opponent's best clubs against your lack of a prenuptial agreement. "Take that, honey! Good luck playing this par 5 without your driver! I'll go pack my things."

And, take it from me, it's not a good idea to use the character creator's uglier options – crow's feet, laugh lines, and liver spots – to create a custom golfer named Babycakes in 2047. Try that, and you'll be playing One Ball mode for the rest of your life.

★★★½ – *Jeremy Martin*

web extra What do you do with all that newly acquired free time? Check out our gift guide to sports games at **austinchronicle.com/webextra**, and play the field. For more sports coverage, see our Sports Blog at **austinchronicle.com/sports**.

Austin Films Bite Into Sundance

The Sundance Film Festival's Texas connection continues this year with **Laura Dunn**'s *The Unforeseen*, naughty Austin-shot *Teeth*, and former Austinite **George Ratliff**'s *Joshua*.

Dunn counts **Terrence Malick** and **Robert Redford** as executive producers for her documentary, which is one of 24 films that will screen under the Spectrum section. She describes it as an "Austin growth wars story" starring developer Gary Bradley, Barton Springs, and the Edwards Aquifer. The University of Texas MFA film grad also made *Green,* a 2000 doc that looked at environmental racism along the mighty Mississippi.

Meanwhile, writer/director **Mitchell Lichtenstein**'s coming-of-age horror flick, *Teeth*, enters Sundance's dramatic competition after a controversial shoot in Austin this past spring. The plot stems from where teeth are located on a young female character. Need I say more? If so, see **www.teethmovie.com**.

Most folks know Ratliff from his 2001 documentary, *Hell House*, about an anti-Halloween event held by a church in Cedar Hill, just outside of Dallas. *Joshua* – with *Teeth*, among 16 out of 996 films chosen for dramatic competition – is a psychological thriller.

Meanwhile, **Adam Rifkin**'s *Homo Erectus*, the caveman comedy from the University of Texas film arm Burnt Orange Productions, will have its world premiere at Slamdance. – *Joe O'Connell*

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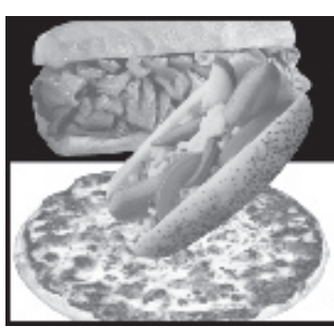

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Desk SET

The Austin School of Film's inaugural class – equipped with cameras, computers, and expert instruction – wades into a sea of possibility

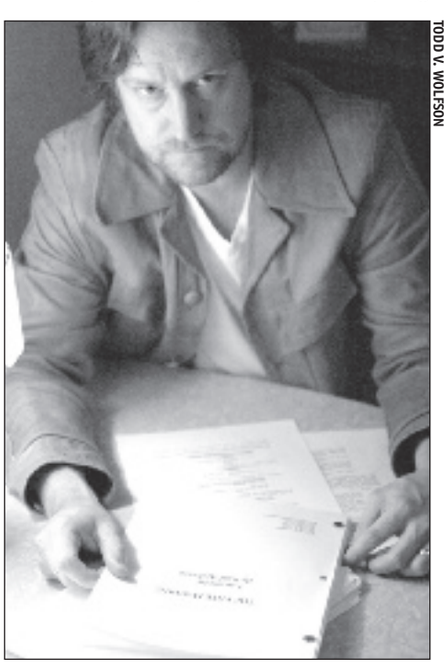
BY MARC SAVLOV

Front row (l-r): Ryan Summersett, Ashley Potts, Javier Bonafont, Anne Goetzmann Kelley, Harrison Cole, Arron Maybry. Back row: Tiger Darrow, Gavin Cantrell, Nathan Brockett, Amanda Mandelstein, Ariell Hunter, Danny Catlow, Al Foote. Not pictured: Loralei Linklater and Katy Potts.

TODD V. WOLFSON

Tiger Darrow has the eye. Amanda Mandelstein has the wit. Ryan Summersett has the action. And they all have the nascent cinematic chops of filmmakers far beyond their years ... which are 14, 16, and 16, respectively. Someday, after they thank the Academy and their families and their managers and their agents, they'll also have to acknowledge Austin's new School of Film & Media Arts Center. Alongside the likes of Seattle's 911 Media Arts Center and San Francisco's Bay Area Video Coalition, it's one of a handful of community-based nonprofit media-studies centers catering to the fertile, febrile minds of a generation of young people.

It shouldn't come as a shock, but watching the short films these kids have helmed as part of their coursework at ASF – the inspired location work, frantic use of physical movement, and downright sublime color palettes – it does. As the first generation born and raised into a world dominated by the Internet, digital video, and enough microniche programming to blow even Philip K. Dick's frazzled neurons (were they not already blown), these are young people who burst out of the film gate already twice as instinctually cinema-savvy as any of their teenage forebears. It's as though they had a womb with a view of plasma monitors to match.



TODD V. WOLFSON

There's more going on over at the ASF's 501 block location than simple kiducation, however. The outfit that began life in 1996 as the Cinemaker Co-op and then hybridized itself over the past decade by adapting and expanding its film-centric services from simple small-gauge Super-8 minifests (Cinemaker) to youth training (via the Center for Young Cinema) and from there to full-fledged community multimedia resource (as the Motion Media Arts Center) is now all grownup and sporting a high tech gloss that belies its scrappy underground beginnings. It's the only nonprofit organization in the Southwest that offers film and media training for both kids and adults, customized digital-media training taught by Apple-certified teachers, and courses for all ages ranging from acting, Spanish-language filmmaking, workshops on the vagaries of documentary and Super-8, screenwriting courses, and even open-screen nights where anyone can bring in anything they've shot to show before an appreciative audience, so long as it's less than 15 minutes. Now *that's* good and good for you.

"Everybody who teaches here – actors, directors, animators – is also doing what they teach."

– Karl Anderson

But we'll get to all of that in a bit.

□

In the beginning, there was the Cinemaker Co-op. And it was righteous.

Founded in 1996 by former Austin Film Society staffer Kris DeForest and then-roommate and international situationist-cum-experimental filmmaker Barna Kantor, Cinemaker's original mission was to serve, promote, and screen short works by Austin's small-gauge filmmaking community. Cinemaker still exists as part of the ASF, but back then, and throughout its decadelong history, Kantor and his revolving band of Super-8 cineastes provided a window onto the ultimate flip-side Hollywood: small films shot on tiny reels of fat-grained minifilm by unknown independent outsider artists and screened in batches of 10 or more at semiquarterly microfestivals in dimly lit, local anti-venues.

The roster of Cinemaker conspirators from those early years now reads like a who's who of Austin indie filmmakers. Bob Ray, Kat Candler, Lee Daniel, Deb Lewis, and Luke Savisky, among countless others, formed a free-floating focal point for the Austin artists' longtime love affair with all things intentionally underlit and overly outrageous. It was a spit in the eye, a kick in the ass, and a 24-frames-per-second DIY post-punk party every time Cinemaker convened, first at the ArtPlex (very conveniently located across from the Dog & Duck Pub) and then in the media-happy environs of the 501 block.

1999 saw founder Kantor stretching his creative muscles via the creation of instantly successful Cinemaker offshoot the Center for Young Cinema, which, after the move to 501, began teaching kids under 18 how to write, shoot, edit, and even score their own Super-8 masterpieces. The kudos and awards began to roll in, with Cinemaker later nabbing the heartfelt D. Montgomery Award at *Slacker*'s 10-year reunion and a brace of festival prize and nods going to, among other CYC alumni, *Dear Pillow*'s Rusty Kelley, whose mom, Anne Goetzmann Kelley, arrived in 2001 and eventually, along with Austin Museum of Art alumna Erica Shamaly, took over the reins from Kantor and rechristened the now officially nonprofit designated Cinemaker as the Motion Media Arts Center.

Nonprofit community services like the MMAC, however, can be dodgy financial affairs, and so when Goetzmann Kelley and Shamaly were invited, in the spring of 2006, to San Francisco by the Bay Area Video Coalition in hopes of streamlining their clunky business model, they readily accepted the invitation. As Goetzmann Kelley recalls, "They literally said, 'Look, we'll show you everything you need to do in order to bring MMAC to a whole new level. We want to help you survive.' And they showed us that they were successful in what they were doing because they were offering these immersive classes in Apple and Avid software programs taught by officially certified users and craftspeople who, essentially, knew exactly how to use these filmmaking programs to the absolute best advantage. Professionals as opposed to hobbyists."

THE PROSPECTUS

Free introductory seminars will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, 10am-noon

Online registration:
www.austinfilmschool.com

Online ASF/Google calendar:
www.austinfilmschool.org/dmt-schedule.htm

MEMBERSHIP

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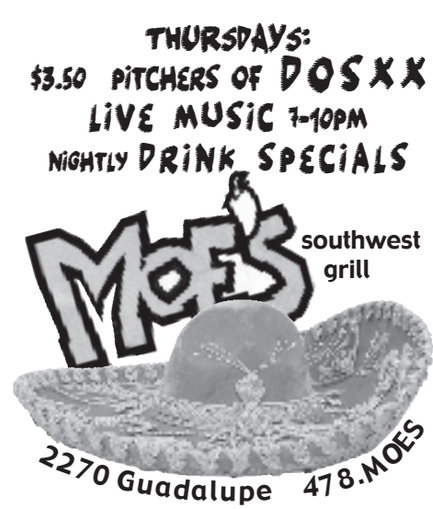
Advice taken to heart, Goetzmann Kelley and Shamaly came home, lined up financial backers (including heavy hitters such as Frost Bank and Kodak), got Apple on the phone, brought in a wealth of new instructors pulled straight from the ranks of the Austin film community, and almost overnight transformed the struggling MMAC into the Austin School of Film & Media Arts, sans the shepherdship of Kantor but with a renewed mission and a thoroughly revitalized (and suddenly tech-rich) base of operations at the 501.

□

Located on the southeast corner of Fifth and I-35, the ASF still bears the "Motion" logo above its entrance, although the entrance itself has moved a couple of steps to the left. Big deal. Once inside the building, however, everything is different. So much so that if you haven't been inside in a while, you'll be forgiven for thinking the former MMAC's semidingy, ill-lit, but altogether scrappy environs have been removed and replaced, à la PKD, by some futuristic but benevolent association of digital film-heads.

Blazing new Apple workstations loaded with the latest digital-editing programs line an upstairs classroom, with the common area below now dominated by an inspiring triptych of hand-painted B-movie one-sheets (including indie godhead Roger Corman's *Attack of the Crab Monsters*) and a mammoth Sony plasma monitor. Compared to the scruffy panache of Cinemaker and the MMAC, it all looks suspiciously professional, with a teaching roster to match: directors Candler, Ray, and Jacob Vaughan are all offering their skills, as are actor Dana Wheeler-Nicholson, animator Dominic Vitucci, and actor/director Karl Anderson, who explains the unique nature of the ASF's classes by noting, "Everybody who teaches here – actors, directors, animators – is also *doing* what they teach."

continued on p.64



In Development

From Cinemaker to the Austin School of Film

1996: Cinemaker Co-op founded by Kris DeForest and Barna Kantor as a way to promote the small-gauge filmmaking community.
• First housed in the ArtPlex, 1705 Guadalupe. Screenings held at the Ritz Lounge, Sixth Street.
• Early luminaries include Luke Savisky, Gonzo Gonzales, Deb Lewis, Jen Proctor, Shannon Owens, Bill Daniel, Lee Daniel, Bob Ray.
• Elizabeth Peters of AFS says, "It's kind of like the karaoke of independent film."

1997: Association with Cinematexas, SXSW begins.
• December screening, Attack of the 50-Foot Reel.

1998: July screening the Texas Super 8 Massacre, comprising 19 films with live score by Golden Arm Trio. Held at Blondie's Skate Shop.
• August screening, Exquisite Corpse, modeled on the poetry-writing exercise.

1999: Cinemaker membership +/- 200.
• Kantor's punk rock tweener protégés Rusty Kelley and Duncan Knappen win the Creative Excellence Award at the National Children's Film Festival for the Cinemaker-produced short "Toy Car." HBO Family's *30 by 30* interviews the pair. "Toy Car" also takes first prize, elementary category, at the Austin Children's Museum's Youth Film Festival.
• Barna Kantor founds the Center for Young Cinema. The school provides low-gauge film and video production classes, educational resources, and exhibition opportunities for students younger than 18.

2000: CYC's first Loud and Clear Film Festival for Children held.
• Cinemaker Co-op's 8 the Hard Way minifestival held.

2001: Anne Goetzmann Kelley, Debra Dennett officially come onboard at CYC.
• Rusty Kelley and Duncan Knappen's CYC/Cinemaker-produced short "French Restaurant" airs on HBO Family's *30 by 30*. Of the hoopla, Rusty says, "My teachers are like, 'This is going to mess up finals.'"
• Second annual D. Montgomery Award presented to Cinemaker Co-op at *Slacker* 10-year reunion, Paramount Theatre.

2002: Austin Cinemaker Co-op Southwest U.S. Tour (January-August 2002).

2003:

Motion Media Arts Center, "Dedicated to the students' vision without pretense or censor," forms in May at the 501 Block, Fifth and I-35, combining Cinemaker Co-op and the Center for Young Cinema. Kantor exits. Austin Museum of Art's Erica Shamaly enters as executive director. Anne Goetzmann Kelley is education director; Tim Wojcik is curriculum and technology director.
• Kantor declares, "Narrative is dead!" World untroubled. Kantor attempts to form Texas Institute for Media Education, thinks better of it, exits to pursue graduate degree, later marries longtime filmmaking partner Mireille Fornengo.
• Cinemaker Co-op provides Kickoff Trailers for SXSW Film Festival.

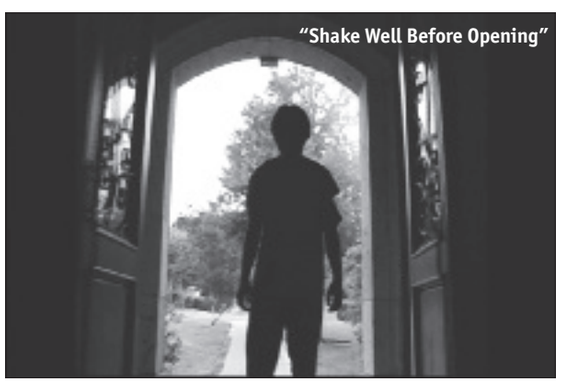
2006: Austin School of Film & Media Arts Center forms, incorporating Cinemaker, CYC, under corporate MMAC umbrella.

What, exactly, they're teaching goes straight to the heart of what a vital film community needs: instruction in the basics of film and acting for kids under 18, via the ASF's Young Cinema program, and digital-media training in industry standard programs like Final Cut Pro and DVD Studio Pro for both adults and kids. It's literally an all-inclusive mini-film-school, with adults finessing their digital skills via the school's curriculum of five-day to single-day hyperintensive workshops (all of them officially sanctioned by Apple) and children being taught the basics of filmmaking in a kid-friendly, supportive environment by pros who clearly want to make a difference.

□

That difference is nowhere more evident than in the finished short films of Darrow, Mandelstein, and Summersett, all of whom are currently enrolled in the ASF's Youth Feature Film Project & Masters class, which will have them and roughly 25 other students write, cast, shoot, and edit their own feature-length project. So far, they're still working up a title and script, but their passion and drive – and those are words that come up a lot when discussing the kids of the ASF – are obvious in both their work to date and how they view the ASF.

"Red Light, Green Light"


"Shake Well Before Opening"

"MP3"

Mandelstein, who refers to her time at ASF as "really my first film experience" before making sure I realize that "Michel Gondry is God," has made a perfect example of this in her summer-shorts-produced film, "Red Light, Green Light." A modern take on the ancient-but-no-less-truism "He who hesitates is lost," it uses the heliotropic burr and whine of summertime cicada action to underscore a comic/tragic meditation on – no kidding – the universality of existential ennui. In Clarksville, no less. Barna Kantor would be proud.

At 14, Darrow is already a veteran actor, having appeared in Vaughan's *The Cassidy Kids*, Robert Rodriguez's *The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl 3-D*, as well as lending her vocal talents to ADV animé series *Getbackers* and *Magical Play*.

Darrow's previous credits hardly prepare you for the professional gloss and astonishingly smart visual choices she's made in her short film, a peripatetic romance by the name of "MP3," which boasts a couple of sequences of riotous color that wouldn't look out of place in a Douglas Sirk film.

"Both my parents are actors," explains Darrow, before going on to enumerate her cinematic influences, which not surprisingly include Tim Burton. "But this class is what really got me into the behind-the-scenes stuff. I took the summer-shorts program and just fell in love with working behind the camera."

Darrow's mom, actress Peyton Hayslip, is even more enthusiastic about the ASF than her daughter, noting that Darrow's self-assurance has increased exponentially since she's moved from in front of the camera to behind the viewfinder.

"Tiger picked up her first camera when she was 7, on the set of the film *Yorick* out at Austin Studios," Hayslip explains. "I thought that was great, but what I didn't expect was what came out of that experience, which was a new sense of confidence on Tiger's part. Before that she had been pretty quiet and was good at doing what she was told, which is why she's easy to direct, but she wasn't as good at standing up for her own ideas quite as much. Being in the

class at ASF has really helped her to speak up and say, 'I want to do this idea; this is what it means to *me*.'"

Summersett's mother, Melody, echoes the sentiment: "To actually see [Ryan] there directing the actors and being in charge of shooting a short film that he came up with was a whole new level. He's passionate about all the different aspects of the craft of filmmaking, directing, editing, the camerawork, all of it, and, you know, here he can indulge that passion in a like-minded group.

Summersett's first ASF-produced short, "Shake Well Before Opening," fairly screams proto-Spielberg, loaded as it is with action set-pieces; a smart, funny fight sequence that riffs on *Star Wars* and *Kung Fu Hustle*'s acrobatic duels (replacing light sabers with lacrosse sticks); and a score that complements the onscreen drama in ways most young filmmakers likely wouldn't have dreamed of.

Asked what to him is the most unique aspect of the ASF program, Summersett says, "If you just want to ask one stupid question that you know no one else is going to be able to ask, you just ask, and they'll give you an immediate response. And they've got so many more answers than you would ever think of having, alternative answers, too, suggestions for different ways of doing things. They treat you like a young filmmaker instead of a kid."

That's really what it's all about, isn't it? Adult or kid, access to the kind of information you need to master almost any aspect of film and digital media is key, and finding that key, regardless of age, in one community-oriented spot like Cinemaker, the MMAC, or, now, the ASF is both a rare and, in the words of all three kids, "very cool" opportunity.

"These kids," says Goetzmann Kelley, "they just want to get there. They really want to learn the skills to get it done, and they all have this energy to do it. Plus, these are kids who usually wouldn't belong to clubs or organizations. This *is* their club, their hangout, what they do when they're not in school."

As Karl Anderson notes, "Ultimately, what we're really doing here, all of us, is raising our own artistic bar, right? The more that we raise it, the more we're going to be able to strive toward artistic greatness in both our own work and the work of the people who come here." ■

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TV EYE

Midlife Geists

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

When **Joss Whedon**'s cult classic *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* went off the air, fans mourned with bittersweet acceptance. The time had come, particularly following the season loaded with all that murky, post-high school angst that left even die-hard fans wondering just what the heck Whedon was getting at. Life after high school stinks? Being an adult is no fun? In my mind, Whedon was trying to take the character to the next level of maturity. The results were not as satisfying as earlier seasons that used high school intrigue as their operating metaphor. Still, when *Buffy* wrapped, viewers were looking for an heir apparent. Finally, I think there is one in the character of Alison Mundy (**Lesley Sharp**, *Vera Drake*, *The Full Monty*) in the new BBC America series *Afterlife*.

No, Alison is not a perky blonde with a fabulous fashion sense. There is no entourage of swell friends or even a gaggle of otherworldly creatures with a predilection for martial arts when annoyed. Alison is not here to save the world. Her purpose is much narrower: to stay sane while she helps those who seek her out. That most of those who need her are dead is what keeps Alison on the outpost of sanity. It's also the thing that keeps her buoyed, knowing that offering a bit of solace to the living, from the dead, is a public service. That all those dead voices keep her up at night and torment her when she least expects or wants to hear them is beside the point. Like it or not, this is her calling. Alison mostly hates it but is resigned to her purpose.

Afterlife

Unlike that other Allison (**Patricia Arquette**), who talks to the dead on *Medium* (NBC), or that pip-squeak ghost wrangler on CBS, *Afterlife*'s Alison is a loner. She keeps a tidy flat, goes grocery shopping, drinks any time of the day or night when she needs to silence the voices, and speaks with childlike reverence when the dead appear to her. This, I think is what Whedon was aiming for in his "dark" *Buffy* season: the idea that having superpowers weighs on your soul like a lifetime of factory work wears down your body.

As Alison, Sharp is seriously haggard in a way U.S. actresses can't be without creating front-page news. Every wilted line in her face shows, and her expressive eyes, heavily lined, give her a hardened look. Alison is Buffy at midlife. Even superheroes age, don't they? And the outcome isn't always dewy. Bodies and temperaments sag, and friends shrink from posses to a handful of dependable pals. In this case, Alison has a friend, albeit a skeptical one, in Robert Bridge (**Andrew Lincoln**, *Love Actually*) a psychology professor. Alison is not much fond of psychologists and others who treat her as a fraud or a freak. So, like Mulder and Scully, Alison and Robert's early alliance is tentative. This is half of what makes the show so interesting: that two people who begrudge each other are nonetheless drawn to each other. The other is that Sharp herself simply demands that you watch her. Maybe it's the accent, because the dialogue is not particularly artful, but Sharp makes it all sound like high drama.

Somber, moody, and stoic, *Afterlife* does not bristle with snappy dialogue garnished with pop culture references. There is no cool band of the week or hunky love interest. Oh, sure, you can still tune into *Supernatural* or *Veronica Mars* for your post-*Buffy* fix. But like it or not, Alison Mundy is what awaits all our superheroes – and us – at midlife. No one said it was pretty. New episodes of *Afterlife* air Thursdays at 8pm on BBC America. Additional air dates and times occur throughout the week. Check local listings.

What else is on?

An upcoming episode of *5 Takes: USA* features Austin. The series sends travelers out with cameras to document their experience of selected cities through film, blogs, and short clips featured online (**www.5takes.com**). The Austin segment airs Saturday, Dec. 9, 10pm on the Travel Channel.

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

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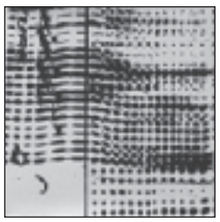

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TCB music news

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

RED ALL OVER

JOHN ANDERSON

Hex Dispensers at Red's Scoot Inn, Nov. 16

Changes are afoot, somewhat, at **Red's Scoot Inn**. The relatively secluded Eastside venue at 1308 E. Fourth was recently bought by the **Longbranch Inn** owners, who take over the lease in January. The stage goes silent after Dec. 14's **Festivus** throwdown with the **White Ghost Shivers** and **Shanghai 5**, but not for long; word is the new owners will continue stocking the Scoot with live music. After Red River hip-hop/dance room **Red 7** was held up at gunpoint this summer, in September the owner turned it over to a group of East Coast transplants who overhauled it into an all-ages, inside/outside DIY venue patterned after clubs back home. "We have to bring in 21-plus crowds once in a while to get the rent paid," says co-manager **Jared Cannon**, "but we can also have 10 bands on a Monday that only bring in a 14-to-19-year-old crowd." (**Redrum**, meanwhile, hosts a **Dimebag Darrell** tribute Friday; hot newcomers **Crash Gallery** play the **Red Eyed Fly** Saturday; and **Peter & the Wolf** mastermind **Red Hunter** will spend next month in Los Angeles recording his new album.) In other real estate news, **KOOP** radio (91.7FM) completes its comeback from last winter's devastating fires this Saturday, when it signs on from new studios at 3823-B Airport Blvd. at 9am. The station plans an open house in January or February "to say thanks," says station manager **Kim McCarson**. And Monday, **Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc.**, the parent company of the **W** boutique-hotel chain, announced it will open a 250-capacity Austin location at **Block 21**, the much-debated parcel of Downtown real estate across from City Hall. The site will also house an expanded **Austin Children's Museum** and 2,000-seat theatre/music venue for ***Austin City Limits***, with ground-breaking and completion dates TBD.

JOHN ANDERSON

HERE COMES THE SUN

Sunny Sweeney is in holiday-shopping hell. The rising Austin country singer's need for a new trailer lock has taken her to the consumer-clogged aisles of **Wal-Mart**. "I was about to kill people," she says from the relative safety of the parking lot. That's about all Sweeney can complain about lately: Her 2006 debut, *Heartbreaker's Hall of Fame*, was picked up by Universal offshoot **Big Machine** this month. The label, also home to chart-topping Austinite **Jack Ingram**, will re-release it – untouched – in March. To this day, Sweeney, a 2001 **Texas State** grad alongside **KVET** regular **Randy Rogers**, swears she doesn't know how the CD wound up in founder **Scott Borchetta**'s Nashville office. "It's like a fairy tale," she says. "He got my CD in a blank envelope, and he doesn't know how he got it." The Longview native, whose East Texas twang seasons **Tanya Tucker**'s "Delta Dawn," **Waylon Jennings**' "Good Hearted Woman," and *Heartbreaker*'s "Lavender Blue" (a duet with pal **Jim Lauderdale**), to name a few, uses the quick wit she honed in local improv troupe **Comedy Sports** to banter with regulars at Burnet Road saloon the **Poodle Dog Lounge**, where her Sunday-night residency of more than two years ends Dec. 17. Dodging the sometimes overenthusiastic dancers has made Sweeney's reflexes equally keen. "One time this chick was drunk, and she almost knocked my teeth out," she says. "Now I'll just push 'em back. It's a full-contact sport."

GIG 'EM

Late-Eighties acoustic UT fave **Twang Twang Shock-a-Boom** reunites for Saturday's **Sustainable Shopper's Ball** by the Sunset Valley Farmers Market and a "secret" midnight show Friday at the **Cactus Cafe**... **American Graveyard** spins yarns from its scruffy self-titled debut Friday at **Room 710**... It's North Vs. South revisited Saturday as **Grand Champeen** storms 710 and **Beerland** serves up a joint **Moonlight Towers/Til We're Blue or Destroy** birthday bash... The **TunaHelpers** host a "psychedelic showcase" with **Rubber Robot** and **Confuzatron** at **Emo's Lounge** Friday... **AUX** releases its fuzz-shrouded debut EP Saturday at the **Hole in the Wall** with **Manikin** and **Crawling With Kings**... **Ray Benson**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, and **Slaid Cleaves** kick off the 2006 **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar** Saturday at the **Austin Music Hall**. See **www.armadillobazaar.com** for a full schedule.

MARY SLEDD

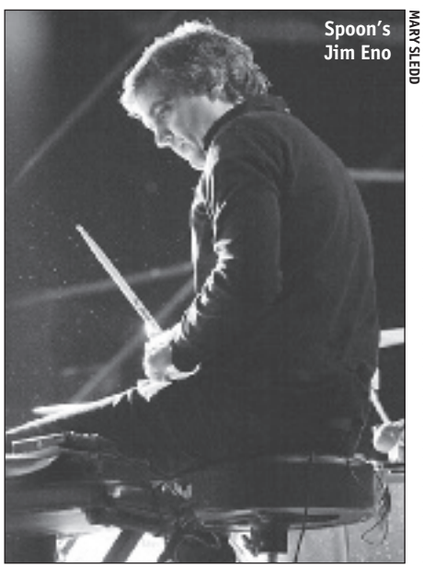
Krum Bums
Dave Tejas

MARY SLEDD

Riverboat Gamblers

MARY SLEDD

Head Circle Jerk
Keith Morris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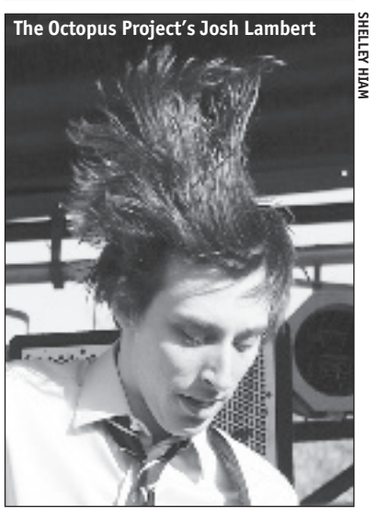
Spoon's Jim Eno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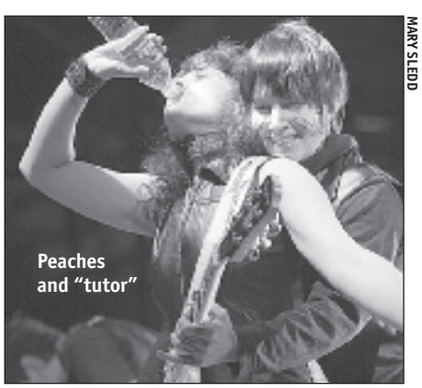
The Octopus Project's Josh Lambert


MARY SLEDD

Peaches and "tutor"

FRIDAY IN THE PARK

The future prospects for Austin's newest outdoor music festival, **Fun Fun Fun Fest**, seem as clear and bright as the weather for its inaugural run last Friday. Between 3,000 and 4,000 people – many of whom, as the **Octopus Project** pointed out, were skipping work and/or school – attended the daylong event at **Waterloo Park**, which nonetheless felt far from full. "The bar's doing great, though," mused organizer/**Emo's** booker **Graham Williams** as indie-stage headliners **Spoon** shuffled through the new "Don't Make Me a Target." The stages' proximity meant it took mere seconds to stroll from the **Black Angels**' warm blanket of creeping doom to the **Riverboat Gamblers**' amped-up antics, but sound bleed-over was minimal: The maelstrom of bottles and bodies whipped up by punk-stage closers **Circle Jerks** was clearly visible, but not audible, from down front at Spoon. A family vibe dominated, as Mohawk-sporting children streaked through the crowd playing tag, teenagers canoodled on park benches and picnic tables, and Spoon frontman **Britt Daniel** and the **Applicators** singer **Sabrina** each acknowledged their moms from the stage. Standouts included the fierce **Iron Maiden**-style metal of Austin's **Iron Age**, fist-pumping punk from locals **Krum Bums** and **Lower Class Brats**, the steamy Southern rawk of Memphis' **Lucero**, and **Quintron & Miss Pussycat**'s Pixy Stix-powered dance party. During **Negative Approach**'s growling set, Williams even found time to stage-dive, a luxury he earned several times over. "I was up at 5:30am for a **KXAN** interview," he said earlier. "It's killing me."

Year of the Squirrel

Ralph White's old, weird Americana

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

On a dreary Wednesday night in October, there are four people inside the Parlor on North Loop, including Ralph White. Patrons walk in for pizza, a Lone Star or two, and then continue on their way. A dazed man with a backpack wanders in, then out, then in again, clutching a copy of the local *Fugitive Post*.

Next to the entrance, White sits oblivious, eyes closed, his hat tossed down in front of him as a tip jar. There's a song about murder. The next one's about death. This one's about conspiracies. There are Syd Barrett covers, "Terrapin" and "Long Gone," taken down from hallucinatory heights on the banjo to be baptized in the Delta. Later, he sings of "sycamore leaves and mustang vine," and it rolls off his tongue so languidly it's almost obscene.

This is the fight or flight experience of a performance by Ralph White, a fugitive from old, weird America. He certainly channels the past, but his path of least resistance has been well-traveled by the ghosts of his craft: Bill Monroe, Dock Boggs, Charlie Bowman. He fiddles with traditional Cajun band the Gulf Coast Playboys. He did time with Austin's premier bluegrass punks the Bad Livers. He played fiddle and accordion in traditional French/Cajun group Bourée Texane. He cites religion upon witnessing a Lightnin' Hopkins show as a child but just as hungrily devours African ostinatos and traditional mountain songs. Years ago, an ethnomusicologist friend turned him on to tapes of African music featuring mbira and kalimba, two instruments White now plays live.

"I wanted to play something original like that stuff but didn't want to become what I called an '-oid' – someone who plays one type of music and gets it down really good," White explains in a pleasant Texas twang. "For some reason the music I play is kind of crooked, as far as playing guitar chords. I'm not very taught as a musician, and at first I was kind of embarrassed of it being like that, but now I don't try to stop it from happening. I like the idea of learning something wrong and letting it evolve into something different. A lot of my music is just me playing a melody I couldn't figure out."

The 54-year-old often has a difficult time putting his music into words, and perhaps it's always been that way. The Bad Livers' Monday night Saxon Pub residency became legendary, whether for their covers (notably Iggy Pop's "Lust for Life") or manic energy, but their sound was still as hard to pin down as a buttered-up hog. His time as a Liver turned White on to a lot of punk stuff, as did members of the Butthole Surfers, who took notice of the band – banjo player Danny Barnes and stand-up bassist Mark Rubin being the other two-thirds of the trio – and took them on tour in 1991. Their Paul Leary-produced *Delusions of Banjer* CD was released in 1992 on Touch and Go, and their first cassette, a collection of gospel songs called *Dust on the Bible*, was re-released in 1994. Lots of touring ensued, and *Hogs on the Highway* would be the fiddler's last Livers album. Life on the road, at least in this form, was not his bag.

When White left the Livers in '96, he began toying with a solo career. Since 1999, he's amassed an impressive collection of traditional instruments and has been "obsessively" playing banjo and kalimba, a small, thumb-plucked instrument. Live, he lays down a mixture of traditional bluegrass, Irish, African, Scottish, and original tunes. And there's always the occasional Syd Barrett cover. In the process of gigging, White has gathered local fans from Honky and Rubble to Weird Weeds, Peter & the Wolf, and Shawn David McMillen, bridging the gap between traditional and experimental, infusing old with new. Of course, he's probably destined to be overlooked in his day and rediscovered by some bearded, eccentric musician or record junkie 20 years from now. White, however, is less analytical about it: "I'm kind of between an old guy and a young guy."

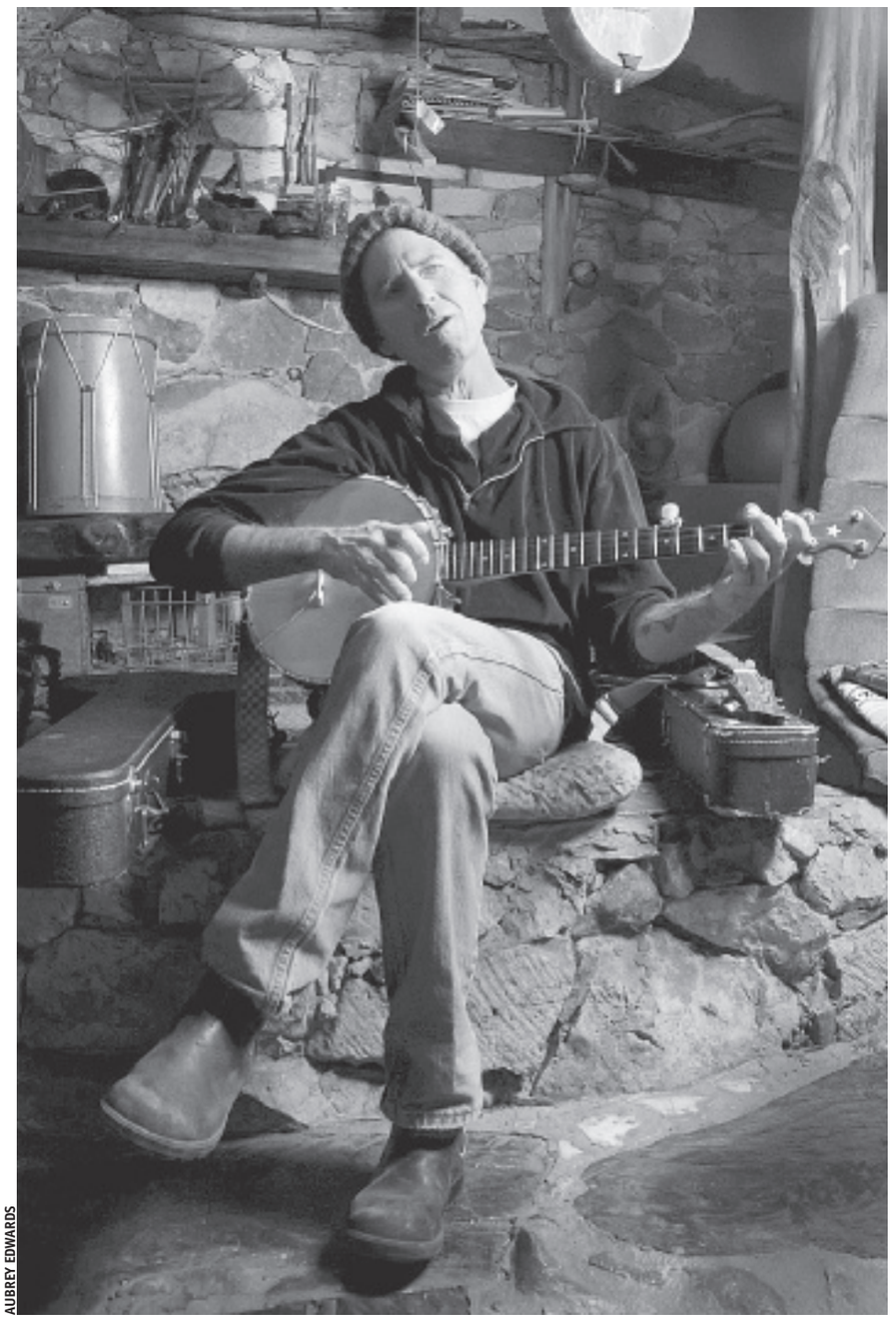
This is the fight or flight experience of a performance by Ralph White, a fugitive from old weird America.

He's the human embodiment of that "I'd Rather Be Fishing" bumper sticker. He's got dirt under his nails and a gracious smile. The lines and creases of his face belong to a man over 50, but the dart of his eye betrays youth. The tattoos on his forearm – a blue heron on his shoulder and a gar (the fish on the cover of his 2002 triumph, *Trash Fish*) – signal something more at work here.

Growing up on the outskirts of Austin in West Lake Hills, he witnessed the creation of MoPac and the overdevelopment of his neighborhood. To hear him tell it, Barton Springs once ran wild with catfish. His father, Ralph White Jr., was an esteemed UT art professor who passed away in 2004. Like many musically inclined youths growing up in the Sixties and Seventies, White didn't care much for high school, really liked Pink Floyd, and dropped lots of acid.

While he has an obvious affinity for the blues, folk, and bluegrass, he doesn't use traditional banjo tunings. His tunings are lower, and as a result, sound haunted. "African slaves living in Arkansas, mixing with Indians – whatever kind of music that was, I would want to explore it," he explains.

In southeastern Hill County, Texas, just northeast of Mount Calm, is the Navasota River. His new LP, *Navasota River Devil Squirrel*, is another exploration in cross-cultural pollination. Recorded "in a frenzy during a heat wave," *Squirrel* traverses death (a cover of "Oh, Death" by Dock Boggs), nature, summer, and three separate songs about that titular rodent, which may actually exist.



AUBREY EDWARDS

"Up until I was a teenager, I used to hunt squirrels," White relates. "When I was in the Bad Livers, Danny Barnes and I decided to revive our childhood. So we went down to the Navasota River with my freshly acquired gun. I saw this squirrel and took a shot at him, and he, like, attacked me. Well, he was really trying to get from one tree to another."

That sort of describes White's outlook. His level of success might not be measurable in sales or show attendance, but the distilled tradition of his music has a generational life span. His 2002 album, *Trash Fish,* was a local gem, achingly bittersweet and dusty, burdened with not being able to "feel at home in this world anymore." Perhaps like his nemesis the squirrel, White feels most comfortable among the mustang vine and sycamore leaves. He seems to have a song about every kind of blues: Natives coming back from the dead and lamenting oil refineries on their land? Yes. A song about rain falling on his easy chair? Check. Of course, there's some dirty dealing, too. On "Wild Hog in These Woods," White's yelp reveals that hog, well, he don't "run or jump so good." He chases that damn hog into his den, and what does he find? "The bones of 13 men." "Crooked blues," sure, but there's also something pure and absolute.

"Ralph embodies everything I love about music and none of the characteristics valued by the commercial music industry," says Weird Weeds drummer Nick Hennies. "He's someone who realizes the music in his head with expertise, sincerity, and dignity, with a complete disregard for current trends."

"There are a lot of narrow-minded, capitalistic ideas controlling [music] in a way," White says. "I can't get too wrapped up in that, though. I heard Jonathan Richman in a radio

continued on p.72

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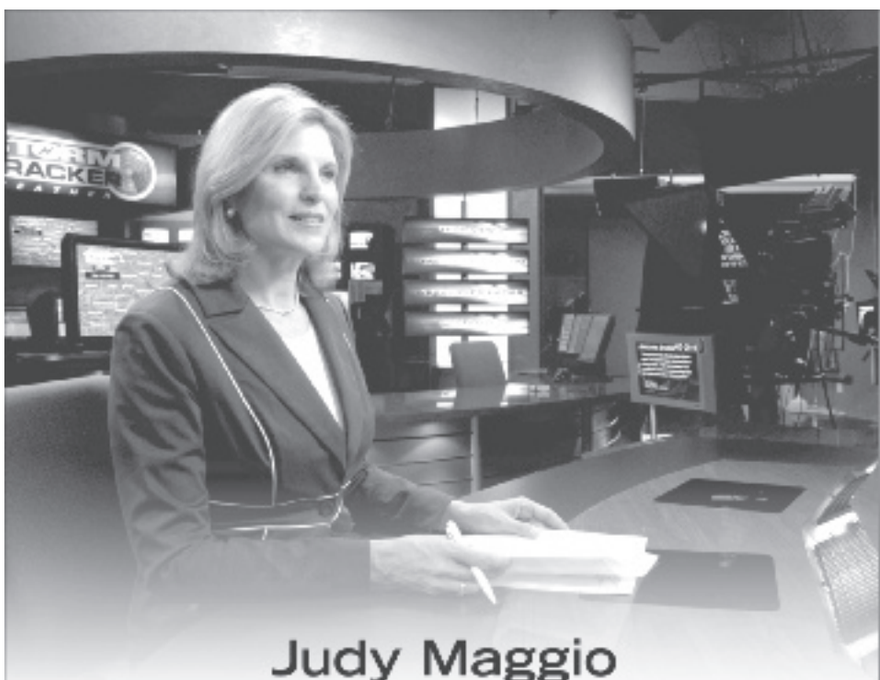

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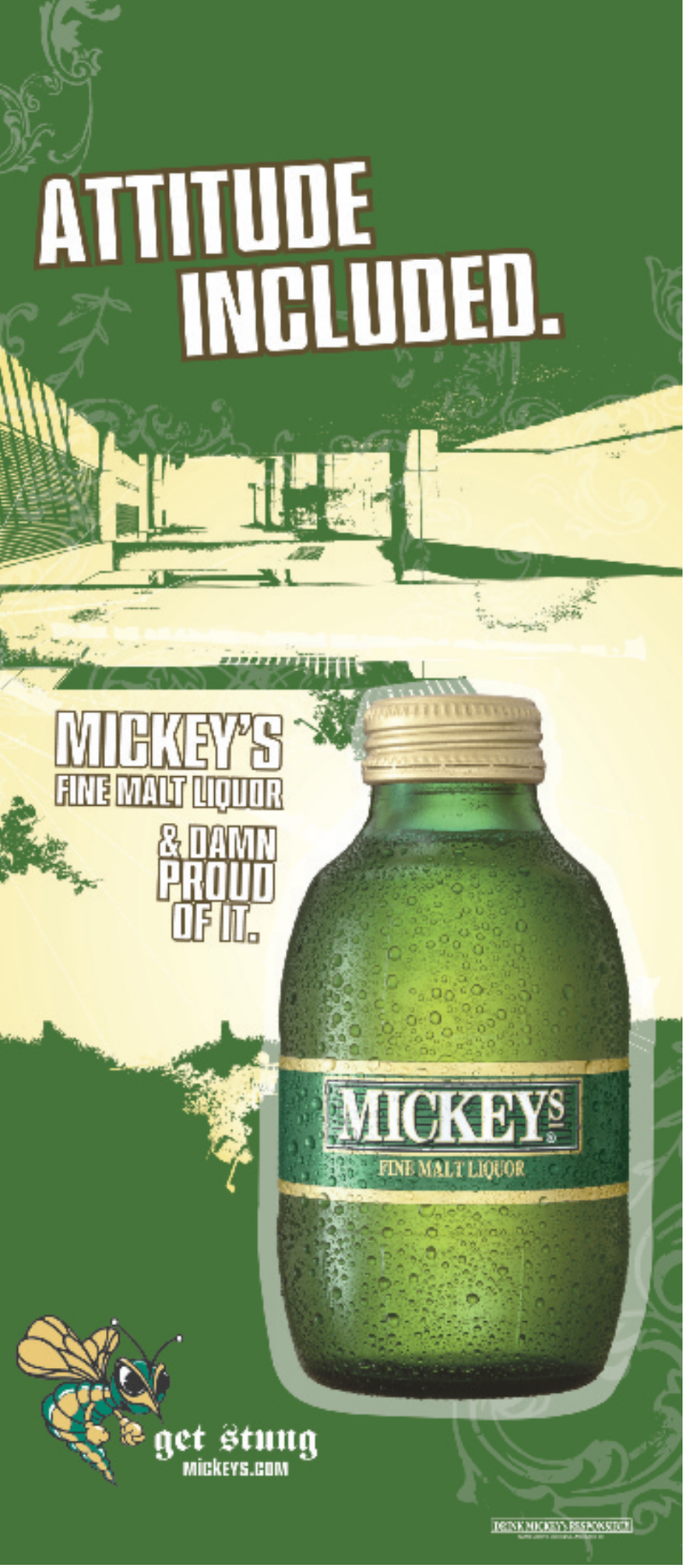

RALPH WHITE

Navasota River Devil Squirrel

Non-traditional traditional? Indo-African mountain songs? Rocking-chair string ephemera? What longtime Austinite and former Bad Liver Ralph White puts on albums and onstage is so mind-boggling and vast, it forces those of us in the description business down a treacherous path. His five-string fretless banjos and African kalimbas – resonating thumb pianos – mix with accordion and fiddle to create an Eastern Appalachian sound, but it's much more complicated than that. White's second solo release, *Navasota River Devil Squirrel*, is displacement on disc. It's the culmination of years of experimentation and travel woven into a magic carpet, jetting off hither and fro, crossing continent boundaries and civil wars. Opening traditional "Look Down That Road," transforms into a psychedelic atlas on White's twangy voice and hypnotic kalimba. Originals like instrumental fiddle/accordion romp "Navasota River Devil Squirrel 1 & 2," the vocally distorted "History 1 (Conspiracy Theory)," and eerie closer "Devil Squirrel 3" saddle up alongside early-century fables as though they were long-lost cousins. White's melodies and lyrics scratch the surface of the Old World, leaving just a contemporary hint of now. Therein lies the magic.

★★★

– *Darcie Stevens*

interview say any sort of success you get in life is like icing on the cake. I love to play out. If I don't have any gigs, I wonder sometimes why I'm doing it."

"Ralph's music is pure Ralph," adds Honky bassist Jeff Pinkus. "We all play with ourselves; he just sounds better doin' it. There's something so humble and honest about the way he sounds. He used to 'wish he was a mole in the ground,' but I'm glad there's no hole big enough."

Like his bluegrass forefathers, the country wild and nature are recurring themes in his songs, as his cover of Bascom Lamar Lunsford's "I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground" can attest. White thought he was growing up to be a herpetologist, spurred by his fascination with reptiles, but his day job as a self-employed tree trimmer keeps him in touch with his muse. White built the studio behind his modest South Austin home partially from trees that people paid him to cut down. Inside, wooden banjos, myriad kalimbas, a gourd banjo, cello, accordion, bongos, a turtle shell, various percussion instruments, and his dog, Stella, are splayed around the small room, while a bookshelf hovers over a small bed. The walls are dotted with photos, several of which White took during his African bike ride of 1999.

"It was absolutely wonderful," he says. "I was just gonna go to Zimbabwe and throw my bike on a train from Cape Town. Well, you couldn't take your bicycle on the train. On the map, there looked to be all these dirt roads I could take to Namibia. So I started riding, and I didn't want to stop. I spent a lot of time in wilderness areas where there was nobody. By the time I got to Zimbabwe, I almost wanted to go home. I brought this backpacker's banjo with me so I could learn. Mbiras and kalimbas are everywhere, in the markets, so I would just pick one up and play it, and people would be like, 'Holy shit.'"

Back at the Parlor, this time on a not-so-dreary Thursday night, there are a few more warm bodies, including members of local band Rubble. Again, White's eyes are closed, and his foot taps the floor, matching his dexterous dry bone picking. He plays a frightening version of "All Along the Watchtower," then a song about native Indians. A song about murder follows. To hear the banjo and fiddle, those mythical instruments that invited the devil and God in equal amounts, with White's voice low and dense like Appalachian fog, is a "holy shit" moment. Then his eyes snap open, suddenly aware again, and he asks the young man behind the counter a very pointed question.

"As usual I don't have a watch. What time is it?" ■

Austin Chronicle 2006
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BOX SETS

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★★★★★ Perfect ★★★★ Great ★★★ Good ★★ Mediocre ★ Coaster

WHAT IT IS! FUNKY SOUL AND RARE GROOVES FROM THE VAULTS OF ATLANTIC, ATCO & WARNER BROS. RECORDS

(Rhino)

In a tidy little box approximating the dimensions of a dozen 45s stacked neatly atop one another, the 4-CD *What It Is!* retraces the path of funk leaving its indelible imprint on soul, jazz, and Latin sounds, 1967-77. The rampant and obscure share equal billing as thick, syncopated rhythms lock into an enigmatic pattern, monster stomps by the Bar-Kays, Curtis Mayfield, Aretha Franklin, and Earth, Wind & Fire keeping things familiar, while rarities push this collection into the essential. Unless you're in the market for out-of-print vinyl, many of the mightiest songs compiled here will remain out of contemporary reach. Fringe singles produced during Sly Stone's *There's a Riot Goin' On* watershed appear in the form of "Stanga" by Little Sister and "I'm Just Like You" by 6ix. The Meters crop up all over the place, including contributions to Cyril Neville's "Gossip," Eldridge Holmes' "Pop, Popcorn Children," the Rhine Oaks' "Tampin," Dr. John's "Rite Away," and their own "Chug Chug Chug-a-Lug." As Ananda Shankar and the Mystic Moods prove that wicked funk often originates from the most unlikely of places, artists including Mongo Santamaria, Harlem River Drive, Malo, and Macondo remind us that funk never would have gained its bearings without first being influenced by tropical heat. Extensive liner notes yield valuable insight into the background of musicians otherwise forgotten or hardly acknowledged in the first place. Never letting up in intensity, *What It Is!* is nothing less than a blessing from the funk gods.

★★★★

– *Robert Gabriel*

THE COMPLETE MOTOWN SINGLES

Vol. 6: 1966 **(Motown/Hip-O Select)**

Bound for clutching, Hip-O Select's *The Complete Motown Singles* campaign preserves the boutique series' midpoint in another cherished yearbook of music history. The Supremes modeling red sequins, the Temptations' purple choreography, Smokey Robinson serenading Tammi Terrell: Camelot. By 1966, JFK and Jackie were three years gone, but Kim Weston and Marvin Gaye's "It Takes Two" sets the soar for the latter's forthcoming duet with Terrell on "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Gone is the kitsch, the novelties, save for Monitors' recruitment "Greetings (This Is Uncle Sam)," replaced with Tin Pan Alley heft: the Four Tops' "Reach Out (I'll Be There)," Supremes' "You Keep Me Hangin' On," and Temps' "Ain't Too Proud to Beg." Any 5-CD diary opening with Martha Reeves getting gooey on "My Baby Loves Me" is pure adore. How two mixes of "This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak for You)" went to No. 12 with the Isley Brothers instead of No. 1 with the Supremes begs question, but disc two answers with a "legendary lost" Motown 45: Rick James and Neil Young's Mynah Birds. Dance party three boogaloos with A-sides by the Tops, Vandellas, Miracles, and Pips, while disc four opens on "You Can't Hurry Love" despite Supremes B-side "Remove This Doubt" playing like another A-side. Two parts of Jr. Walker's hot-footed "Money (That's What I Want)" on the final CD sandwich Stevie Wonder's spreading chestnut "A Place in the Sun" and three miracle sides of "Some Day at Christmas." Merry Christmas, baby. **www.hip-oselect.com**.

★★★★

– *Raoul Hernandez*

BEE GEES

The Studio Albums 1967-1968 **(Reprise)**

"Please Read Me"! "I've Gotta Get a Message to You"! Reprise has restored the first three Bee Gees LPs, *1st*, *Horizontal*, and *Idea*, 1967-68, in a 6-CD boxed set featuring the original albums in stereo and mono, plus a full disc each of rare and previously unreleased tracks! Heed my "Words" this "Holiday" season and join the Brothers Gibb in giving the gift that's never "Out of Line." Know what it is "To Love Somebody" by sharing sounds that by any reasonable estimation should've been remastered well before the "Turn of the Century." "Come Some Christmas Eve or Halloween," your "One Minute Woman" will never find this material "Completely Unoriginal" whether in a "Sinking Ship" or "Sitting in the Meadow." Even if you get lost in this Sixties pop psychedelia, "Every Christian Lion Hearted Man Will Show You" how to get "Down to Earth" as "Barker of the U.F.O" croons a "Chocolate Symphony" from "Mrs. Gillespie's Refrigerator" at "Cucumber Castle." Really, it's out of this "World." After the "New York Mining Disaster 1941," the Bee Gees went to "Massachusetts" and with Robert Stigwood layed down *Horizontal*, an album so brilliant, "I Close My Eyes." "I've Got to Learn" to write better, because "In My Own Time," this seemed like a really good "Idea," but "With the Sun in My Eyes" "I Can't See Nobody," and now it appears "I Started a Joke" I couldn't finish. It would be "Such a Shame" not to say "Thank You for Christmas." "Really and Sincerely."

★★★½

– *Taylor Holland*

Gift Guide

THE CLASH

The Singles **(Legacy)**

The fact that "Rock the Casbah" is being used to shill music-compatible cell phones is no reason for Clashistas to abandon hope. Three decades after exploding out of London's tube, the revolutionary English quartet retains its sonic potency; although, if you think that chanting "Rock the Cat Box" is anything less than punk rock apostasy, you're going straight to hell, boy. The 19-CD *Singles* collection is for dyed-in-leather fanatics, featuring 19 career-spanning singles released in the UK, plus bonus tracks, all on digitally enabled (and real) vinyl housed in 7-inch-replica sleeves. Such packaging obviously encourages a fetishistic approach to the music, even if many tracks are collected elsewhere. For newcomers, this approach raises a sticky wicket as there are few fanboys and riot grrrls in this iPod age willing to swap out discs every time the dust settles from yet another stick of Strummer/Jones/Headon/Simonon dynamite. And there's lots of TNT: "White Riot," a live version of "London's Burning," "(White Man) in Hammersmith Palais," a remix of "The Magnificent Seven," and myriad rarities. Meanwhile, between the sleeve art and liner notes representing both musicians and cultural curators such as writer Nick Hornby and director Danny Boyle, graying punks will enjoy a double-dose of nostalgia. As the original sellout Pete Townshend notes: "It makes me feel like I'm 34 again, and Spring is in the cocaine."

★★★

– *Dan Oko*

SUBLIME

Everything Under the Sun **(Geffen)**

Like Kurt Cobain's suicide, the overdose death of Sublime frontman Brad Nowell in May 1996 occurred at the peak of the group's popularity and creativity. The SoCal trio was months away from the release of their Paul Leary-produced third album, which generated three hit singles. In that wake, the band quickly released a couple of live albums and rarities, *Stand by Your Van, Acoustic: Bradley Nowell & Friends*, and the aptly named *Second Hand Smoke*, even as Geffen repackaged the band's previously available back catalog. Now, nearly a decade after Sublime's unceremonious demise, comes *Everything Under the Sun*, a 3-CD/1-DVD collection of demos, remixes, 14-minute interviews (seriously), and every other found piece of recorded audio possible. Unlike Nirvana's *With the Lights Out*, however, this set doesn't gaze into the mind of a mythologized artist. Sublime's genre-defying music was simply about bringing people together to get stoned and living life 40 ounces away from Freedom, but these throwaway tracks from the band's early years aren't even worth a second listen. While it's humorous to watch Ron Jeremy portray both judge and prison inmate in a music video, there's only so many times one can be subjected to "Date Rape" on a compilation before the fun and ingenuity wears off. Talk about finding roaches in the pot.

★★

– *Austin Powell*

MICHAEL JACKSON

Visionary: The Video Singles **(Epic)**

For the hardcore pop fan on your shopping list, *Visionary*, 20 of Michael Jackson's hit singles and videos, is the splurge of choice. Younger fans of the troubled singer might get a kick out of seeing and hearing Jacko before he was wacko, although anyone older than age 30 might cringe at the sight of a happier, browner Jackson circa 1979. The 20-DualDisc *Visionary* spans two decades, from the delightful disco of "Rock With You" to the dull and droning "Blood on the Dance Floor." Most of the tracks come with remixes, and most of them are execrable. The "Masters at Work" remix of "Rock With You" is categorically awful, like an amateur DJ's audition tape for a job spinning at a bar mitzvah. However, the New Jack Jazz rendition of "Remember the Time" is fairly interesting, and breathes new life into a likely forgotten song. It's the videos that are the golden ticket here, if only because they provide a visual document of Jackson's journey to bughouse. The effervescent young man of "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" is angry, paranoid, and surrounded by guitarists with horrifically huge wigs in "Dirty Diana" (1987). And while the video for "Black or White" is a hot mess, its expression of outrage at the specter of racism is powerful nonetheless. *Visionary* mercifully encapsulates Jackson in his heyday, when he was still a powerful cultural force and before his life became a punch line.

★½

– *Melanie Haupt*

DOLLY PARTON

The Acoustic Collection: 1999-2002 **(Sugar Hill)**

As the most business-savvy country singer of the 20th and 21st centuries, Dolly Parton's squeezing every nickel out of her adoring public. *The Acoustic Collection* repackages the singer's three Sugar Hill albums from 1999 to 2002: *Little Sparrow*, *The Grass Is Blue*, and *Halos & Horns*. The Grammy-winning *Grass*, Parton's first trip back to the mountain bluegrass she grew up on, is a fine LP, incorporating reworked originals like the beautiful title track and

continued on p.76

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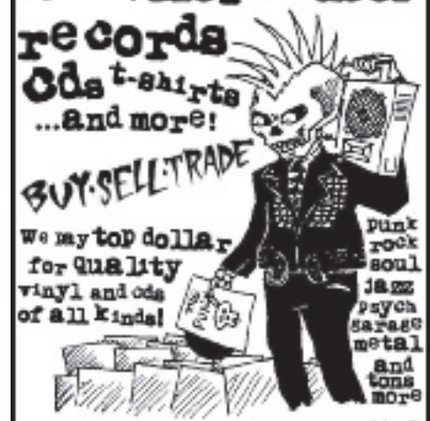

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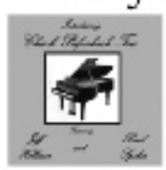
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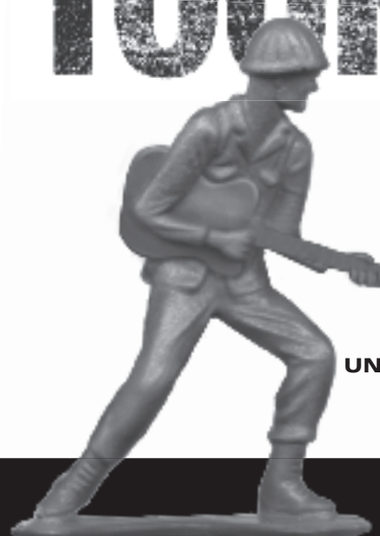

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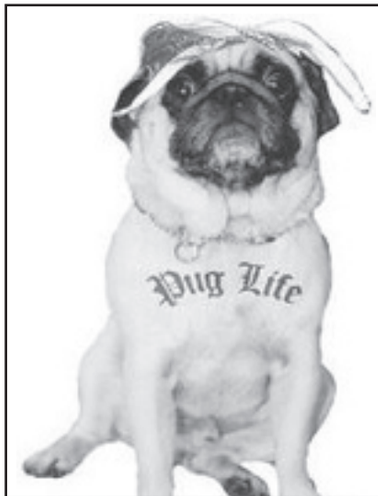

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JOHN COLTRANE

***Fearless Leader* (Prestige)**

After coming to prominence with Miles Davis' legendary mid-Fifties quintet, saxophonist John Coltrane went on to an unparalleled explosion of creativity over the next decade until his untimely death in 1967. This incredibly prolific period begins with the music in this beautifully packaged and thoroughly annotated 6-CD set. Recorded between May 1957 and December 1958, it documents all of Coltrane's marquee work for indie label Prestige Records. Over the course of nine recording sessions that became 11 LPs released from 1957 to 1965, Coltrane developed from an impressive musician into the foremost saxophonist in jazz. Already in evidence are the torrent of notes known as his "sheets of sound," which reached full flower a couple of years later on his legendary Atlantic album *Giant Steps*. On tunes such as "The Believer" and "Black Pearls" you can hear the stirrings of spirituality and freedom that characterized his most revered work for Impulse Records in the following decade. Coltrane was one of the loveliest balladeers ever, and generous helpings of his already distinctive style highlight *Fearless Leader*. As was common on Prestige albums of the era, much of the material is done in a loose, "blowin' session" format with the likes of Dallas pianist Red Garland and trumpeter Donald Byrd stretching out on blues and standards. Coltrane cut countless sessions for Prestige as a sideman during this period, but these sides as a leader set the template for the hallowed status he would soon attain.

★★★★ – *Jay Trachtenberg*

WEATHER REPORT

***Forecast: Tomorrow* (Columbia/Legacy)**

Weather Report is one of the most influential improv acts since jazz went from naughty word to sonic idiom. Like the group and its legacy, however, this 3-CD/1-DVD retrospective is a polarizing affair. Built around the compositional gifts and jaw-dropping musical interplay of reedman Wayne Shorter (Miles Davis) and keyboardist Joe Zawinul (Cannonball Adderley), Weather Report also featured Jaco Pastorius, Omar Hakim, Chester Thompson, et al. Releasing nearly an album a year in their 1970-1986 tenure, all represented here, the band influenced everyone from Pat Metheny to Bill Laswell. Yet for such an experimental band, only three of the 37 tracks here are previously unreleased. Likewise, die-hards probably already own bootlegs of the DVD, featuring a full 1978 German concert. The fact that this video has long circulated among fans doesn't diminish the sheer badassery Shorter, Zawinul, Pastorius, and drummer Peter Erskine create onstage ("Teen Town"). Like most major label box sets, re-releases predominate, but *Forecast: Tomorrow* samples a seminal catalog with nearly as many gems ("D-Flat Waltz," "Procession," "Havona") as keys in Zawinul's 10-keyboard live rig. The 100-page booklet with interviews, pictures, etc., is gravy. Hardcores may be less than thrilled, but this anthology was blessed by Zawinul and Shorter, and puts a sheen on the reputation that's well and truly cemented.

★★★ – *David Lynch*

FRANK SINATRA

***Vegas* (Reprise)**

Without Frank Sinatra and a handful of enterprising legitimate businessmen, Las Vegas wouldn't be *Vegas*. While late-stage Elvis best defines Sin City's gaudy excess, the Chairman's swank appeal did a lot more to attract the high rollers. This 4-CD/1-DVD set captures five of Sinatra's Vegas engagements, 1961-1987. Recorded a year after the epochal Rat Pack summit, the 1961 Sands tapes capture Sinatra at the peak of showroom mastery. He squeezes every last sentiment out of "Young at Heart" in one breath while informally jesting with the audience in the next. This is just a warm-up for the 1966 Sands show featuring the Count Basie Orchestra with Quincy Jones conducting. Although *Sinatra at the Sands* chronicled the high points of this engagement, the *Vegas* version pieces together a complete show, with flubs and off-color remarks intact. Sinatra's description of the Basie orchestra as a "juggernaut" is illustrated by hard-swinging versions of "Fly Me to the Moon." At the same time, "September of My Years" doesn't lose an ounce of lump-throated pathos. The 1982 Caesars Palace show is highlighted by a rendition of "Hey Look, No Cryin," from 1981's *She Shot Me Down*. The 1987 Golden Nugget set is a straightforward, formulaic affair, but Sinatra displayed the touch even then. Top that off with a DVD of a 1978 Caesars show taped for a CBS TV special, and all you need to complete the package is a couple of comps to the gourmet room.

★★★ – *Greg Beets*

"Endless Stream of Tears" along with Billy Joel's "Travelin' Prayer" and Johnny Cash's "I Still Miss Someone." *Sparrow* follows suit with a sincere collage of love songs and stories highlighted by her original "Down From Dover" and her now-famous cover of Collective Soul's "Shine." *H&H* is the most inventive of the three, with the Minnie Pearl-esque "These Old Bones," covers of Bread's "If" and Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven," and the infectious "Shattered Image." None of the three albums feature anything special – B-sides, remastery, or even added tracks – and the bonus DVD is just a smattering of videos, a few remixes, and a couple of songs off the tribute album *Just Because I'm a Woman: The Songs of Dolly Parton* (Sugar Hill, 2003). In other words, any savvy Dolly Parton fan has already shelled out their hard-earned nickels for these old bones.

★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

VINCE GILL

***These Days* (MCA)**

Vince Gill is destroying his reputation in the best way possible. After Eric Clapton invited the underrated six-stringer to his Crossroads guitar-god summit in Dallas, 2005, the Nashvillian shucked his new-country balladeer shoes for some ass-kickin' boots. *These Days* is one of the most ambitious artistic statements of the year, a 4-CD box set of all-new material apportioned across roots genres and complemented by a rock-solid roster of guests from Bonnie Raitt to Rodney Crowell. "The Rockin' Record" disc sounds like vintage Delbert McClinton, more than living up to its name with gutbucket blues, rave-up shuffles, brassy R&B horns, and loads of sexual innuendo. "The Groovy Record" feels like a stale step backward, and even smoldering songbird Diana Krall can't ignite watered-down torch songs like "Faint of Heart." The country & western set is stone barroom jukebox material, courtesy of Emmylou Harris collaboration "Some Things Never Get Old" and Patty Loveless pairing "Out of My Mind." The acoustic fourth disc is an ace closer, with "Molly Brown" a haunting elegy of an interracial romance snuffed out by violence and the starkest example of Gill's emboldened artistic vision. "All Prayed Up" and Del McCoury duet "Cold Gray Light of Gone," meanwhile, are bluegrass distillations of mortality and pain. If Vince Gill picks up again where soul-searching Guy Clark duet "Almost Home" leaves off, his grits-and-grease commitment could bury his fading milquetoast Music City image for good.

★★★ – *Scott Jordan*

TONY JOE WHITE

***Swamp Music: The Complete Monument Recordings* (Rhino Handmade)**

Tony Joe White boasted one self-composed Top 10 hit in white-trash anthem "Polk Salad Annie" from 1969, not long before Elvis Presley added it into his repertoire. That hardly makes Louisiana-born White a one-hit wonder, as *Swamp Music*, Rhino Handmade's Internet-only, 4-CD anthology of his recordings attests. As a songwriter, he ranks with veterans Jimmy Webb and Lee Hazlewood: somewhere south of Kris Kristofferson. He cut hits for Dusty Springfield ("Willie and Laura Mae Jones") and Brook Benton ("Rainy Night in Georgia"), and could wax Dylanesque ("Dusty Marshmallow") as easily as cover him ("The Ballad of Hollis Brown"). *Swamp Music* corrals White's peak 1968-70 output into 81 songs packaged into cardboard miniatures of his three late-Sixties albums for Monument Records. Full-bodied Gulf Coast-influenced blues-rock ignites "Polk Salad Annie" and its country cousin "Old Man Willis," with White's fine vocals punctuated by distinctive grunts and growls. The first three discs contain White's original vinyl tracks followed by additional studio tracks; the fourth CD is split between solo studio cuts and live recordings from an Isle of Wight festival. All this makes *Swamp Music* compelling, even when its age shows in weak cover material like "Little Green Apples" and "This Guy's in Love With You." Like many Rhino Handmade boutique collections, *Swamp Music* isn't for the casual fan at its $79.98 list, but it's a damn fine example of the Gulf Coast sound.

★★★ – *Margaret Moser*

TOM WAITS

***Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers & Bastards* (Anti-)**

Welcome to Tom Waits' garage sale! This 3-CD collection of covers, rarities, new and old songs is a big lot to sort through, but the choice finds are worth it. *Orphans* is more of Waits' strange fruit: murderers and madmen, petty criminals and wicked women, junk cars and empty bars. The "Brawlers" disc represents Waits' more contemporary recordings: "2:19" echoes *Real Gone* and "Bottom of the World" waltzes the Pogues' Matilda. "Bawlers," meanwhile, revisits Waits' jazzy side circa *Heart of Saturday Night*, "Little Man," "It's Over," and his cover of "Goodnight Irene" perfectly charming in a three-day bender sort of way. These are the sweethearts, the last calls, the boozy reflections Waits is so good at recalling. "Bastards" shows the most promise for where Waits could be headed. In a word, it's twisted. "Army Ants" sounds like an educational film slowed down and dosed with peyote. The electronic warble of "First Kiss" dulls before the electric "Dog Door" pulls down an actual rocker. "The Pontiac," Waits' description of old cars to a small child is classic, as is his cover of Daniel Johnston's "King Kong." It's a seamless lot, with what probably started out as an odds-and-ends toss-out growing into a bona fide gem of a collection. After 30 years, Waits keeps getting weirder and weirder while still aging gracefully.

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

JERRY LEE LEWIS

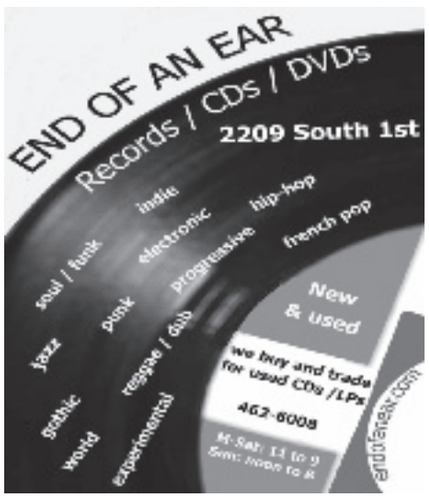
***A Half Century of Hits* (Time Life)**

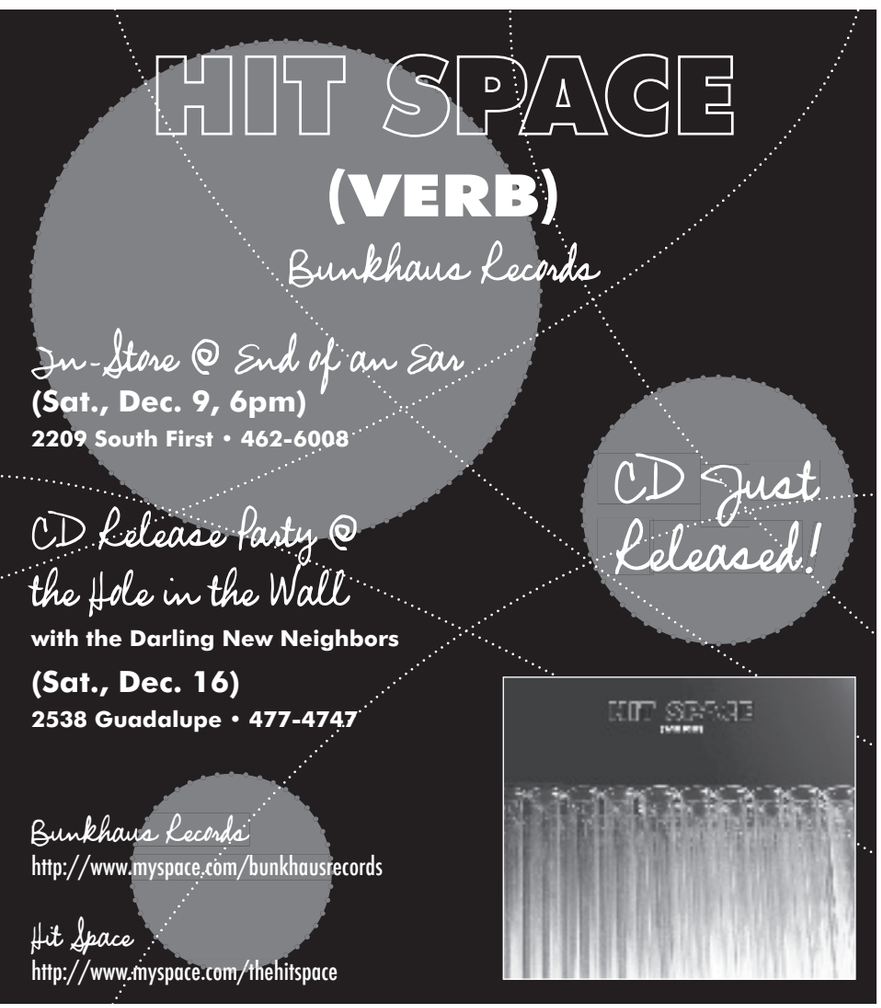
He's the only living name from Sun Records' Million Dollar Quartet (Lewis, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash) and he's going nowhere without a fight. At 71, Jerry Lee Lewis punched through the lines of contemporary music this year with the appropriately named *Last Man Standing*. Inside, there's a postcard for *A Half*

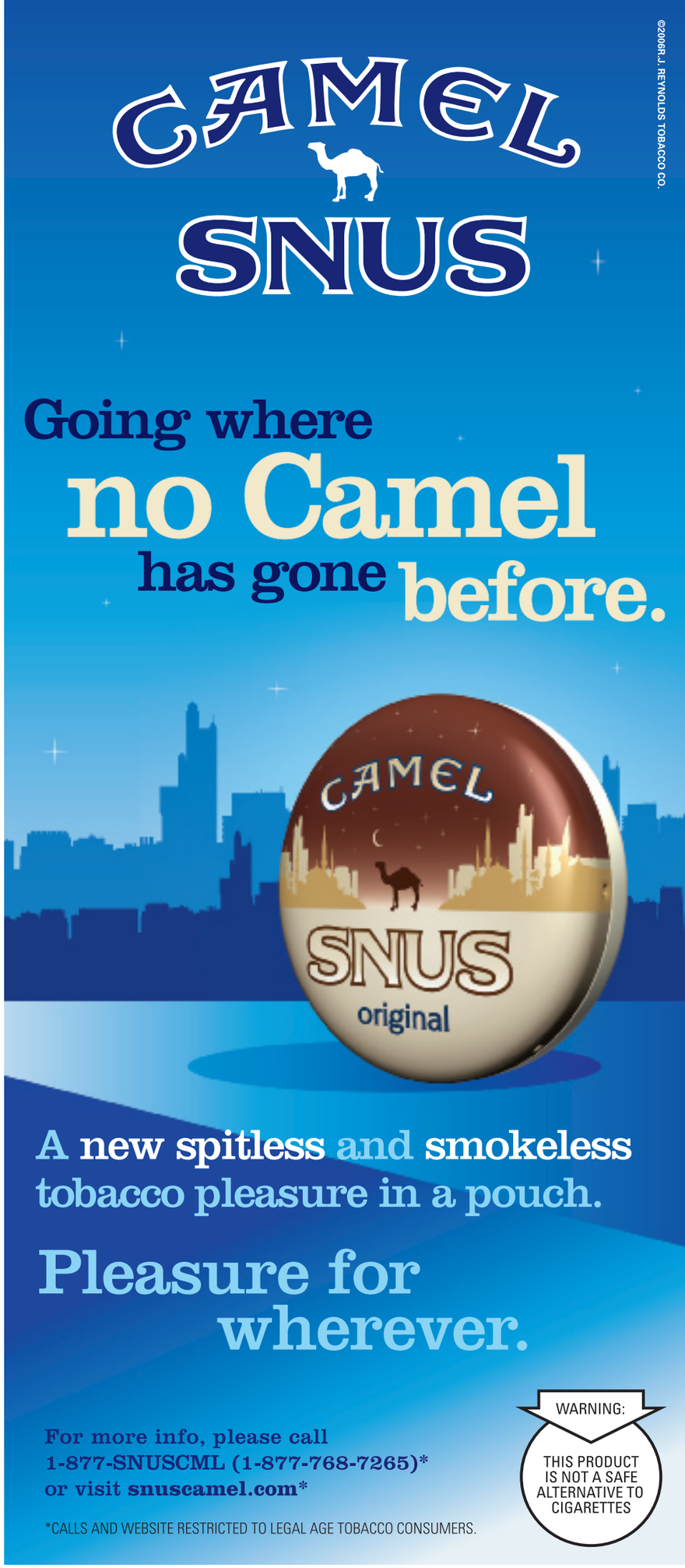
Century of Hits, a 3-CD, 65-song anthology that pays the Killer his ivory due with mostly hits and a few misses. While the first disc crackles with Lewis' blazing youth and reckless style ("Whole Lot of Shakin' Going On," "Great Balls of Fire," "High School Confidential"), disc two is uneven, balancing the schlocky ("Green, Green Grass of Home," "Meat Man") with the sainted ("What's Made Milwaukee Famous," "No Headstone on My Grave"). Yet even minor Jerry Lee Lewis is a lesson in interpretation since he's always been the performer and seldom the composer. Disc three offers the much vaunted "Don't Stay Away ('Til Love Grows Cold)" and "New Orleans Boogie," Lewis' first recordings, making *Half Century* a completist's must-have. The big mistake was not opening the set with the track of a religious quarrel between Lewis, all hellfire and brimstone, and Sun owner Sam Phillips. It's all the Jerry Lee Lewis you need to know.

★★★ – *Margaret Moser*

continued on p.78







RICHARD THOMPSON

RT: The Life and Music of Richard Thompson **(Free Reed)**

The perfect Richard Thompson box set would feature his beginnings with pioneering British folk band Fairport Convention, his work as a sideman with artists like Sandy Denny, then an overview of his solo work, including a healthy helping of his ex-wife Linda. It would stress his uncommon talents as a guitarist and songwriter by spotlighting his studio albums, but also contain some marvelous live performances, with rarities to accent Thompson's ability to entertain. Sadly, that box set doesn't exist. Instead, the true fanatics at UK label Free Reed, with Thompson's blessing and assistance, had a grand time plowing his archives. Of the 85 tracks spread over this 5-CD set, 29 have never been released in any form and 46 are previously unreleased versions of some of his best-known material. Sound quality varies throughout, from obvious audience recordings with the accompanying annoyances to what sounds like inferior MP3s. Still, a haunting solo rendition of "I Misunderstood" and a deliciously rambunctious band take of "Crash the Party" would be included in the perfect RT box. The accompanying 172-page book, and the essay within, is a disorganized mess, filled with typographic errors and factual inaccuracies. (KLRU is not a radio station and Syd Straw never played "grunge.") Many complained about the sprawling nature of the other RT box, 1993's *Watching the Dark* (Hannibal). It wasn't perfect either, but the myriad problems with this *RT* make the earlier collection easier to recommend.

★★½ – *Jim Caligiuri*

JOHN LEE HOOKER

Hooker **(Shout! Factory)**

No one in Canned Heat called bluff when the Boogie Man, John Lee Hooker, claimed he could cut three records in three days before laying down "Burning Hell" in '71. During his five-decade career Hooker waxed more than 100 albums, recording under aliases Texas Slim, John Lee Cooker, and Birmingham Sam & His Magic Guitar to avoid label disputes. Give that, compiling the first cohesive career overview on the seminal bluesman was no picnic. *Hooker*, a 4-CD, 84-song collection, brings the "Boom Boom" nonetheless, packing in every quintessential single from "Tupelo Blues" to "Big Legs Tight Skirt" that casual fans would expect. The chronological ordering doesn't reveal an evolution of style, structure, or technique, but Delta John's back-porch poetry, droning six-string shuffle, and incessant toe tapping remain constant throughout his career. The progression of recording technology and the change in scenery doubles as *Hooker*'s arc, beginning with grainy and raw home recordings of traditional numbers like "Moses Smote the Water" and "Catfish Blues" from the late 1940s, transitioning through his various backing bands and hits, and closing with his comeback collaborations of the early-Nineties, which feature Van Morrison, Carlos Santana, and Jimmie Vaughan, among others. The only drawback is *Hooker* barely touches on the man's live performances, which were an integral part of his career. Consider ordering *Live at Cafe Au Go-Go (And Soledad Prison)* on the side and chasing it with "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer."

★★★ – *Austin Powell*

ROBERT PLANT

Nine Lives **(Rhino)**

"The only thing I was sure of was that I wasn't going back and relive [Led Zeppelin] in any form." So assures Robert Plant about his unexpected solo career in the hourlong DVD documentary to *Nine Lives*, another 90 minutes of MTV video staples the 9-CD box set's greatest hits. The nine-album arc of the flaxen-haired Zeppelin frontman reveals a different tale. The "great triumph," as Plant calls his post-Hindenburg debut, 1982's *Pictures at Eleven*, synthesized the thrust of rock's immortal folk-blues juggernaut into a remarkably lithe, elegant extension of Zep swan song *In Through the Out Door*'s airy "Fool in the Rain" and "All of My Love." *Pictures* pounding "Kashmir" on "Slow Dancer" can't drown out the rockabilly subtleties of "Pledge Pin" or lean musculature of B-side "Far Post," both still wondrous musical reincarnations. *The Principle of Moments* polished the formula ("In the Mood"), and here adds a meaty trio of additional tracks from Houston's Summit in 1983. *The Honeydrippers* EP the following year tapped even further into Plant's Fifties underpinnings ("Sea of Love"), before '85's *Shaken 'N' Stirred* took the more synthetic *Principles* ("Stranger Here… Than Over There") to wonky extremes, though its axis remains "Little by Little" getting the Led out. *Now and Zen* (1988) tweaks the tweak into Plant's solo breakthrough ("Heaven Knows," "Ship of Fools"), peaking live with "Billy's Revenge" and the oceanic "Tall Cool One." With the Zeppelin genie finally out of the bong, *Manic Nirvana* fizzled on Jimmy Page boogie, none of it as ripe as Billy Vera B-side "Don't Look Back." *Fate of Nations* (1993) harmonized Bonham ("Promised Land") and nod ("29 Palms"), while a sincere reading of Tim Hardin's "If I Were a Carpenter" anticipated the Page & Plant reunion, the latter's solo rebirth on 2002's *Dreamland*, and a future Rod Stewart *American Songbook* recasting. Revving up Sixties mystics like Tim Buckley, Jesse Colin Young, and Skip Spence – songwriters missing on walloping follow-up *Mighty Rearranger* – proved well worth reliving.

★★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

ANDY PARTRIDGE

Fuzzy Warbles Collector's Album **(Ape House)**

If your main squeeze is an XTC fanatic, your holiday shopping ends here. A longtime home recording enthusiast, the 30-year-old English mainstay's guitarist Andy Partridge began plundering his tape vaults in 2002 for a series of eclectic UK releases that eventually grew to eight volumes. The 8-CD stateside edition of *Fuzzy Warbles* is all that plus a nine-song bonus disc called "Hinges." At 161 songs, it's a lot to digest for the casual XTC fan, but even the mildly devoted will marvel at Partridge's factorylike production of erudite British pop tunes. Although most *Warbles* began as working demos, an impressive number exude grand statement potential. This is especially true of never-released revelations like whimsical *Nonsuch* reject "The Tiny Circus of Life" and "All I Dream of Is a Friend," which could've been an Oscar contender for best song had it appeared in *James and the Giant Peach* as originally intended. The simple-yet-hummable ditty "Everything'll Be Alright" was also written for *Peach*, and it practically begs a Partridge children's album. "Visit to the Doctor" out-Troggs the Troggs, while the fan-club-only "Candymine" cries out for bubblegum-flavored revival of the Dukes of Stratosphear, XTC's psychedelic alter-ego. *Warbles* also spotlights early versions of familiar XTC fare, including a spastic version of "Train Running Low on Soul Coal" from 1984's *The Big Express* and a fairly ridiculous skiffle take on "Dear God." Partridge packs in plenty of oddities too, like a series of jingles for Swindon, England DJ Alan Burston, a rejected theme for the short-lived Fox series *Wonderfalls*, and birthday wishes for a girl named Karen. This sprawling scrapbook of sound is an iconoclastic jumble in the best sense of those words.

★★★½ – *Greg Beets*

BUDDY GUY

Can't Quit the Blues **(Silvertone/Legacy/Sony BMG)**

Why has it taken a half-century for Buddy Guy to get the box-set treatment? Whatever the answer, the 3-CD/1-DVD *Can't Quit the Blues* corrects the oversight for the most part. Guy's legendary rep stems from three prime facts: the master bluesman has played professionally since the late 1950s; his wailing, stinging guitar has influenced generations of strummers; and he's performed with Wolf, Junior Wells, and Muddy Waters. Critique that Guy ain't so original is misplaced: he's the secretary-general of the blues, deftly interpreting songs, while being a consummate entertainer. Plus, he can play the shit out the guitar – ask Jeff Beck and Carlos Santana, both of whom cameo here. This compilation spans 1957's "The Way You Been Treating Me" demo to last year's rendering of Keb' Mo's "The Price You Gotta Pay" with Keith Richards. In short, the 47 songs aptly represent the Stratocaster Master, although rarities and oldies are slim, with only a handful of unreleased tracks. And there's got to be more live gems that need unvaulting. If it weren't for the DVD, which features six of Guy's appearances at the famed Montreux festival starting in 1974, that might be more of an issue. A real treat is DVD doc *My Time After Awhile*, where Guy recounts the trek from his roots in share-cropping Louisiana to owning the successful Legends club in Chicago. Add a 40-page booklet with rare photographs and *Can't Quit the Blues* is a worthy overview for any earnest blues fan.

★★★ – *David Lynch*

JOHN MAYALL

Essentially John Mayall **(Eagle)**

Once it seemed that all the notable English blues guitarists of the Sixties did time in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. Never the best guitarist, singer, or songwriter, Mayall nonetheless had a master's eye for talent and a bandleader's strength. *Essentially John Mayall*, a 5-CD set from Eagle Records, gathers four of his 1999-2003 releases for the label – *Padlock on the Blues*, *Along for the Ride*, *Stories*, *70th Birthday Concert* – along with bonus disc "Exclusive Live Rarities." There are few surprises: Mayall never varied his style or approach much in his 50-plus albums, but he boasted a powerhouse approach to Chicago-style electric blues that's carried him all these decades. He's the old dog doing few new tricks yet the ones here show him in fine form ("Oh, Leadbelly," "Yo-Yo Man," "Mists of Time," "Somebody's Watching"), and even finer company (John Lee Hooker, Coco Montoya, Otis Rush, Steve Cropper, Billy Gibbons). The rarities and maybe *70th Birthday Concert* will be the discs of choice for longtime Mayall aficionados, with former bandmates Eric Clapton, Mick Taylor, and much of Fleetwood Mac. There's too much repetition of "Hideaway," "California," and "Dirty Water" among the scant 59 songs herein, though some live tracks clock in at more than 15 minutes. With no liner notes or info, *Essentially John Mayall* resembles a DVD with no extras. That's too bad, because John Mayall's 73 years prove that sometimes longevity beats originality.

★★ – *Margaret Moser*

THE HARRY SMITH PROJECT: ANTHOLOGY OF AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC REVISITED

(Shout! Factory)

Harry Smith's massive collection of 78s became the patchwork of American folk. This was old, weird America, and Smith – filmmaker, musician, eccentric – was the preservationist. His anthology of songs, originally released on Folkways Records in 1952 and spanning 1927-34, was re-issued in 1997, which spurred young, weird producer Hal Willner to re-create the songs via a live concert. The result is two CDs packed with performances from 1999 and 2001. Beck

as Robert Johnson ("Last Fair Deal Gone Down"), Beth Orton takes down Mississippi John Hurt ("Frankie"), and Blind Willie Johnson channeled through Nick Cave ("John the Revelator") spark next to old schoolers like Lou Reed (Blind Lemon Jefferson's "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean") and Marianne Faithfull (Hurt's "Spike Driver Blues"). A live concert DVD slides in two particularly electric performances: Roswell Rudd, free jazz trombone veteran, plays with kindred spirits Sonic Youth, electrifying Bascom Lamar Lunsford's "Dry Bones," and Eric Mingus and Gary Lucas' rendition of Rev. J.M. Gates' "Oh Death Where Is Thy Sting?" is rapturous. Throw in a fourth disc of interactive music paired with three of Smith's experimental films, plus a documentary and extensive, glossy liner notes by Willner and others, and the archivist's work becomes an important cultural bridge. Smith was awarded a Grammy in 1991 shortly before his death, and in his acceptance he related this: "I'm glad to say my dreams came true. I saw America changed through music."

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

THE DOORS
***Perception* (Rhino)**

The Doors' catalog has already been reissued more times than Kramer has apologized, but nowadays the Stones, Pink Floyd, Zeppelin, Springsteen, and, for God's sakes, even Rush and Journey get more classic-rock love than Jim Morrison's UCLA film crew. Public favor waxes and wanes with every mouse click, so it's easy to forget what made the SoCal quartet so compelling when debut *The Doors* arrived in January 1967: their British Invasion-baiting blues, the filthiest yet played by an American rock band; their effortless seduction of Europeans, for exactly that reason; and Morrison's alternately shamanistic and solipsistic visions, which guided listeners either into new realms of chemically assisted consciousness or a ditch. Not even 4½ years elapsed between their debut and Morrison's April 1971 swan song *L.A. Woman*, but *Perception* – their first six studio albums, again – spells out eternity for these four changelings: the stunning symphonic imagination of *The Doors*; alternately thrilling and tedious middle period of *Strange Days*, *Waiting for the Sun*, and *The Soft Parade*; and the double-barreled creative renaissance, cut short by Morrison's July 1971 overdose, of *Morrison Hotel* and *L.A. Woman*. Rhino's latest repackaging has all the usual 21st-century bells and whistles – 5.1 mixes, photo galleries and various TV appearances on DVD, umpteen alternate takes of "Roadhouse Blues" – polishing the same old Sixties signifiers: sex, death, blues, drugs, reptiles. A pristine-sounding walk down the nostalgia aisle for some, a potentially life-changing lesson in indulgence and restraint for their kids. Or, realistically, grandkids.

★★★½ – *Christopher Gray*

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LEAD STORY

• To settle a discrimination lawsuit by transsexual men in October, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority agreed to open all of its restrooms on the basis of individuals' "gender expression," meaning that, for example, any man dressed seriously as a woman could choose the ladies room. And the New York City government is currently considering adopting a rule to permit people to switch genders on their birth certificates, regardless of whether they've had surgery, as long as they've lived in the new gender for two years and a physician and a mental-health counselor approve.

INEXPLICABLE

• Two men in a Dodge Neon were seriously injured in a rollover accident on Interstate 75 near Toledo, Ohio, in October after a red bra flew from the radio antenna of another car, startling the Neon driver and causing him to swerve and lose control. The Ohio State Highway Patrol later learned that the owner of the bra had hung it from the aerial after she realized that it had broken due to her dog's having chewed on it earlier that day. A prosecutor said a misdemeanor littering charge would be filed against the woman but was exploring whether there had been out-the-window socializing between the cars' occupants before the rollover.

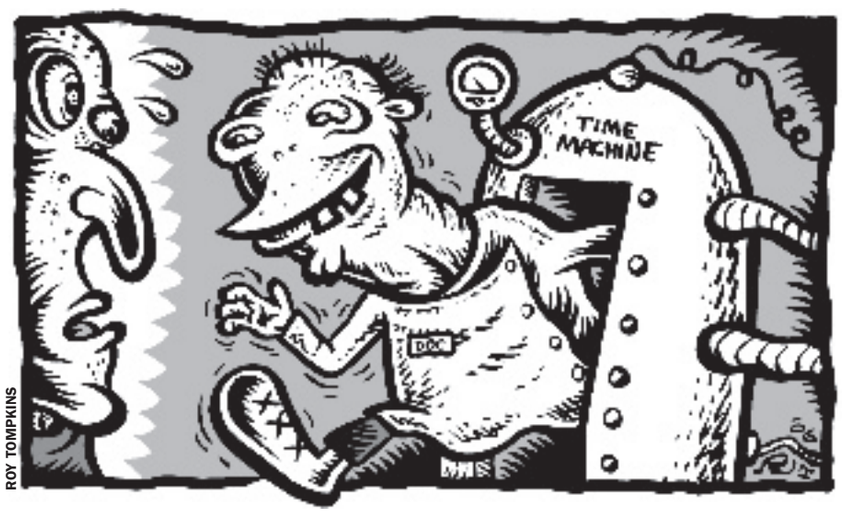
• After shooting video undercover in 10 Army recruiting offices in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, ABC News released in November an episode of recruiters telling a prospect that no one is going to Iraq anymore. "No, we're bringing people back," he said, and his partner followed with, "We're not at war. War ended a long time ago." In a separate on-camera interview, Col. Robert Manning, who is in charge of Army recruiting in the Northeast, generously told ABC News that he disagreed with the recruiters. "We are a nation and Army at war still."

CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

• Karen Madden, 38, goes on trial in December in Harrisburg, Pa., after allegedly confessing to stealing $550,000 worth of jewelry and handbags from the residence of her former boss, who is the chancellor of the state's college system. The chancellor, testifying at a July hearing on the charges, said Madden had called her recently and apologized but then went on to say, "I hope you and I can still be friends – and I would like to use you – can I use you as a reference, just for the work part?"

NEWS of the WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



James C. Burda surrendered his Ohio chiropractor's license in September after an investigation (mentioned in April in "News of the Weird") revealed that he offered to treat patients via telepathy (for $60 an hour) and had the ability to go back in time to realign bones and joints at the point at which they were damaged, via his techniques of telekinetic vibration, which he called "bahlaqeem vina" and "bahlaqeem jaqem," which he admitted were nonsense words that came to him one day while he was driving around. An exam ordered by Ohio chiropractic regulators found, not surprisingly, that Burda suffered from "delusional disorder, grandiose type."

• Britain's Home Office announced in November that it had agreed to a settlement in a lawsuit by 197 heroin-addicted prisoners that it was "assault" and a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights for them to have been almost immediately denied all drugs when they were arrested. For forcing the inmates to go "cold turkey," the government agreed to pay each the equivalent of about $7,000.

• 1) Britain's Channel 4 public television announced in July that it would soon schedule a week of documentaries on masturbation, including one by self-designated "orgasm coach" Betty Dodson, *Masturbation for Girls*, teaching hands-on techniques to three women. 2) The pendulum swung the other way in October, however, when Britain's Tesco stores agreed that a kit for learning pole dancing (advertised on its Web site), to "(u)nleash the sex kitten inside," with a garter and suggestive DVD, was perhaps unsuited for its "toy" section, where it might have been appealing to adolescent girls. (Tesco moved the listing to its physical fitness section.)

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

• 1) Race-separatist cult leader Yahweh Ben Yahweh is awaiting a decision on release from parole (after serving 11 years of an 18-year sentence on racketeering charges in connection with as many as 23 gruesome murders, some involving beheadings) and is dying of cancer. His lawyer asked a federal judge in October to approve his immediate release so that his client could "die with dignity." 2) Washington, D.C., Council Member (and former Mayor) Marion Barry was charged in September with DUI and other vehicle violations but told *The Washington Post* that authorities were just trying to "embarrass and discredit" him.

• An investigation by a state agency is under way in Revere, Mass., of a residence condemned by local officials as (according to a neighbor) "worse than any Stephen King movie" because it reeked of garbage, feces, and cockroaches. It is the home of Andrea Watson, a child-rights advocate who lived there (until the condemnation) with her two children and two grandchildren. Watson's colleagues told the *Boston Herald* that she is a tireless activist for children who put her "heart and soul" into Parents for Residential Reform.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

• A prison inmate named Calvin Miller, who was angry with a former partner in crime who had escaped conviction, called police in Kansas City, Mo., in 2003 with information that led them to reopen that cold case, and eventually the partner, Johnny Chapple, was convicted of murder (along with two others). However, also convicted was a fourth participant: Calvin Miller. While Chapple received a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, Miller got 17. (By the way, Miller's well-known nickname, acquired before any of this transpired, is "Cheesy Rat.")

THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

• The Tel Aviv newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* reported in October that the much tighter border security that resulted from the recent war with Hezbollah guerrillas had caused marijuana prices in Israel to jump as much as 800 percent. And, though general tensions between Arabs and Jews remain high inside Israel, prominent ultra-Orthodox Jews joined militant Palestinian Muslims in fierce opposition to the November gay-pride parade in Jerusalem, according to a *Boston Globe* dispatch. (Said activist Rabbi Yehuda Levin, "Only this onslaught of homosexual radicalism could bring together such disparate voices.")

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at **newsoftheweird.blogspot.com** *(or* **www.newsoftheweird.com***). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or* **weirdnewstips@yahoo.com**.

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calendar

c OMMUNITY p.82 + a RTS p.88 + f ILM p.92 + m USIC listings p.102

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

Thursday 07

CANDY LAND OPEN HOUSE Join BigAustin for a holiday party featuring the Ebenezer Daycare carolers. *11am-1pm. 1050 E. 11th #350* **www.bigaustin.org**.

CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG Christmas songs and pop stars, followed by milk & cookies and real carolling at Jackalope on Sixth. Another Henri Mazza/Owen Egerton instant classic. *7pm. Alamo Drafthouse 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**.

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

GREEN ROOF GROUP kicks off the first in a series of conversations about **Soil, Plants, and Irrigation**. *7pm. Jo's Hot Coffee, 242 W. Second, 469-9003.* **tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/greenroofgroup**.

HOT MOMMA'S NIGHT OUT For all you tired moms out there: food, wine, and music from DJ Boris, plus manicures, massages, shopping, workshops from Forbidden Fruit, and more. All proceeds benefit **Latin Mami**, which supports Latina mothers in need. *7pm. Big Red Sun, 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688. $20.* **www.bigredsun.com**.

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**.

'Tis the season to shed your fur

[SEE SATURDAY, DEC. 9, ACTION FOR ANIMALS DEMONSTRATION]

MOVING FORWARD: AN HONEST DIALOGUE Dr. **Leonard Moore**, known for his scholarship in race and popular culture, is in town today to talk about racial stereotypes and their impact in the Austin community. *6pm. UT Campus, San Jacinto Residence Hall, 309 E. 21st, 689-4092. Free.* **www.utexas.edu/opa**.

MY REMEMBRANCE OF DECEMBER 7, 1941 A presentation from Pearl Harbor survivor **Gen. Vande Hey**. The Lakeway resident will be honored along with his three sons, all of whom have served in the U.S. Air Force, and the Fredericksburg Middle School Choir will perform. *12:25pm. National Museum of the Pacific War, 311 E. Austin St., Fredericksburg* **www.nimitz-museum.org**.

SOUTHERN GLITTERATI SOCIETY FASHION SHOW Check out this debut of the print graphic designs of Leigh K. Hajovsky and Kaywin Kubesch. Proceeds benefit **SafePlace** and the **Giocosa Foundation**. *8pm. Vicci, 404 Colorado, 350-3582. $5.* **www.myspace.com/southernglitteratisociety**.

TEXANS FOR OBAMA 2008 MEETUP *7pm. Jo's Hot Coffee, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800.* **www.democrat.meetup.com/1036/calendar/5219643/?success=event_newgrp_venue_rsvp**.

CLASSICAL MUSIC (See Arts Listings)
Conspirare: Christmas at the Carillon

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, **Gallery Lombardi**, **Volitant Gallery**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Open Screen Night: Long Form Edition @ *Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Buffalo Killers *Beerland*
Lee Ann Womack *Midnight Rodeo*
Carrie Rodriguez *Cactus Cafe*

Friday 08

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**.

FREE INTRODUCTION TO TRANCEDANCE A blindfolded-dancing experience to help bring you closer to your higher self. (This week, newcomers are invited to a special **free introduction** session: 6:30-7:15pm.) *7:30-9:30pm. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 586-2736. $15.* **www.trancedance-austin.com**.

FUN COMPANY TOASTMASTERS MEETING features a screening and discussion of *Iraq for Sale*. *6:30-8:30pm. LCRA Board Room, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., 496-3579. Free.*

KOOP RADIO 91.7FM *People United*: Honors **John Lennon** on the 26th anniversary of his death, *1pm*. *Alternative Radio*: Features Michael Parenti, author of *The Culture Struggle* and *Against Empire*, speaking on race, gender, an class, *2pm*. **www.koop.org**.

ORANGE SANTA'S SONGS OF THE SEASON Gift and toy donations (in their original packaging) will be accepted at today's holiday sing-along. *Noon. UT Campus, West Mall* **www.utexas.edu/events/orangesanta/index.html**.

SOS HOLIDAY PARTY Music, dancing, food, and a silent auction (check out the items online) all to benefit the **Save Our Springs Alliance**. (See Club Listings) *7-11pm. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 477-2320. $10 donation.* **www.sosalliance.org**.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)
Rob Nash: It's a Wonderful Life, the 70s Christmas Special *The Vortex*

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
Chris Keimling *Velveeta Room*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Mystic Monkey

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Best in Show @ *Paramount, 7pm*
Waiting for Guffman @ *Paramount, 9pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Cali Zack, **Bavu Blakes**, **Zeale 32** *Flamingo Cantina*
James Hand *Broken Spoke*
Carrie Rodriguez *Cactus Cafe*
Pinetop Perkins, **Lou Ann Barton** *Antone's*
American Graveyard *Room 710*

the young ones

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**.

ART & SOUL HOLIDAY CAMP Kids ages 5-12 will explore their natural creativity through sculpture, drawing, painting, prints, and collages. *9:30am-1:30pm. Wed.-Fri., Dec. 27-29. 288-2277.* **www.artandsoulclasses.com**.

HOLIDAY GOLF CAMP for ages 7-17. *9am-3pm. Tue.-Fri., Jan. 2-5. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 732-0380 x204. $175.* **www.firstteeaustin.org**.

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. **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**.

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**.

AN XMAS CAROL Don't miss the Zach Jr. Performance Troupe's adaptation of the familiar Christmas classic. This time Scrooge is up against Liza Minelli, Bob Marley, and a bunch of Girl Scouts. For ages 11 and up. *8pm. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 15-16. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1, 476-0594 x1. $12 ($7, students/seniors).* **www.zachscott.com**.

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. Nov. 17-18, 25-26; Dec. 2, 8-9. (Special $10 performance: Sun., Nov. 19, 5pm.) Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. $15.* **www.scottishritetheatre.org**.

COATS FOR KIDS distributes winter coats today to children in need. Eligibility criteria: Children must by accompanied by an adult; parents must provide proof of income and, if unaccompanied by child, proof of birth. *Sat., Dec. 9. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 467-8982 x231. Free bus passes available at area libraries.* **www.jlaustin.org/?nd=20042007**.

ON TAP – THE SOULS OF OUR FEET The latest installment in One World Theatre's Kids Series brings you Tapestry dance company's interactive performance and presentation of the history of tap dance. *Sat., Dec. 9, noon. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500. $15 ($10, kids).*

MARTIN PERNA reads and signs his new coloring book, *BLACKOUT!*, about that magical summer day in 2003 when all the lights in New York City went out. *Sat., Dec. 9, 2pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. Free.*

TEDDY BEAR TEA An excuse to get the whole family dressed up, this traditional holiday tea includes carolling and a fireside *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* reading with Santa. Don't forget to check out the Four Seasons' Gingerbread Village display, complete with a minitrain winding through. *2-4pm. Dec. 9, 16-17, 23. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. $35 ($25, ages 6-11).* **www.fourseasons.com/austin**.

AUSTIN ROCK 'N' ROMP This monthly series always gives kids and parents the chance to rock together, but today Justin Cox is on-hand taking professional holiday family photos as well, and author Craig McCullough makes a special storytelling appearance. (See Club Listings) *Sat., Dec. 9, 4pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.austinrocknromp.com**.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR Songs, crafts, storytelling, and tree-decorating, all centered around this year's theme: Jesus Is the Light of the World. *Sun., Dec. 10, 4-6:30pm. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 476-2625.* **www.fbcaustin.org**.

AUSTIN CITY-WIDE UNDER 21 POETRY SLAM *Sun., Dec. 10, 6pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. $5 (free, participants).* **u21slam@yahoo.com**, **www.txywc.org**.

MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES are designed to nurture children's musical abilities between the critical developmental stages of infanthood and kindergarten. Free sample classes; call for appointment. *Dec. 11, Dec. 12. 2700 W. Anderson Ln. #320, 371-9506.* **www.heartsongmusictogether.com**.

BISCUIT BROTHERS perform at this week's midweek Austin Farmers' Market. *Wed., Dec. 13, 4-7pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206.* **www.biscuitbrothers.com/about-us**, **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

Saturday 09

ACTION FOR ANIMALS DEMONSTRATION Bring your real-fur coats or accessories to donate to the **Coats for Cubs** program during this peaceful demonstration against animal cruelty. *11am-12:30pm. Julian Gold, 1214 W. Sixth, 879-7437.* **www.actionforanimalsaustin.org**.

BROADWAY KNIGHTS! McCallum High School's talented theatre department has been selected to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Proceeds from tonight's casino party and silent auction (both of which include lots of fabulous items and prizes) will help ensure that they get to go. *7-11pm. American Legion Hall, 2201 Veterans Dr., 472-3344. $50-100.* **www.broadwayknights.mactheatrefund.org**.

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**.

CEN-TEX BAIT MEET View the antique fishing memorabilia and collectibles gathered here today, find out how much your own are worth, or bid on someone else's in the public auction. *7am & 2:30pm. Woodward Hotel & Conference Center, 3401 S. I-35, 441-9015. $3.*

GET SMART WITH THE ARTS A silent auction of art, goods, and services for a great cause: to support the **Austin Discovery School**, the nonprofit elementary school committed to meeting kids' socio-emotional needs through innovative programming that includes the arts, nutrition, and other things typically cut elsewhere for lack of funding. Music from **Govinda**. *5-10pm. Diaz Gallery, 3507 S. First, 674-0700 x103. $10 suggested donation.* **www.austindiscoveryschool.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. *10:30am-1:30pm. PetCo, 2701-A Parker Dr. #100, Round Rock.* **www.austinhumanesociety.org**.

The Gathering Place
Worship Center
GLBT Church
Worship Service
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Pastors:
Lee Thompson
Yolanda Yeager
The Centre Business Park
7801 N. Lamar, Ste. F-25
S.E. corner N. Lamar & 183
323-9001
www.gatheringplaceworshipcenter.org

Texas Monthly
AuthorSeries

Presents
Bill Wittliff
La Vida Brinca
(UT Press)

Wednesday, December 13, 2006
7:00 - 8:00 PM

Face to Face with
Bill Wittliff
Host: Mike Shea

BookPeople (6th & Lamar)

Award-winning screenwriter and producer Bill Wittliff (*The Perfect Storm, Legends of the Fall, Raggedy Man*) has turned his fascination with primitive pinhole cameras into a gorgeous photo-study of Mexico's people and culture. His determinedly low-tech photographs are deeply evocative -- almost spiritual.

Join this modern-day renaissance man as he talks with Texas Monthly Writer-at-large Mike Shea about photography and filmmaking. A signing will follow.

www.texasmonthly.com/authorseries

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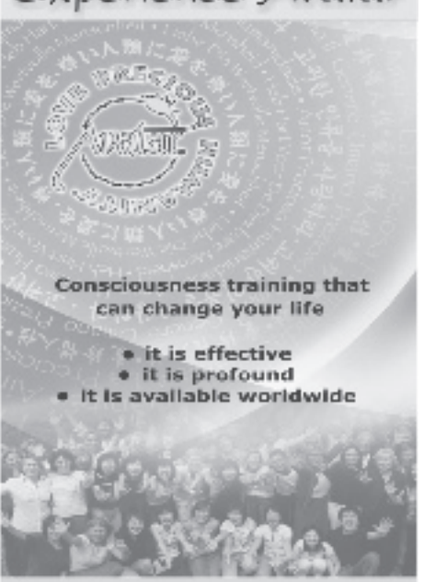

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Holiday Bazaar Bonanza

ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR boasts all the sights, sounds, and aromas of a real Arabic market and promises music, bellydancing performances and classes, brunch, henna tattoos, face-painting, and the chance to shop for gifts imported from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. *Sat., Dec. 10 & 17, 11am-6pm. Zein's Dance Studio, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227.* **www.wmdproductions.com**.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Stop by for the shopping (there will be artwork, jewelry, ceramics, toys, leather goods, weavings, clothing, books, and works of glass, wood, and metal) or for the live music (nightly performances: 8-11pm; weekends: 12:30-3:30pm). (See Club Listings) *Dec. 9-24. Daily, 11am-11pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 447-1605. $3 ($5, evenings/weekends; free, children under 12).* **www.armadillobazaar.com**.

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS holiday shopping with an educational slant. Peruse the unique Austin-centric gifts – including historic Austin posters, postcards, and history books, plus brand-new DVD ***Austin Past & Present*** – and visit the soon-to-depart exhibit "**The Avenue: Austin's Main Street Since 1839**." All proceeds benefit the AHCA. *Sat., Dec. 9, noon-5pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480.*

AUSTIN REPTILE CHRISTMAS BIZARRE has all the reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and assorted accoutrements you need, plus arts & crafts, face-painting, and more. *Sun., Dec. 10, 10am-5pm. Wingate Inn, 1209 I-35, Round Rock, 512/83-SNAKE. $6 (free, kids under 5).* **www.austinreptilebizarre.com**.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR brings more than 80 regional artists together to share with you their original paintings, photography, sculpture, and more. *Dec. 7-23. Sun.-Thu, 10am-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid (Sun., Dec. 24, 10am-6pm). 916 Springdale* **www.bluegenieart.com**.

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR raises funds for Maplewood Elementary's arts programming as well as for the **Cherrywood Urban Landscape & Arts League**'s East Austin beautification projects. Expect lots of great gift-shopping from the **juried selection of art**, plus goodies from **Go Go Gourmet** and music from **Joe McDermott**. *11am-6pm. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 9-10. Maplewood Elementary School, 3808 Maplewood, 414-4402.* **www.cherrywoodartfair.org**.

EAST AUSTIN MARKET PLACE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Entertainment, food, and vendors from all over Texas, plus crafts and a Santa toy-give-away for the kids. Today's proceeds will help support programs of the Rosewood and Givens recreation centers. *Sat., Dec. 9, 10am-4pm. Doris Miller Auditorium, 2300 Rosewood, 402-8334. Free.* **www.eastaustinmarketplace.com**.

EL CORAZON HOLIDAY BAZAAR Music and shopping at Happiness, Bella Blue, and the other local businesses along South First. *Sat., Dec. 9, 11am-8pm. El Corazon, 2209-2213 S. First, 448-7707, 462-8006.* **www.elcorazonaustin.com**.

HOLIDAY SUNDAY ON THE STRIP Party with the 20 or so businesses along North Loop: live music, food, discounted shopping, and a **Vintage Glamour Fashion Show**. (See Music listings) *Sun., Dec. 10, 12-8pm. North Loop, from Guadalupe to Martin Street, 461-2355.* **www.ibuyaustin.com/ibiz-northloop.php**.

MOXIE HOLIDAY PARTY Food, drinks, and pictures with Santa, plus Les McGehee will be on-hand selling books and CDs all from talented local creative types. *Sat., Dec. 9, 12-4pm. Moxie and the Compound, 909 W. Mary, 441-MOXY.* **www.lesmcgehee.com**, **www.hankandpaullee.com/moxie**.

SETON SOUTHWEST HOSPITAL'S HOLIDAY BAZAAR Music, food from local restaurants, wine from Spicewood Vineyards, a silent auction, and boutique-style shopping, all to benefit Seton Southwest Hospital. *Fri., Dec. 8, 6:30-9pm. Seton Southwest Hospital, 7900 FM 1826 (Camp Ben McCollough Rd.), 324-9000. $15.* **www.setonfund.org**.

SOUTH LAMAR BAZAAR BIZARRE Amelia's Retro-Vogue & Relics, 2040 Gallery, Hayward Neon, and the other shops of 2024-2040 S. Lamar gather today for one-stop shopping, music, and fundraising for **Capital Area Food Bank**. (See Club Listings) *Sun., Dec. 10, 10am-5pm. Horseshoe Lounge parking lot, 2034 S. Lamar, 442-4446. Free (bring nonperishable food items for CAFB in exchange for raffle tickets).*

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**.

MRCA PRESENTS an intimate Q&A session with **Redd Volkaert**, who will also perform for a live taping. Proceeds go to children in East Austin. *Noon-1:30pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 524-5252. $10.* **www.mrcakids.org**.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK Today's walk supports the suicide prevention, education, and survival-support efforts of the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**. *8am. Texas State Capitol, 305-8400.* **outofthedarkness.org**.

SMOKING FREEDOM: A GIFT OF CHOICE A presentation on hypnotherapy treatments for quitting smoking. *10am-noon. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9030. Free.*

SUSTAINABLE SHOPPER'S BALL brings 60 of Austin's greenest nonprofits and businesses together for an environmentally friendly winter festival of shopping, eating, playing, and learning. Kids will enjoy green-gift making and giant chess; grownups can visit the various demonstrations, lectures, workshops, and vendor booths. (See Club Listings) *9am-2pm. Sunset Valley Farmers' Market, Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free (bring nonperishables, coats, clothing, and children's shoes for charity).* **www.sustain-a-ball.org**.

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY Yarborough Branch Library celebrates the season with music, food, arts & crafts, and storytelling for adults and kids. (See Club Listings) *11am-3pm. Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock. Free.*

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS *6-10pm. Pioneer Farms, 1400 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. $15/person or $50/family (discounts for advance tix).* **www.pioneerfarms.org/events/cct.html**. (See Friday)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Capitol Visitors Center, **Davis Gallery**, **IF+D**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Blank Generation *@ AMOA, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Cold Blockin' It 2 *Emo's*
The Channel, **Golden Bear** *The Parish*
Bruce Robison and Kelly Willis *Paramount Theatre*
The Black Keys, **Dr. Dog** *La Zona Rosa*
Diamond Smugglers, **Honeypot** *Continental Club*

Sunday 10

AUSTIN JEWISH ACADEMY 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA A chic evening of entertainment, exotic food, massages, henna tattoos, and all kinds of auctions (silent, live, and online). Items include weightless flight with a NASA astronaut and a five-star European vacation. Proceeds benefit the academy's scholarship fund. *5pm. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500.* **www.austinjewishacademy.org**.

BLUES FOR BLUE SKIES An evening of blues music and appetizers to support **Public Citizen**'s clean air and energy initiatives. (See Club Listings) *5-9pm. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 477-1155. $15 ($10, student).* **www.citizen.org/texas**.

BREWING & FLAVOR ANALYSIS CLASS Hosted by **Black Star Beer Co-op** and geared toward home brewers with at least some experience. E-mail for details. *Pick a session: 11am-3pm, 4-8pm. $35-60.* **jeff.young@blackstar.coop**, **www.blackstar.coop**.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE CEREMONY VIEWING PARTY **Muhammad Yunus** and **Grameen Bank** will be honored today with the Nobel Peace Prize for their work to reduce poverty around the world. Whole Foods will serve complimentary refreshments, and the **Results** organization will be on-hand to explain the benefits of **microcredit programs** like those Yunus and Grameen have spearheaded. *4-6pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 608-2403. Free.* **nanawese@cox-internet.com**.

TEXAS MUSIC CHRISTMAS PARTY Hang with Santa, peruse the museum's new "Texas Songs" exhibit, and enjoy performances from **James Polk**, **Ernie Mae Miller**, **Beulah Agnes Jones**, and **Jimmie Jones**. *1:30-4:30pm. Texas Music Museum, 1009 E. 11th, 472-8891. Free.* **www.texasmusicmuseum.org**.

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

James Owens Handmade Boots of Clarendon are family footwear made the old-fashioned way – one stitch at a time. There is no rushing the process nor the craftsman. It has to be done one step at a time. That's how it's been done here for more than six decades.

"Making a pair of boots is a lot like flying an airplane," says Jim Owens, the second-generation cobbler on the main street in this historic, little Panhandle town about 60 miles southeast of Amarillo. "You can't learn how to do it by reading a book, and there aren't any manuals to follow. You have to feel your way."

Owens learned leather working from his father, James Sr., who learned from Pete Gordon. "All these little towns around here used to have at least one boot maker," he says. The cowboys from the JA and other ranches surrounding the town kept several boot makers busy mending and making leather gear.

After serving in the Korean War, the elder James Owens arrived back in his hometown in 1959. His father owned a trucking business, but Owens decided to go to work with Gordon. He bought the business and machinery from his widow in 1970. "There was a time that we had three or four boot makers working with my dad," the younger Owens says. "There's not a lot of boot makers out there anymore."

These days Jim Owens does all the work on a pair of boots himself, with the exception of the stitching on the upper part of the boot. He makes 40 to 50 pairs of custom boots a year.

Owens has probably turned down about as much boot work as he has accepted since his dad died in 1999. "We're backed up as it is," Owens says. If you're not local or Owens doesn't take a shine to you, he's not likely to let you get in line for a custom-fitted pair of handmade boots.

On the shelves lining the wall of Owens' workshop are the wooden foot castings of 200 to 250 regular customers. Called "lasts," these smooth brown feet with white tags hanging off the heels are a fair representation of someone's foot. They're used to mold the leather to the desired shape. You have to die to have your pair of lasts removed. "I inherited some of them from my dad," Owens says.

If you have a pair of lasts with your name on Jim Owen's wall, then a new pair of boots is as simple as a telephone call. The customer picks color, leather, shape, design, and any other aspect of the boot. "If I can, I'll do it for you," Owens says. "But I don't do anything weird. Like fancy toes or crazy heels." Don't bother sending him a picture of a New York designed boot from a magazine, he says. Not that many of his customers would even think of such a transgression. Most of his customers are his neighbors.

A cobbler's tale
GERALD E. MCLEOD

Why would a man or woman pay $650 for a pair of custom boots when two pairs of perfectly good Red Wing boots cost half that much? "Some people want Cadillacs, and some are happy with a Chevy," Owens says as he rocks back and forth in his Red Wings. Everyone who has ever made the leap to handmade footwear has their personal reasons. Fit and comfort are big reasons. Being able to design the style has to be another big one.

"Whether I make leisure, dress, or work boots all depends on what you do with them when you leave my shop. I guess that Amarillo lawyer figures that fancy pair I made for him are work boots," Owens says. "Some last a year and some last 15 years. It's like everything else – how long it lasts depends on how you take care of it."

James Owens Leather Goods and Handmade Boots is at 112 S. Kearney down the block from the Saints Roost Grill in Clarendon. To see if you're material for a pair of his custom-made boots, give him a call at 806/874-9812.

806th 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.

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

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. 8-9. Pioneer Village Living History Center, Gonzales, 830/672-2157.*

A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY presents the Christmas story in a drive-through park with nine scenes featuring live characters and animals accented with beautiful backgrounds, special lighting, and music. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 6-8:30pm. Bethany Lutheran Church, 110 W. Austin, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2069.*

HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS ON THE CIBOLO keeps the shops open late as everyone gathers around the Main Plaza for music, refreshments, and snow flakes falling from the sky at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30pm. If there is enough water in the creek, Saturday's lighted parade starts at 5pm. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 6-10pm. Boerne, 830/816-2176.* **www.ahillcountrychristmas.com**.

HILL COUNTRY DOG AGILITY SHOW has the pups running, jumping, and weaving through an obstacle course for prizes. *Dec. 8-10, 8am-3pm. Youth Exhibit Center, 3705 Hwy. 27 E., Kerrville, 830/792-4728.*

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS offers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of a traditional 19th-century holiday with old-fashioned crafts, stories, food, and dancing. *Sat., Dec. 9, 1-8pm. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, 936/878-2213.* **www.birthplaceoftexas.com**.

SAN BERNARD RIVER BOAT PARADE has water craft of all sizes and shapes floating down the river from FM 521 to Las Playas. *Sat., Dec. 9, dusk. Brazoria, 979/964-4332.* **www.sanbernardriver.com**.

CONCERT IN THE CAVERN acoustic series continues with Emily Kaitz. *Sat., Dec. 9, 6:30-8pm. Longhorn Cavern State Park, Burnet, 512/756-4680.* **www.longhorncaverns.com**.

The Austin Chronicle, Austin Film Festival & SXSW Present

Broadway Knights

Casino Night & Silent Auction To
Benefit the MacTheatre Fund at
the Austin Community Foundation

Saturday, December 9
7 to 11 pm • American Legion Hall
2201 W. 1st (Veterans Drive)

Tickets $50/$100
mactheatrefund.org
or at the door

Prizes and Auction Items Include

Lakehouse Rental • SXSW & AFF Passes • Deer Hunting Trip • Movie Memorabilia • Wii Game System • Arts Tickets • 25,000 AA Miles • Restaurant GCs • Party Barge Rental • & Much More!

Sponsored in Part by the Following Businesses Supporting the Arts

Austin Chronicle • Austin Film Festival • SXSW • Eagle Training Solutions
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Bastrop Opera House
Spring Street Players present

HOLIDAY MUSICAL

by john daniels, jr. & Engela Edwards

Fridays & Saturdays, December 8-16, 7:30pm

Reservations: 512-321-6283 or online:
reservations@bastropoperahouse.com

Bastrop Opera House • 711 Spring Street

Shop and dine along Main Street
Bastrop Historic Homes Tour - Noon 'til 5pm
Lighted Christmas Parade - 6pm
512-321-2419

Miller Blueprint

Holiday Sale has begun

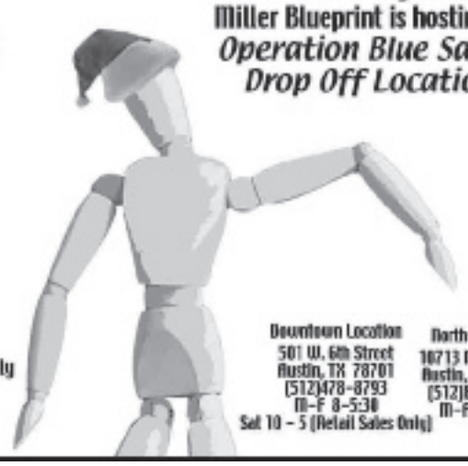
see website for Sale Flyer

Saturday, Dec 16th
12 pm – 2 pm

Santa Claus
is coming to
Miller Blueprint
501 6th Street

Join us for an exciting day!
Kids are invited to make
Holiday Cards
and take a picture with Santa!

Don't Forget!
Miller Blueprint is hosting an
Operation Blue Santa
Drop Off Location



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DECEMBER 8-10, 2006 ❋ 6 to 9 p.m.

Luminations

A Winter Celebration at the
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

$9 for Adults ❋ $3 for Children (ages 4-12) ❋ $7 for Members, Seniors & Students ❋ Free for Infants & Toddlers (ages 0-3)

Proceeds benefit the environmental education mission of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

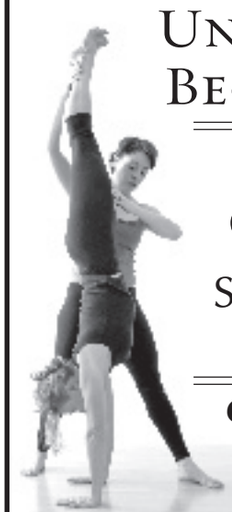
Special thanks to:
KXAN make a difference · SAMSUNG AUSTIN SEMICONDUCTOR

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower center
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

4801 LA CROSSE AVENUE · AUSTIN, TEXAS

visit **www.wildflower.org** for more info

UNFOLD YOUR POTENTIAL
BECOME A YOGA TEACHER



Join us for our last Open House of the year!

Saturday December 9, 1-3pm
at Yoga Yoga South

Call today for details 512-326-2273

YOGA YOGA
TEACHER TRAINING

Yoga Yoga Teacher Training 1700 South Lamar (512) 326–2273
www.yogayoga.com/training

Ongoing Events

HELP NUBIAN QUEEN HELP OTHERS Every Sunday she opens up her Rosewood restaurant for the homeless, and right now, the people are in need of winter preparation. Your **donations of coats, blankets, and nonperishable foods** will be greatly appreciated. *Nubian Queen Lola's Cajun Kitchen, 1815 Rosewood, 474-LOLA (5652).*

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK FOOD DRIVE The Austin Chapter of the Texas Recreational Vehicle Association has several drop-off points for nonperishable food items. **Pflugerville:** *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; Crestview RV, 15700 S. I-35; All Star RV, 14605 S. I-35. Through Fri., Dec. 15.* **www.austinfoodbank.org**.

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**.

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. 7, 18, 21, & 28; 6:30pm, Dec. 12.* **Golden Corral South**, 3607 S. Lamar: *11:30am, Dec. 11, 14, 19, & 26.* **CIP Offices**, 1016 La Posada Dr. #200: *11:30am, Dec. 13, 20, & 27. 877/625-2207 or TTY: 866/679-3052.*

BLUE SANTA: VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS BS needs volunteers to help with sorting and wrapping toys for families who will be receiving aid this year. Available hours: Dec. 7-8, 1-9pm; Dec. 9, 9am-1pm. Volunteers for deliveries are also needed (Sat., Dec. 16; large groups call 974-4900), as are donations of new, unwrapped toys *(through Dec. 15)* – especially for **children ages 8-12**. *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 and 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**.

PFLUGERVILLE OPTIMISTS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE Get your fresh-cut Douglas Fir here, and you'll be helping to raise scholarship money for area youth and youth-related programs. *Mon.-Fri., 5-9pm; Sat., 9am-9pm; Sun., 1-9pm. 200 Main St., Downtown Pflugerville, 804-9611.* **optimist@hotmail.com**.

BARBARA JORDAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD Do you know someone who inspires social change in Texas? Someone who you'd call a community leader? If so, you have till *Fri., Dec. 15*, to nominate them for the **LBJ School of Public Affairs**' annual Barbara Jordan award. *471-8288.* **www.utexas.edu/lbj/barbarajordanforum/nominate2007.htm**.

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT CAMPAIGN FOR NEW SPACE YBP is raising funds to purchase a new, permanent home because its current space, thus far donated by the city of Austin, is destined for demolition by the end of the year to make way for Mueller Airport redevelopment. To find out how you can help or to make a donation, visit YBP's Web site. **www.austinyellowbike.org/yb_donate.htm**.

TEXAS HIV/STD CONFERENCE *Mon.-Fri., Dec. 11-15. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum, 800/299-2437.* **www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd.**

COATS FOR KIDS still needs help providing Austin children with warm coats this winter. Volunteers can sort coats *(through Dec. 8)* or work three-hour shifts on distribution day *(Dec. 9). Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 467-8982 x231.* **www.jlaustin.org/coats**.

BLUE SANTA: APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE provides toys and food to families in need during the holidays. If you'd like to receive assistance this year, you can pick up an application at one of the following neighborhood centers: *Blackland, 2005 Salina, 972-5790; East Austin, 211 Comal, 972-6650; Montopolis, 1416 Montopolis, 972-5710; Rosewood Zaragosa, 2800 Webberville, 972-6740; St. John's Comm. Ctr., 7500 Blessing, 972-5159; South Austin, 2508 Durwood, 972-6840.* Deadline: *Fri., Dec. 8. 220-BLUE.* **www.bluesanta.org**.

2006 PROPERTY TAX BILLS have been mailed out. If you're a homeowner who escrows through a mortgage company, then your bill has been delivered to that company; however, you're still liable for taxes. For a copy of your bill or for other information on property taxes (including special provisions for the elderly and disabled), call *854-9473* or see **www.traviscountytax.org**.

KEEP AUSTIN WARM Help keep Austin's 4,000 homeless warm this winter by dropping off blankets, scarves, hats, coats, gloves, and socks at any of the following locations (look for the Keep Austin Warm box): *Wheatsville Co-op, 3101 Guadalupe; Waterloo Records, 600-A N. Lamar; Temple Beth Shalom, 7300 Hart; St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa 221-1972.* **www.keepaustinhoused.org/newsletters.htm**.

SKINNY'S GALLERY This program from the Paramount and State theatres introduces underprivileged children to the arts. Visit their Web site for details and to find out how to donate to their endeavors. **www.austintheatre.org/site/R?i=CTrmluz-NUcaljjouoaobg**.

BEST BUDDIES ONLINE AUCTION Bid on all kinds of stuff, from Superbowl tickets to vacations, to benefit Best Buddies Texas, the nonprofit that helps people with developmental disabilities develop friendships and find meaningful employment. *Through Dec. 8.* **www.bestbuddies.org**.

AUSTIN CITY STORE Calling all creative local people making creative local things: City Hall's new store wants your genuine Austin products, be they fashion-, houseware-, or paper-oriented (calendars, postcards, etc.). The only thing they don't want is large artwork or photography (due to space limitations). Call or e-mail for details. *974-7852.* **jan.stephens@ci.austin.tx.us**.

ZILKER PARK TRAIL OF LIGHTS kicks off with a **5K** on *Sat., Dec. 9* (see Sports listings), and a **parade** on Sunday *(Dec. 10, 5:30pm)*. The trail opens at 7pm after the parade, and festivities continue through *Dec. 23* with nightly viewing of the 1-million-light spectacle; every evening also boasts a full lineup of dancers and singers. Shuttle service available from *14th & Trinity, 5:45-10:45pm ($2)*, or you can park at Zilker *($8). Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol**.

LUMINATIONS: A WINTER CELEBRATION Lit with **thousands of luminarias, torches, and lanterns**, the LBJ Wildflower Center's garden hosts three nights of winter parties with music, warm food (**soup in a bread bowl!**), and gift-shopping, plus storytelling and crafts for the kids. Professional portrait photographers will be on-hand, as will Frosty the Snowman. *6-9pm. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 8-10. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. $9 (discounts available for members/children).* **www.wildflower.org/?nd=2126**.

TURKEY TALK John Payne and Rose Ann Reeser share what they learned about the conflict between Islamists and secularists on their recent trip to Turkey. *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free.* **www.austinuu.org**.

CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG *4pm. Alamo Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. $10.* **www.originalalamo.com**. (See Thursday 12/7)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Tupperware! – The Movie *@ Alamo Downtown, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Rusted Shut, **Grey Daturas** *Emo's*
Jones Family Singers *Threadgill's World HQ*
North Loop Holiday Block Party *The Parlor*

Monday 11

CUPID.COM PREDATING Twelve six-minute dates in one night (ages 26-38). *7pm. Johnny Carino's, 5601 Brodie, 899-0572. $32.* **www.cupid.com/predating**.

MD ANDERSON AUSTIN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP features Dr. **Mark Blumenthal**, a world-renowned auhority on using herbal strategies to supplement traditional medical care. Call to RSVP. *6:30-8pm. Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 589-8736. Free.* **www.herbalgram.org**.

SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY CHRISTMAS DINNER Tonight's topic: "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle." *6:30pm. La Madeleine, 9828 Great Hills Trail, 502-2474.* **www.sherlockholmessocietyaustin.org**.

TEXAS COMMUNITY CARE TOWNHALL MEETING Right now is the annual election period for **Medicare Advantage** plans. Today's meeting shares information about the Prescription Drug Program as well as changes, benefits, alternatives, and enrollment in Medicare. Lunch provided. Call *800/705-0766* for special-needs accommodations. *11am. Allen R. Baca Center, 301 W. Bagdad, Bldg. 2, Round Rock, 512/218-5499. Free.* **www.communitycarerx.com**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Danielson: A Family Movie *@ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm*
Iraq in Fragments *@ Alamo Downtown, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Jana Hunter, **Pink Nasty** *The Mohawk*
Honky, **Billy Dee** *Woody's South*

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN ICE BATS The Bats are on a roll, having won five straight and making a serious run for the division lead. Vs. Corpus Christi: *Sat., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. $15-35.* **www.icebats.com**.

AUSTIN OUTLAWS TRYOUTS Football-loving ladies needed to help round out the Outlaws roster. Must be 18, have proof of insurance, and a valid ID. The Outlaws were 6-2 last year and made their first NWFA playoff appearance. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 9-10, 10am. Bedichek Middle School, 796-0108. $35.* **www.austinoutlaws.com**.

LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS This bout features the Cherry Bombs vs. Rhinestone Cowgirls. *Sun., Dec. 10, 7pm (6pm, doors). Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez.* **www.txrd.com**.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Schreiner: *Sat., Dec. 9, 3pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Concordia: *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm.* **www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm**.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Texas A&M International: *Sat., Dec. 9, 7:30pm.* **southwesternpirates.cstv.com**.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS VOLLEYBALL NCAA Regional Semifinals: California vs. Stanford: *Fri., Dec. 8, 5pm.* UT vs. Wisconsin: *Fri., Dec. 8, 7pm.* Final TBD: *Sat., Dec. 9, 5:30pm. Gregory Gymnasium, 2101 Speedway.* **www.texassports.com**.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. UT-Dallas: *Sat., Dec. 9, 3pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. UT-Dallas: *Sat., Dec. 9, 1pm.* **athletics.concordia.edu**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

CEN-TEX BAIT MEET This is the place to be for antique fishing collectibles and memorabilia. Apparently, those lures that have been sitting in your ol' tackle box for years could be worth some big bucks. Bring 'em by, and have them appraised. *Sat., Dec. 9, 7am. Woodward Hotel, 3401 S. I-35, 744-4829. $3.* **www.roadwayevents.com**.

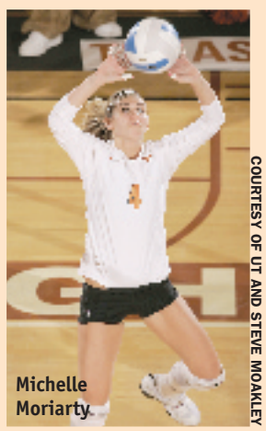
WHOLE FOODS MARKET ICE SKATING Show off your ice-skating skills (or lack thereof) at the Whole Foods rink. *Through Jan. 14, 10am-8pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. $10.* **wholefoodsmarket.com**.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

RUN AT THE RIDGE 5K & KIDS RUN All proceeds benefit the **Vista Ridge High School Project Graduation** 2007. They'll be selling breakfast tacos and lattes, too. *Sat., Dec. 9, 8am (5K), 9am (kids run). Vista Ridge High, 434-7355.* **vrhs.leanderisd.org**.

SPORTS BLOG
austinchronicle.com/sports

UT HOSTS VOLLEYBALL REGIONALS



COURTESY OF UT AND STEVE MOAKLEY

Michelle Moriarty

UT whipped up on Prairie View A&M and Stephen F. Austin last weekend – both in 3-0 decisions – to advance to this weekend's Sweet 16. The No. 7 Horns will get a stiffer challenge in this round: On Friday at 5pm, No. 2 Stanford faces California, and Texas must dispatch No. 10 Wisconsin at 7pm. The winners will then meet at 5:30pm Saturday to determine who advances to the Final Four in Omaha, Neb. *– Lee Nichols*

TRAIL OF LIGHTS 5K The course runs through Zilker Park and the Trail of Lights, which features an amazing array of more than 180,000 lights. Packet pickup and late registration will be at RunTex Riverside. *Sat., Dec. 9, 6:30pm. Zilker Park. $25.* **www.runtex.com/web/2-1184.asp**.

BARTON CREEK GREENBELT HIKE Enjoy a pleasant 5-mile hike along the Greenbelt and maybe a little lunch afterward. Space is limited; RSVP, please. *Sun., Dec. 10.* **www.hillcountryoutdoors.com**.

Soccer WATCH

Top-ranked **North Carolina** won the **NCAA women**'s championship on Sunday, beating Notre Dame, 2-1. It's the Tar Heels' 18th title in the 25-year history of the sport. And here's the scary part: This is the youngest UNC team ever. Unseeded **UC-Santa Barbara** won the men's title, upsetting UCLA in the final, 2-1.

No big surprises in the finales in the **European Champions League** group stage. Manchester Utd., Arsenal, Barcelona, and Roma punched their tickets for the final 16, and there's arguably not a single surprise team left in the field. The tourney resumes in February with knockout rounds. Full results at **austinchronicle.com/soccer**. *– Nick Barbaro*

Tuesday 12

AUSTIN IONS MEETING presents **More on the Beauty of Symmetry**, by Dr. Katya Walter. *6:30-8:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 847-0371. Free.* **www.ionsaustin.org**.

CARDIAC RISK PROFILE SCREENINGS Call to make an appointment. *Seton Medical Center, 1201 W. 38th, 324-3162. $32.* **cwahlgren@seton.org**.

EASY DIY PRESENTS Learn simple do-it-yourself projects for gift-giving. RSVP by 5pm. *8pm. The Stash, 2209 S. First #J, 448-7707. $15.* **austinstash@yahoo.com**, **www.austinstash.com**.

TEXAS GRANDPARENTS RIGHTS HEARTLINE MEETING A support group for grandparents who want to know more about their visitation rights. *7pm. Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 830/693-4994.* **texasgrandparentsrightsheartline@hotmail.com**.

VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE FIESTA showcases the art and music of the students participating in the **LUPE Arte** afterschool program. *6-9pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. Free.* **www.lupearte.com**.

WINTER POTLUCK & SILENT AUCTION presented by the **Native Plant Society of Texas**. *7-9pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free.* **www.npsot.org/Austin**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
East Austin Stories *@ Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 7pm*
Metropolis *@ Alamo Downtown, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
The Faint, **Ratatat** *La Zona Rosa*

Wednesday 13

AUSTIN CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER OPEN HOUSE Established in 1951, the ACGC has a long history of treating kids in Central Texas and is conducting tours to educate the public on children's mental health services. *5:30-6:30pm. 810 W. 45th.*

FREE LEGAL ADVICE This night clinic is open to everyone, offers child care, and is right on the bus line. *6-7pm. Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. Johns.*

GREATER AUSTIN CHAMBER'S ANNUAL ECONOMIC FORECAST Leading economic experts discuss where the economy is headed, locally and otherwise, in 2007. *5pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.* **www.austinchamber.com**.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB Catellus VP Matt Whelan presents **The Mueller Community: From Concept to Community**. *7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. $15 (members/first-time guests).* **www.mbcaustin.org**.

ORPHANED ANIMALS IN NEED The Town Lake Animal Shelter needs toys and chews (specifically tennis balls, wand-type cat toys, and natural rawhide chews), while the Animal Trustees of Austin desperately need towels for bedding and surgical procedures. *You can drop your donations off at the Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., or see Web sites for additional info.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/tlac**, **www.animaltrustees.org**.

VINO VIXEN'S TASTING & TRUNK SHOW Shopping and wine, presented by Flirt Boutique and Cork & Co. *5-9pm. Cork & Co., 308 Congress, 474-CORK.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Been Rich All My Life *@ Alamo Downtown, 7pm*
Nudge 3.5 *@ Arbor, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Girl in a Coma *Red 7*
Joanna Newsom *The Parish*
Romi Mayes, **Gurf Morlix**, **Adam Carroll**, **Sam Baker** *Cactus Cafe*

Thursday 14

DEMOCRATIC CLUBS HOLIDAY PARTY Get festive at this potluck with the South Austin Democrats, Capital Area Progressive Democrats, and the Travis County Democratic Party. *5:30-8pm. AFL-CIO Hall, 1106 Lavaca, 477-6195.*

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be near your neighborhood today – check their Web site to find out. *8am, check-in begins (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free.* **www.emancipet.org**.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT IBP sends books to Texas prisoners, and they can always use a hand with sorting mail, processing requests, shelving/sending books, etc. *Thu., 6-10pm; Sun., 7pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 647-4803.* **www.insidebooksproject.com**.

MONEYSMART MIXER: NAVIGATING THE MORTGAGE MAZE *6-8pm. Wachovia Mortgage, 8200 N. MoPac #200, 634-2115. Free.* **www.moneysmartmixers.com**.

NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVES meets monthly to offer a political/spiritual alternative to the religious right. *7-9pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 589-0184 or 804-0123.* **www.spiritualprogressives.org**.

CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG *7pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. $10.* **www.originalalamo.com**. (See Thursday 12/7)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Nudge 3.5 *@ Arbor, 7pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
White Ghost Shivers *Red's Scoot Inn*
A Scottish Christmas With Bonnie Rideout *Paramount Theatre*
Tammany Hall Machine, **Lomita** *Continental Club*

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. 11 issue is Monday, Dec. 22**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Kate X Messer or 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**.

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

ATTICUS CIRCLE Come join the grassroots gay-straight alliance that stands up for dignity, justice, and the (true) American way! *450-5188.* **info@atticuscircle.org**, **www.atticuscircle.org**, **www.myspace.com/atticuscircle**.

SUPER BUFFET/MANWATCH DANCERS Watch the **Men of Manwatch** wiggle as you scarf down that free buffet, 6-9pm. **DJ Bryan Konrad** spins at 9pm-close. Wipe your chin, skippy. *Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.*

SMOKING BANANA The "Official Spam of the Austin Outpost of the **Guerrilla Queer Bar**." Oh, yes, we have some bananas. **www.smokingbanana.com**.

POSITIVE INFLUENCE New therapy/support group for HIV-positive gay men. Eight-week sessions. Call for schedule. *Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. 784-8220.*

KINGS ON ICE Judging by all that hot queer love flying around IDKE this past fall, we've got an idea that these bois have been naughty. But, we'd still like to sit on their laps and tell them what we want, of course. Santa *like*! Join the old-school daddy-oh's **Kings N Things** for the holiday celebration of the year with guest performances by the strapping **New Orleans Carnival Kings**, the totally darling **Houston Gendermyn**, and other local cutie pies, bringing a Texas-sized dose of holiday cheer and tidings to all those gender-bending jinglers out there. Don we now, baby. *Fri., Dec. 8, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. $10.*

A TUNA X-MAS We're as excited as you. Austin's eccentric rock-operatic spaz-machine is back, after a well-deserved break and some touring on the side. Alas, the **TunaHelpers** rise to the occasion, headlining a night of rock, roll, and fairy tales. Joined by Houston's **Novice** and Austin faves **Rubber Robot** and **Confuzatron**, this lineup is ready to kick off some steel-toe bootenany, straight to the dome. Watch yerself. *Fri., Dec. 8, 10pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS. $5.* **www.thetunahelpers.org**.

THE COST IS CORRECT That's right. *Come on down!* Scratch Bob Barker's neuter spiel, and come be a contestant on this live, homegrown version of the beloved TV game show. Donations go to **The Heart of Austin Tournament**, our city's own slice of the **International Gay Bowling Organization**. It's all about the shoes. *Sat., Dec. 9, 7pm. The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. $10 donation.*

CENTRAL TEXAS BOYS OF LEATHER MEETING Shiny, shiny … shiny boots of leather. Every fourth Saturday and, on the patio for cookouts, every second Sunday of the month (5-8pm). *Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. $5 to benefit CTBOL charities.* **www.ctbol.org**.

EAT, DRINK, AND BE GAY It's been too long. Kitty's finally back, bringing an end to an '06 worthy of a toast. Join the gallies of **Foodies** for a superb night out, enjoying cameraderie, community … and cute girls. Oh. OH. We'll have what *she's* having. *Sun., Dec. 10, 8pm. São Paulo's, 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988.*

RAINBOW SKATE Austin's monthly gay skate night: Close your eyes and you are in *Xanadu*! Price includes skate rental. Rollerblades and BYO-quads welcome. *Mon., Dec. 11. Skate World, 9514 Anderson Mill, 258-8886. $6 includes skate rental.* **jsvetlik2003@yahoo.com**, **www.main.org/rainbowskate**.

USE YOUR HEAD. THE OTHER ONE. Another trivial pursuit, another night out with Lois and Nora, the quirky ladies behind the questions. (And the restaraunt.) Lez-owned and gaily operated, Nueva Onda's a hip off-SoCo estab with plenty (of pussycats) to peruse, plates piled high with pleasure, and trivia. All for prizes! Bring a team or come alone. Either way, fun is to be had. *Wed., Dec. 13, 7pm. Nueva Onda, 2218 College, 447-5063. Free.*

For more gay stuff, see Calendar online: **austinchronicle.com. *Send gay bits to*** **gayplace@austinchronicle.com.**

Violet Crown RADIO Players
Proudly Present a Holiday Classic...
MONEYGO on 34th Street
Believe...something will go wrong
Weekends in December
8 PM Fri & Sat - 3 PM Sun
at The Hideout - 617 Congress
For tickets & info call 512 535-1929
or visit www.violetcrownradio.com

upcoming events:

dec 9 meet-n-greet
10 wild cave tour
16 camping @ palmetto
17 hill country wine tour

"Best outdoor events." – The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll

www.hillcountryoutdoors.com

Get Smart with the Arts & The Austin Discovery School
Present a benefit for a free public charter school emphasizing the well being of the whole child in a natural setting
The Diaz Gallery
at the Plant Escapes Garden will host an event on
December 9, 5-10pm
3307 S. First, (Alpine & S. First, North of Ben White)
Musical Entertainment by Govinda
www.govindamusic.com
Silent Art Auction
Refreshments by Tito's Vodka, Mary Louise Butters Brownies, Ruta Maya Coffee and others
$10 Suggested Donation at the door.
for more info about our school, visit:
www.austindiscoveryschool.org
or call 674-0700

Original work by more than 50 artists!
painting, printmaking, collage, mosaics, hip handmade purses and clothing, jewelry, art cloth, kids' clothing, art glass, photography, woodwork and more
www.cherrywoodartfair.org
chula
a CHULA production benefitting the arts & artful landscape in East Austin
fifth annual Cherrywood Art Fair
December 9-10, 2006
Saturday: 11-6 * Sunday: 11-5
Indoors and out at Maplewood Elementary - 38 1/2 Street & Maplewood Avenue
Free Admission • Live Music all weekend, including a performance by Joe McDermott, 1 PM Saturday • Kids' Art Activities • Food by Go-Go Gourmet

The Santaland Diaries

Zachary Scott Theatre Center Whisenhunt Arena Stage, through Jan. 7

Running time: 1 hr, 30 min

You will never think of elves the same way again. Demystification is the spirit of the season in *The Santaland Diaries* at the Zachary Scott Theatre Center. When you walk into the theatre, you are greeted by a sugar-coated set and the kind of carols that make your teeth hurt. Like joy on steroids, the atmosphere is brilliantly obnoxious, perfectly preparing you for what's to come: a dissection of Christmas.

The Santaland Diaries is based on the writing of David Sedaris. Sedaris' humor is brutal in its hilarity. No one escapes his scalpel. Side-splitting and stomach-turning, it is the kind of humor that inspires dissent and controversy. In these *Diaries*, Sedaris addresses his experiences working as a Christmas elf for Macy's department store, guiding children and their parents through Santaland. Sometimes the parents are rotten. Sometimes the children are "severely retarded" and "horribly deformed." During these segments you will most likely find yourself dying with laughter. But herein lies the brilliance of director Dave Steakley's staging of this material: *Santaland Diaries* is performed in the round in the intimate Whisenhunt Arena Stage. Just as the humor allows no one to escape, the round does not allow an audience to hide. The few stony faces in the crowd of guffawers will be obvious to you and will remind you in turn of exactly what it is you are laughing at/with. The person who is cracking up at the "retarded" jokes will turn suddenly sour when Sedaris' humor begins nipping at their homophobic heels. Any given person has his or her limit, and Sedaris pushes all of them.

After a two-year hiatus, Martin Burke returns to play Crumpet the elf. Burke manages to keep Sedaris' humor on the bright side, steering clear of the caustic edge. His energy has no bounds. The show I saw was supposed to run 90 minutes, and it ran 105 because he was so adept at playing off the audience, bantering and teasing, making us feel special – much like kids at Santaland. Burke has performed this show countless times, yet he manages to make the effort sincere and new. His partners in crime are Meredith McCall, who can deliver a song like it's her job (which luckily it is), and Jason Connor on the piano, whose dapper and high-brow attitude is the perfect foil to Burke's wild elfin antics.

Steakley's compilation of this material is as skillful as his staging. The show kicks off with McCall's rendition of "Santa Baby." If you are going to sing "Santa Baby" in the round, then you might as well do it in a dress with a stunningly sexy back. Derek Whitener coordinated the costumes and found just such an item. Burke's long monologues are interlaced with McCall's killer renditions of satirical songs that address such seasonal topics as masturbation ("Making Love Alone") and Mrs. Claus' plans for divorce ("Surabaya Santa"). Burke's first monologue, "Dinah," is just as rich and just as funny as "The Santaland Diaries," relating the night that a prostitute named Dinah visited the Sedaris family.

Now back to the heart of the show. There's a heart to the show? Oh, yes. A lovely heart. The kind one stumbles upon while wading through sick consumerism and false cheer. Burke's energy and cynicism buoy the bulk of *The Santaland Diaries*, but they also set you up to be awed when Burke turns the tables, and turn the tables he does.

What a fun night. The kind of night that allows you to laugh at the ridiculousness of American Christmas customs and yet leaves you feeling a bit more merry. For despite the historical, political, or economic implications of this holiday, there are some beautiful stories worth telling each year. *The Santaland Diaries* reminds us that perhaps those stories are not found in the presents under the tree; rather, they might be found in the whore in your kitchen or the underemployed Santa at Santaland.

– *Hannah Kenah*

Theatre

OPENING

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**.

THE BUSYBODY Out in Leander, the Way Off Broadway Community Players have their hands (and stage) full of a murder – and none but a snoopy janitress to provide evidence to the cops – in Jack Popplewell's comedic mystery. Directed by Brent Jenkins. *Dec. 8-16. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/336-8966. $10-12.* **www.wobcp.org**.

ROB NASH: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, THE 70S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL stars the hyperventilated and seemingly multiple-personalitied Nash as the Fonz, relating the classic Frank Capra tale as seen through a Magnavox darkly. Nash does *all* the characters, of course, in staccato, mind-warping style: Paul Lynd, Charo, Howard Cosell, Walter Cronkite, Miss Piggy, Charles Nelson Reilly, Richard Dawson, Mushmouth, Ricardo Montalban, Redd Foxx, Geraldo Rivera, Archie Bunker, and more: Enough star power (and sufficient C-list dwellers) to fill a hundred seasons of *Hollywood Squares*. Whether you grew up on television or you *threw up* on television, this hilarious holiday show will yank you back to where you thought you'd never be again – with bells on. *Dec. 8-23. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30.* **www.vortexrep.org**.

THE BEST SALVAGE VANGUARD HOLIDAY EVER Yes, citizens, it's time once again to sardine yourselves into the homey confines of Little City Downtown and enjoy the yuletide antics proffered by some of the city's most accomplished writers and performers. Hilarity and sentiment intermingle in this (10th) annual tradition from SVT, in a brisk series of sketches and songs to warm your cockles and tickle your funny bone, giving you a jump-start toward further appreciation of Christmas or Channukah or Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice or whatever it is you choose to celebrate. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 9pm. Little City, 916 Congress, 474-SVT-6. $7-35.* **www.salvagevanguard.org**.

CLOSING

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. 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.-Sat., 8pm. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. $15.*

ONGOING

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. Up next, **Hyde Park Theatre** will present seven plays – "What Do You See?," "Jaywalking," "Learning English," "Hippy," "1000 S. Kelly," "Probably Not a Play," and "Tree" – with an excellent cast under the direction of Ken Webster. *Tue.-Wed., Dec. 12-13, 8pm. 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. Pay what you can.* **www.hydeparktheatre.org**.

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 fabulosity. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. $25.* **www.naughtyaustin.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. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. $20 ($10, students, seniors).* **www.austinplayhouse.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 metafictive 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. *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. $15 ($12.50, in advance).* **www.violetcrownradio.com**.

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 and sexy new moves set to 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. *Through 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**.

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. (See "La Pastorela," p.43.) *Through Dec. 17. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. $12 ($8, seniors, students).* **www.lapastorela.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**.

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**.

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. 7, 14, 16, 21, & 22, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

AUDITIONS

ICARUS: ON ICE is a new one-act by Daniel Huntley Solon, slated for FronteraFest Long Fringe, for which actors (male and female, ages 25-35) are sought. Call or e-mail for details. *Sat., Dec. 9. 947-2594.* **imghello@hotmail.com**.

FRONTERAFEST: A MODERN-DAY DUEL Director Marc Frost seeks actors for this new piece. Two African-American males (ages 17-25), two females (any race, ages 40-60), and four actors of any age (as long as they can *move* well). *Sat., Dec. 9, noon-2pm. 847/363-8158. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY.* **Frost.Marc@gmail.com**.

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. *Sat., Dec. 9, 10:30am-2pm. play! theatre, 1204 Cedar, 466-5221.* **www.yellowtape.org**.

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 résumé and letter of interest to: *Hyde Park Theatre 511 W. 43rd, Austin, TX 78751.* Or via e-mail to: **fronterafest@hydeparktheatre.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**.

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. 7-9. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm*.

Rodney Carrington has his own show on ABC, so perhaps you've heard of him? Or listened to his album called *Nut Sack*? Well, the Longview native's back from TV-land to wrangle him some USDA prime laughter, so y'all c'mon out now, y'hear? *Dec. 12-17. Tue.-Thu. & Sun., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm*.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport Blvd. **www.coldtowne.com**.

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*. **McNichol & May** The talented husband-and-wife duo create improv by way of the cathode ray tube, in "Guided by Videos." *Fridays, 8pm*. **That Other Paper presents ... Standup Comedy Showcase**. *Fridays, 10pm*. **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 night with fierce improv until you're handed off to the **Knuckleball Now**, a trio with brio and brains to spare, who kick your ass all short-form style. *Saturdays, 10pm*. **You, Me, and Greg** are sometimes improv, sometimes sketch, always unpredictable. *Sundays, 7pm*.

EMO'S 603 Red River, 477-EMOS. **www.emosaustin.com**

Night of 100 Laughs Ross Brockley, best recognized from a string of Holiday Inn commercials, promises to bring you 100 laughs – with a bona fide accounting firm on hand to actually count 'em – or your money back. Is the comedy as funny as the gimmick? We think it's worth a look-see. *Sat., Dec. 9, 9pm. $12 ($10 in advance).*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. **www.esthersfollies.com**.

Esther's Follies Here's a rollicking holiday romp through the comedy landscape of 2006, from the political to the personal. George W. Bush stars in Esther's version of *It's a Wonderful Life* and a special White House edition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." On the home front, Christmas shoppers sing their need for the Playstation3 and Nintendo Wii, families scramble for the Prozac in "A Dysfunctional Christmas Dinner," and the girls from Cell Block 13 lament their holiday incarceration. You know: the usual Esther's shenanigans, but all *holiday-sparkly*, yo. *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military.) Additional $5 for special reserved seats*.

Is this the comedian Chris Keimling? Or is this, in fact, the notorious German hip-hop star Klaus Schicklgruber? Check out the Velveeta Room this weekend to find out for sure.

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. **www.heroescomedy.com**.

AUSTIN IMPROV Recover from your system's recent influx of tryptophan, turkey-lover, with some of this eye-opening brilliance:

Friday: Improv Threefer features **A Sip of Chantico**, Houston's **Massive**, and **Coldtowne**. *8pm. $7-10*. The **Double Barrel** features **1 A.M.** and the **Frank Mills** *10pm. $7-10*. And late night's **Cage Match** brings, as challengers, **Brickhouse**. *11:30pm. $7-10*.

Saturday: Gorilla Theatre is gonna give you something improvised to go, dare we say, ape-shit over. *8pm. $7-10*. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. Highly recommended. *10pm. $7-10*. This week's Blank Show puts a lance in your dragon with **Choose Your Own Adventure**. *11:30pm. $7-10*.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. **www.thevelveetaroom.com**.

Chris Keimling is a man you may remember from NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, where he performed as his alter-ego, German hip-hop star Klaus Schicklgruber. The very funny **Seth Cockfield** opens this night of laughs, and master of the four-track blackjack **Chuck Watkins** is your host. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

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. 22 issue is Monday, Dec. 11**. 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**.

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Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com**.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com**.

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

Dance

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: SEMBRANDO HERENCIA This year's *Sembrando* is a lively celebration of Puerto Ricans' Spanish, Taino, and West African cultural heritage, brought to life in a full-length live music and dance production, featuring the minimusical "PiraguaMan!" in which Puerto Rico's newest superhero fights to save the island from destruction. Go, man, go! *Sun., Dec. 10, 3pm. Journey Theatre, Akins High, 10701 S. First. 251-8122. $12 ($10, in advance; $5, children).* **www.prfdance.org**.

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: FALL '06 CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE Student-created dances were juried by ACC dance faculty for inclusion in this semester's big event. Also on the dance card: new works by ACC faculty members **Roxanne Gage** and **Darla Johnson**. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 8-9, 8pm. Mainstage Theater, Rio Grande Campus, 1212 Rio Grande. 223-3384. $6 ($3, students).*

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER BA's annual seasonal treat is back, choreographed by Stephen Mills and set to the timeless music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky, with live accompaniment by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. This year's crop of Mother Gingers includes Mayor Will Wynn, KVUE anchor Christine Haas, San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz (ooh, dueling mayoral Gingers!), and a host of others. *Sat., Dec. 9, 7:30pm; Sun., Dec. 10, 2pm; Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 16, 2 & 7:30pm; Sun., Dec. 17, 2pm; Wed.-Fri., Dec. 20-22, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 23, 2 & 7:30pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 866/4-GET-TIX. $15-63 ($10 student tickets available one hour before show).* **www.startickets.com**.

ON TAP: THE SOULS OF OUR FEET This kids-oriented show from local multiform dance company Tapestry celebrates tap dancing in an up-close exploration of the genre, where even the audience gets a chance to participate. *Sat., Dec. 9, 9am & noon. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. $15 ($10, kids).* **www.oneworldtheatre.org**.

1,001 NIGHTS

ARARAT Almost every night of the week, beautiful belly dancing accompanies your Mideast feast. Reservations encouraged. *Nightly, times vary. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop. 419-1692.*

CLEOPATRA Belly dancing with true Egyptian flavor. *Fri.-Sat., 8pm-2am. Cleopatra, 2620 S. I-35. 947-9462.*

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd. 989-3939.* **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary.* **www.dancein.org**.

SECOND FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING At this fragrance-free event, dances are called by expert teachers, so you can be a beginner and still enjoy this elegant form of dancing. *Fri., Dec. 8, 7:30-10:30pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 266-9949. $6.* **www.austinuu.org**.

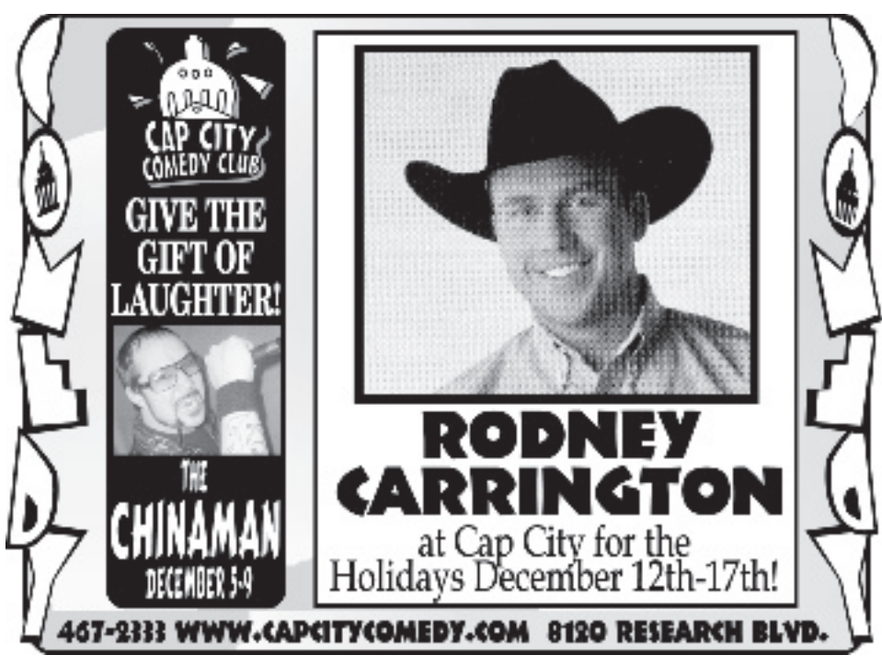
AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html**.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). *Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet Rd. First session free.* **www.austinscd.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**.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. $4 ($2, members).* **www.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tue., 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* **www.fouronthefloor.com**.



Classical Music

OPENING

CONSPIRARE: CHRISTMAS AT THE CARILLON "Conspirare" 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.conspirare.org**.

P.K. WADDLE performs the first movement of Beethoven's *Symphony #7*, followed by lectures on O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales," and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. *Thu., Dec. 7, 8pm. Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 453-4206. $15 ($12, in advance).*

WILL TAYLOR AND STRINGS ATTACHED This annual holiday concert features gospel sounds with Wendy Colonna, and appearances by other surprise guests. *Fri., Dec. 8, 7:30 & 10pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 866/235-0270. $15-30.* **www.stringsattached.org**.

AUSTIN CIVIC ORCHESTRA Noted conductor David Whitwell joins ACO to conduct Mendelssohn's "Hebrides" Overture, as well as "O Holy Night," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Prokofiev's "Lt. Kije Suite," and, by request of the orchestra, Smetana's "The Moldau," in this family-friendly program. *Sat., Dec. 9, 7:30pm. St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 12041 Bittern Hollow. 301-7370. $10 ($8, students; $3, ages 11 and younger).* **www.austincivicorchestra.org**.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR The girls will be on hand all over town to help you shop, appearing at a variety of emporia throughout the afternoon and evening. *Sat., Dec. 9. Noon: Texas Culinary Academy Gingerbread House workshop, 11400 Burnet. 1pm. Davenport Village, 3801 S. Capital of TX Hwy. 2:15pm. Gardens Gift Shop & Nursery, 1818 W. 35th. 3pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar. 3:45pm. Breed's Home & Hardware, 3663 Bee Caves Rd. 8:15-9pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. 453-0884. Free.* **www.austin.girlschoir.com**.

CAPITAL CITY MEN'S CHORUS Join the lads and their special guests, Mundi (acclaimed, local neo-Renaissance quintet), as they celebrate holiday song treasures new and old. From wassails to Elizabethan madrigals to carols you know (and can sing along with) to carols you'll hear for the first time, it promises to be a festive time for all. *Dec. 9-10. Sat., 8pm; Sun., 4pm. Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe, 477-7464. $18 ($15, in advance).* **www.ccmcaustin.org**.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: HODIE The 60-voice FBC Sanctuary Choir, with brass and percussion accompaniment, performs the glorious and exciting Christmas composition, "Hodie," by Z. Randall Stroope. Louise Kemp Avant, conductor; David Weigle, organist. *Sun., Dec. 10, during the 11am worship. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 476-2625.* **www.fbcaustin.org**.

AUSTIN EURYTHMY ENSEMBLE: TOUCHED TWICE Joining eurythmists Markus Weder, Andrea Weder, and Jolanda Frischknecht are violinist Rebecca Browne, pianist Brent Watkins, and speech artist Ellen Burke in an evening of interlaced poetry, movement, and music. Works by Fazil Say, Zoltan Kodaly, Alberto Ginastera, Arvo Pårt, and Mary Oliver. And a Japanese folk tale, too. Special preshow entertainment: Rachel Loy. (See "Austin Eurythmy Ensemble," p.43, for more.) *Sun., Dec. 10, 5pm (preshow, 3pm). One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. $40.* **www.oneworldtheatre.org**.

NORTHWEST HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: THE VOICES AND BELLS OF CHRISTMAS is presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Ring of Faith, and Spirit Ringers of the church and includes choir and handbells performing "Carol of the Bells" among other seasonal selections (and plenty of carols for singing along with). *Sun., Dec. 10, 4pm. 491-0131. Free.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: MESSIAH Chorus Austin and guest soloists Sarajane Dailey, soprano; Lori Bade, alto; Don Hill, tenor; and Chia-wei Lee, bass, join conductor Peter Bay and Austin's flagship orchestra for this annual season-stopping stocking stuffer. Handel's work is synonymous with Christmastime classical music, and ASO has been decking the halls with this mighty oratorio for years as one of the city's yuletide traditions. *Tue., Dec. 12, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. $15-35.* **www.austinsymphony.org**.

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: CAROLING AT NOON Weekly midday concerts usher in the holiday season. This week: **UT Harp Ensemble**. Lunch follows at Cafe Divine at 12:30. *Thursdays, 12:05pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free ($6, lunch).* **www.stdave.org**.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

LYNDON EVENT SPACE: VOUCH is a temporary installation from nine young locals. "Vouch" desires to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of creating in an encouraging noncommercial artistic community atmosphere. *Sun., Dec. 10, 6pm-12mid. 301 W. 14th.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR More than 120 artists and merchants offer imaginative gifts and Austin musicians perform nightly and on weekend afternoons at this extravagant yet down-home event. *Daily, Dec. 9-24. 208 Nueces, 263-4146. $5 ($3, weekdays until 7pm; free, ages 11 and younger).* **www.directevents.net**.

BLUE GENIE HOLIDAY ART BAZAAR Right, *now* the holiday shopping season is officially open! Come on down and see what's on display from a fierce variety of local creators and collectives and *artsgruppen*, as presented by the Blue Genie Boys who've brought so much oversized and year-round joy to this bustling city. *Dec. 7-24. Sun.-Thu., 10am-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid. 916 Springdale, 444-6655.* **www.bluegenieart.com**.

CRL: ART-MAKING EXTRAVAGANZA AND GLEE OPENING This interactive art exhibition kicks off with a week full of art events throughout the UT College of Fine Arts. E-mail UT's Carolyn Porter for more. *Sat., Dec. 9, 11am-9pm. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.* **carolynp@mail.utexas.edu**.

GET SMART WITH THE ARTS: BENEFIT FOR AUSTIN DISCOVERY SCHOOL At a time when budget cuts are causing school districts to put arts programs on the chopping block, an innovative new charter school boldly asserts that its fine arts program will "never be cut." Silent art auction and offerings from Austin artists and businesses, with live music by Govinda. *Sat., Dec. 9, 5-10pm. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.*

FLAMING-O RANCH STUDIO SALE features diverse creations by potter Stefanie Distefano to brighten your holidays. *Sat., Dec. 9, 11am-5pm. 402 El Paso St.* **www.flamingoranch.com**

OPENING

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**.

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: FINDING A FOREVER FAMILY is what hundreds of Central Texas children, who are currently in foster care awaiting adoption, are hoping for. The Adoption Coalition of Texas and CASA organizations have coordinated the Heart Gallery, a traveling exhibit of 95 stirring portraits of these adoption hopeful children. *Through Jan. 14. 201 Colorado, 472-2499.* **www.austinkids.org**.

VOLITANT GALLERY: TAKE ME TO BED OR LOSE ME FOREVER is a group show curated by Leona Scull-Hons. This bittersweet winter show is both as absurd as every cliché written about love, and as classic as a tragic romance. Artists include Jenny Schlief Houston, Jason Singleton, Allison Wiese, and others. Closing Reception: *Sat., Dec. 30, 6-9pm*. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 30. 320 Congress #100, 236-1240.* **www.volitant.com**.

CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER: ON THE PLAINS WITH PASTELS, PENCILS, AND PAINTS Frank Reaugh vividly captured the rugged beauty and vastness of the frontier and documented the people, landscapes, and animals of a vital period of American history. *Dec. 9-May 28. 112 E. 11th, 305-8400.* **www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb/spbt/history/chistory.htm**.

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW includes constructions by Chris Dial, paintings by Melissa Grimes, sculptures by Caprice Taniguchi, and more surprises from all of the gallery artists. *Dec. 9-Jan. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

IF+D: PO+P is a group exhibition featuring works by Rob Fairburn, Karen Maness, Andrew St. Martin, and others. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 9, 6-8pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 5. 208 Colorado, 469-0870.* **www.ifdaustin.com**.

TIRU GALLERY: ANIMAUX A show of works by Jamie Kimmel Shelton galvanizes a venue filled with prints and jewelry from many artists. *Dec. 10-22. Tue.-Sun., 4-9pm. 3701 Guadalupe #103.*

CLOSING

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**.

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**.

THE DONKEY SHOW: BUSTER GRAYBILL The artist 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**.

ONGOING

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

ADAMS AVENUE GALLERY: THE NOVEMBER PROJECT Thirty photographs of Austin, taken each day of November 2004 by David Keenan. *Through Dec.. 5601 Adams Avenue, 453-7788.*

AMOA: RADICAL NY! Radical NY! is a two-part 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. *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.pablotaboadastudio.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.arthousetexas.org**.

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.*

ATELIER 3-D The former Austin Sculpture Center hosts an open house for public viewing. *Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4-10pm. 2209 Pasadena, 374-0580.*

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

BLANTON MUSEUM: WORKSPACE: CRISTIAN SILVA Silva presents his *Black Sun/Green Flamingo*, a new and challenging large-scale pictorial piece. *Through Dec. 31. MLK & Congress, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.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**.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770; 108 W. 43rd.* **www.austinbluemoon.com**.

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 a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

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

D BERMAN: WEEDS No, it's not that dope-a-licious 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. *Through Dec. 23. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

DIBONA STUDIO Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a sculptural tattoo series. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

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

The people who created this local holiday landmark also bring you the shopalicious Blue Genie Holiday Art Bazaar.

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**.

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO Functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100.* **www.fireislandglass.com**.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

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 set of paintings have been presented together. *Through Dec. 31. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* **www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC**.

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: *Through Jan. 25. 7300 Hart Ln.*

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY Art by Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100.* **www.kwomack.com**.

LA PENA: MI RAZA DE BRONCE Traditional symbols of Mexican life are rendered in colorful mosaic windows by Jorge Castro and Eduardo Rosas. *Through Dec. 23. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610.* **www.lapena-austin.org**.

MITCHIE'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**.

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961.* **www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com**.

STUDIO 107: HOLIDAY PUNCH 3 highlights emerging artists who continue to push the possibilities of beauty and design. *Through Jan. 1. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092.* **www.studio107.com**.

13TH ANNUAL SERIE PROJECT continues its mission to promote artwork by established and emerging artists focusing on 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**.

YARD DOG: NORTHERN HOUSES New paintings from Toronto's Jennifer Harrison. *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613.* **www.yarddog.com**.

SPACES

ART IN NON-ART VENUES? See Spaces online at **austinchronicle.com**.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CITY HALL: PEOPLE'S GALLERY CALL FOR WORKS The Cultural Arts Division is now seeking 2-D and 3-D, installations, 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. Deadline: *Jan. 5, 2007*. **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/apply**.

AVAA: STUDIO RENTAL Affordable artist studios available, Central Austin. Historic building, natural light, utilities paid. Private studio: $395 monthly; Shared, $170. **www.avaaonline.org**.

MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP EVENT: CALL for vendors, volunteers and artists. Event:*Dec. 16th, 1-9pm*. Contact Cecilia Ling, cecilia@multicultural-artists.org

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**.

AMOA'S FAMILY LAB The new Family Lab is an interactive space within the museum that lets you and the kids respond to the art on view. Through make-and-take art projects, collaborative creations, and interdisciplinary approaches to art, visitors of all ages can nurture their creative side. *823 Congress, 495-9224. Free with admission ($1-5).* **www.amoa.org**.

FLATBED: BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY/ DARKROOM TECHNIQUES Flatbed is adding a new photo class and a darkroom open shop. Check into this class taught by Heidi Schleink, and you might fall in love with film all over again. *2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

TOMA MI CORAZON XV: CALL FOR WORKS Here's La Pena's signature event and annual fundraiser. Each year 10-inch wooden hearts are handed out to artists, schoolchildren, dignitaries, and celebrities. Decorated and returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. Deadline: *Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.* **www.lapena-austin.org**.

SHADY TREE STUDIOS This East Austin venue offers affordable artist studios and exhibit opportunities during EAST and throughout the year. *702 Shady Ln., 351-8571.* **www.shadytreestudios.com**.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

JULIUS GETMAN presents his novel *Strike!* at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. The labor movement isn't dead: It just smells funny. *Tue., Dec. 12, 4:30pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146.* **www.directevents.net**.

UN POETS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS Peggy Zuleika Lynch and other notable poets read in celebration of International Human Rights Day. Always recommended. *Sun., Dec. 10, 11am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

MICHAEL O'BRIEN AND ELIZABETH O'BRIEN do their coffeetable book of real Texans with *The Face of Texas*. *Sat., Dec. 9, 11am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

SAVE OUR YOUTH and Red Salmon Arts present a children's reading and book signing with Martin Perna, of his new coloring book, *BLACKOUT!*, illustrated by Ricardo Cortes. It's 32 pages about magical events that took place during the summer 2003 blackout in New York City. *Sat., Dec. 9, 2pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. Free.*

NOVELISTS COLM TOIBIN AND ANTHONY GIARDINA read from their highly regarded respective works in a special event sponsored by the Michener Center for Writers. Highly recommended. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7:30pm. Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus).*

KAREN OLSSON celebrates the release of the paperback edition of her novel of a quirky Texas town that sounds a might like our own: *Waterloo*. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

FARFELU MAGAZINE hosts a reading featuring poets from their latest issue. With S. Kirk Walsh, Scott Wiggerman, Laurie Filipelli, Claire Canavan, Ric Williams, and others. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785.* **www.ebookwoman.com**.

ROY SPENCE offers up some charming snakes with his *The Amazing Faith of Texas*. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

NOLA MCKEY The *Texas Highways* associate editor dishes up (literally) her *Cooking With Texas Highways*. *Thu., Dec. 7, 5pm. Follett's Intellectual Property Bookstore, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007.*

JAMES D. HORNFISCHER honors *Ship of Ghosts: USS Houston, FDR's Legendary Lost Cruiser, and the Epic Saga of Her Survivors*. His first book, *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*, won the 2004 Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature. *Thu., Dec. 7, noon. Follett's Intellectual Property Bookstore, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007.*

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES Enjoy an original jazz version of this Dylan Thomas classic, performed by Alex Coke, Suzy Stern, Chris Maresh, and Rich Harney. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* **www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC**.

TEXAS NAFAS presents Ric Williams reading poetry from his *the secret book of god*, taped at 12th Street Books and in a back yard in Northwest Austin. *Through Dec. 30. Saturdays, 10pm. Cable Channel 16.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS hosts a talk and signing by the wondrous Louis Sachar, author of *Holes*, *Small Steps*, *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*, and others. *Sat., Dec. 9, 11am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Free.*

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD BOOK GROUP hits Bottom with the first part of *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, led by Aura Kruger. *Sun., Dec. 10, 4pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

TEXAS MONTHLY BOOKGROUP features Bill Wittliff in a discussion of his book of photographs *La Vida Brinca*. Mike Shea hosts. *Wed., Dec. 13, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

CARVER BRANCH QUALITY OF LIFE washes their hands of it with *Satan, I'm Taking Back My Health!* by Dr. Jawanza Kunijufu. For ages 18 and older. *Tue., Dec. 12, 5pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 472-8954.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/library**.

HOWSON BRANCH boxes *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. *Thu., Dec. 7, 7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.*

UNIVERSITY HILLS SPANISH BOOK CLUB *no está tan caliente en* ***Morir en el Intento*** by Jorge Ramos. *Wed., Dec. 13, 7:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.*

WINDSOR PARK takes *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. *Tue., Dec. 12, 7pm. Windsor Village Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333.*

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, 7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070. $6.* **www.antoniostexmex.com**.

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.*

DOG'S BOLLOCKS returns to the Dog and Duck Pub back porch. George Leake hosts. *Sat., Dec. 9, 6pm. The Dog & Duck Pub, 406 W. 17th, 479-0598.* **www.dogandduckpub.com**.

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. And the 1!2!3!4! Slam has joined the holy fracas. Four times the excitement for the same step through that door. $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**.

MONTHLY URBAN POETRY features Bern Nadette Stanis (Thelma of *Good Times*) sharing hot and steamy poetry from her *For Men Only*. She will also discuss her *Situations 101: Relationships: The Good, the Bad … and the Ugly*. Highly recommended. *Sat., Dec. 9, 4:30pm. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

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**.

BORDERS ON THE WORD with host Barbara Youngblood Carr celebrates the season with its annual fun-lovin' Christmas poetry venue. Hear about Rudolph, the Red-Necked Reindeer, how poets feel about the Zilker Park Christmas tree, and an anti-Martha Stewart Christmas prose poem that most women will enjoy to the max! *Wed., Dec. 13, 7pm. Triumph Cafe, 3808 Spicewood Springs, 343-1875.* **www.triumphcoffee.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).* **poetryatx@yahoo.com**.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *& came apart the angels burning what seams lie to stay a star where does she turn empty to laugh nothing sacred as coming to the break every stitch born in holes as if to let it go any light hands joy speaks seeds & clouds unfold readies a glass & those white seas wake like lovers at dawn*. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Wouldn't you like our tongues
to lick the mold from your feet
to suck the pus from the growth on your heels
while you set a platter on our backsides
and dine in peace
without smelling your own stinking feet?
– F.K. Needles, from "Between the Emperor's toes" in *Beer Songs for the Lonely*, available at 12th Street Books.

Apocalypto

D: Mel Gibson; with Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Raoul Trujillo, Rodolfo Palacios, Morris Birdyellowhead, Fernando Hernandez, María Isabel Díaz. (R, 137 min., subtitled)

Think and say what you will about the beliefs and actions of Mel Gibson. One conclusion, however, is undeniable: He's a powerfully effective filmmaker. The films Gibson has directed demonstrate an increasingly deft understanding of epic scope, narrative mechanics, and visceral response. With his fourth feature film as a director, Mel Gibson continues his (probably unintentional) study of the mortification of the flesh through the ages. This is the theme that forms the consistent thread in his work and will prove more revealing than any scrutiny for sexism, Jew-baiting, and whatnot. Only now, after the graphic displays of extreme physical torture in *Apocalypto* and *The Passion of the Christ*, can we really notice Gibson's fixation on the scarification of the flesh in his two earlier films, *Braveheart* and *The Man Without a Face*. Whereas 2,000 years of Christian-era storytelling had prepared us for the ferocity of the injuries inflicted on Jesus Christ, we were not prepared for Gibson's near-pornographic obsession with the fleshy details of their depiction. *Apocalypto*, which emphasizes the barbarity of late Mayan culture at the expense of its accomplishments in the sciences, written language, and city-building, is rife with assaults on the body – be they the tearing out of a living heart from a human sacrifice or the image of an animal impaled on the many sharp prongs of a hunter's trap. These details have the desired visceral effect on the viewer, and when combined with Gibson's command of the film's basic story of a husband and father's heroic journey to rescue his family, *Apocalypto* becomes an absorbing drama. Youngblood plays the husband and father, Jaguar Paw, a forest-dwelling and self-sustaining tribal Mayan who, along with his brethren, is taken captive by urban Mayans, who plan to use the captives as slaves and human sacrifices. The movie is taken up with the physical trek into slavery, the spectacle of the human sacrifices in the strange urban center, and an escape that inches forward in a constantly changing balance of power and wits. Gibson shrewdly uses Native American and Mayan Indians as actors and employs subtitles to translate the minimal dialogue, which is delivered in the dialect currently spoken by the Mayan descendents on the Yucatan. Yet for all Gibson's attention to accuracy, there are many aspects that just don't jibe. Why, for example, are the forest-dwellers taken completely by surprise by the unfamiliar rituals and barbarism of their urban-dwelling distant relations, yet all speak the same dialect? And how is it that a climactic solar eclipse so baffles and confuses the same citizenry whose historical accomplishments include their advanced understanding of astronomy? Despite all these mitigating reservations, *Apocalypto* is a dazzling achievement. Not only does it showcase a civilization little seen on the silver screen, the film (which opens with a quote from Will Durant) also advances larger questions about the natural and unnatural life cycles of civilizations. (That virtually all the Mayan natives eventually converted to Roman Catholicism I'm sure had nothing to do with Gibson's interest in telling this story – wink, wink.) Gibson is everywhere these days telling of how his made-up word "apocalypto" translates as "a new beginning." No one probably wishes for this more than he. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Highland, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

New Reviews

THE ARCHITECT

D: Matt Tauber; with Anthony LaPaglia, Viola Davis, Isabella Rossellini, Hayden Panettiere, Sebastian Stan, Paul James, Walton Goggins. (R, 81 min.)

The Architect is a movie designed without a proper foundation – it feels as though it might crumble at any minute. This social drama about the intersecting lives of a dysfunctional, upper-middle-class family in suburbia and the residents of a deteriorating public-housing project is flimsy at best, largely due to the fact that its relatively short running time can't accommodate the scope of its storylines. Every character in *The Architect* is undergoing some kind of personal crisis, but you're seldom given the luxury to fully appreciate the reasons for their turmoil. For starters, there's the faltering marriage between a self-involved architect and his unhappy wife, the repressed grief of an activist who crusades for the destruction of her home, and the seemingly random sexual confusion experienced by three teenagers. While these narrative threads might be compelling if more fully developed, they just seem to dangle here with little logic to connect them. The central storyline in the film suffers the most. There, an African-American nurse (strongly played by Davis), who lives in an increasingly dangerous public-housing project, campaigns to convince the white architect who designed the buildings to sign a petition to destroy them. It's a variation of sorts on Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* but without any evident philosophical or political bent. (The racial/economic differences among the characters are inherent in the film but never come to the forefront in a way that gives shape to the movie.) What motivates the two characters' behavior in this confrontation of wills is murky and opaque and, as a result, *The Architect* feels drained of any real dramatic tension. What's more, the film's abrupt ending on a rooftop following the suicide of one of the characters is odd and perplexing; it's as if the screenplay just ran out of steam and stopped cold. Then again, there wasn't much steam in *The Architect* to begin with. – *Steve Davis*

★½ Dobie

BAABUL

D: Ravi Chopra; with Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini, Salman Khan, Rani Mukherjee, John Abraham, Om Puri. (NR, 90 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. After his son's death, a father-in-law tries to get his daughter-in-law remarried – a fairly radical notion in a country where, traditionally, widows' lives end when their husbands' do. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

Tinseltown South

BLOOD DIAMOND

D: Edward Zwick; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, Jennifer Connelly, Arnold Vosloo, Antony Coleman, David Harewood. (R, 143 min.)

As a means to drive home its chief argument – that the 14-carat rock on your fiancée's ring finger might be little more than a blood-drenched byproduct of an African civil war – the stringent verisimilitude of *Blood Diamond* includes endless sequences of slaughter, bloodthirsty child soldiers, and politically motivated dismemberment, which is rough, gory stuff. That it's taken hip-hop star Kanye West's Grammy-winning track "Diamonds From Sierra Leone" to fully coalesce the issue in the mind of the public is a thoroughly depressing commentary on our bling-addled culture, but at least the facts are readily available. You can view Zwick's action-packed take on the issue as a social critique masquerading as cineplex fodder, but in this case the Hollywood tropes of the storyline very nearly overwhelm the subject matter. (As far as African-crisis movies go, Terry George's *Hotel Rwanda* is still the benchmark.) DiCaprio is Danny Archer, a former mercenary who now operates a lucrative diamond-smuggling trade in war-torn Sierra Leone. When he hears of the discovery of a rock the size of a baby's fist by enslaved diamond-digger Solomon Vandy (Hounsou), he schemes to locate this ultimate payday. Then, after a crisis of conscience that arrives in the form of Connelly's crusading Yank journalist, he aids Vandy in retrieving not only the carbonized prize but the man's displaced family. Vandy's teenage son has been captured, drugged, and brainwashed by the vicious Revolutionary United Front rebel faction, which makes Archer's job more difficult but later provides the crux of his ricocheting character arc. *Blood Diamond* is by turns moving, horrific, and bombastic; rarely if ever do the characters speak in nonexpositional sentences, and even this trio of intensely talented actors occasionally finds itself battered by the ceaseless barrage of atrocity. *Blood Diamond* works best when it puts its social message on the back burner and cuts to the interlinking machinations of sidebar characters like the colonel, Archer's merc protégé (the always-excellent South African actor Vosloo), and RUF maniac Captain Poison (Harewood). While the film never quite reaches the emotional peaks it so obviously seeks to scale, Zwick's film is still potent enough to save you three months' salary. – *Marc Savlov*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FUR: AN IMAGINARY PORTRAIT OF DIANE ARBUS

D: Steven Shainberg; with Nicole Kidman, Robert Downey Jr., Ty Burrell, Harris Yulin, Jane Alexander. (R, 120 min.)

Photographer Diane Arbus is known for her unconventional portraits, often of carnival performers, nudists, transvestites, or prostitutes. Somehow managing to be both comforting and unsettling, her photography makes the grotesque seductive and the familiar fantastical. Arbus was arguably a voyeur who delicately handled her frequently bizarre subjects with loving intimacy. But for director Shainberg *(Secretary)*, Arbus (Kidman) becomes a bored housewife with a few pervy fetishes. Set in the Manhattan of 1958, the film takes place in the real world of Arbus' precareer years as a wife, mother, and assistant in her husband's commercial photography studio. And from here, the story spins its fiction. Interesting cinematic moments flicker past in the colorful fashion portraits that Arbus concocts: Kodachrome models or rows of bright yellow rubber ducks. As the budding artist, Arbus,

absorbs the world around her like a child. Everyday details (chewing, smoking, laughing) become exaggerated and grotesque. Then things get funky. Diane becomes obsessed with her new upstairs neighbor, Lionel (Downey Jr.). A reclusive man, Lionel is inflicted with a rare condition known as hypertrichosis or wolfman syndrome. His whole body covered with long hair, Lionel grew up wearing masks and performing in freak shows. And now he makes his living creating wigs from his abundant coiffure. While Downey Jr. is usually so reliably wonderful as a screen presence, his Lionel is little more than just silly. During their first meeting, the cryptic dialogue between Diane and Lionel is intended to sound provocative and surreal, but the result is confusing and creepy. Introducing Diane to his community of carnival performers, transvestites, hookers and the like, Lionel exposes her to the underworld. And she watches, entranced, like Donna Reed at a nudist colony. While the occasional moment feels genuine, Diane never emerges as a character beyond a whispering porcelain doll perpetually on the verge of tears. And as the inevitable romance between Diane and Lionel progresses, the filmmakers really seem to miss the point. The film becomes about Diane turning Lionel into a real man. But to Arbus, her subjects were already real. They didn't need to be conformed. Arbus dared the viewers to look into the eyes of her transvestites, hookers, and circus freaks and not see themselves. *Fur* dares the viewer to look into the eyes of Kidman and Downey Jr. and not see a whimpering housewife with a crush on Chewbacca. – *Toddy Burton*
★½ Dobie

GUADALUPE

D: Santiago Parra; with Ivana Miño, Gemma Guilemany, Pedro Armendáriz Jr., Eric del Castillo, Sandra Estil. (PG-13, 112 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Celebrating the 475th anniversary of the apparitions of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego at Tepeyac, this Mexican film tries to capture the country's Guadalupan fervor with a story of two scientists who come to understand the miracle. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Gateway, Tinseltown South

THE HOLIDAY

D: Nancy Meyers; with Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black, Eli Wallach, Ed Burns, Rufus Sewell. (R, 138 min.)

If "talking about relationships" is equivalent to "being in love," this is the most romantic movie ever. You'll love it. It has a snowy storybook cottage in England with a cute puppy dog and a little red Mini you can drive whimsically on the wrong side of the road, and Jude Law stumbles in drunkenly one night, available for sex but not at all pushy about it. And there's another part, too, with a villa in Hollywood, where the curmudgeonly and moderately infirm old screenwriter next door (Wallach) will be your empowerment guru and you get to hang out with a cute sort of art guy (Black, in toothless, charming mode) who makes you laugh in the video store until you finally realize you're made for each other. (He has a girlfriend – that bitch Shannyn Sossamon, who is so not to be trusted – but maybe they'll break up.) Writer-director Meyers' follow-up to *Something's Gotta Give* mines the same go-girl terrain but is far less interesting narratively, with stock characterizations and a blandly upbeat vibe; with all due respect to the message of cheer inside, the movie is as conventional as a corporate Christmas card. It's cute enough, but it lacks any sort of spontaneity or surprise. Of course you know there will be a happy ending, but you also know you'll cut to a roomful of properly matched white people dancing ecstatically to Motown; freed of the crippling inhibitions and self-doubt they have discussed at length in the talky script ("I'm not sure I fall in love. Not like other people do."), they will do the bump and laugh uproariously, and the camera will trickle backward out of a snowy window. If this is what you want in a movie about love, the most important topic on earth, you will not be disappointed. In any event, it's hard to find fault with the cast, who do provide much-needed elements of freshness and emotional authenticity. There's pleasure to be found in Winslet's transformation from snowbound office drudge to L.A. lady, as when her character unselfconsciously (and somewhat unattractively) belly flops with a running start onto the giant bed in Diaz's villa. She's open and accessible and a little geeky. Too bad the script keeps reminding us of her "gumption" instead of allowing it to show. Across the pond, Diaz and Law have all the chemistry Winslet and Black don't – amazing but true – and while Diaz wrinkles her nose and trips over her luggage, Law entirely sells himself as a good idea, romantically, or at least worth the risk. His is the standout performance, probably because it's quiet and reflective and nuanced amidst the flurries of relationship talk. – *Marrit Ingman*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

Openings

Apocalypto (R)

The Architect (R)

Baabul (NR)

Blood Diamond (R)

Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus (R)

Guadalupe (PG-13)

The Holiday (R)

National Lampoon's Pledge This! (R)

Unaccompanied Minors (PG)

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

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MEL GIBSON'S
APOCALYPTO
Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:30
Mon–Thur: 6:50, 9:30
the Holiday
Fri: (4:10) 7:00, 9:40; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:10) 7:00, 9:40
Mon–Thur: 7:00, 9:40
FUR
AN IMAGINARY PORTRAIT OF DIANE ARBUS
Fri: (4:20) 7:10, 9:50 Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:10, 9:50
Mon–Thur: 7:10, 9:50
SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, DEC. 8 – THURS, DEC. 14
Bargain Showtimes in ( )
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Special ADVANCE Screening
Tuesday, December 19, 7:30pm
To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm Tuesday, December 12.
No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission.
UNIVERSAL
REGAL CINEMAS Metropolitan 14
Opens Friday, December 22

Edward Wilson believed in America, and he would sacrifice everything he loved to protect it.
CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com/contests

Showtimes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 - THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

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.
Doc Tour: ***Been Rich All My Life:*** Wed, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: ***Bummer!:*** Wed, 12mid
Butt-Numb-a-Thon: Sat, 12:00pm
The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along: Sun, 4:00pm; Thu (12/14), 7:00pm
Music Monday: ***Danielson: A Family Movie:*** Mon, 9:45pm
F*ck: Tue-Wed, 9:45pm
3rd Coast Activists: ***Iraq in Fragments:*** Mon, 7:00pm
AFS: ***Metropolis:*** Tue, 7:00pm
Terror Thursday: ***Rituals:*** Thu (12/14), 12mid
Secret Fishgirl Sing-Along: Sun, 9:45pm
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5: Thu (12/14), 9:45pm
aGLIFF: ***Tupperware! – The Movie:*** Sun, 7:00pm
Sinus Show: ***A Very Brady Christmas:*** Fri, 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, 10:40
The Departed: 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm
The Fountain: 12:40, 3:35, 7:35, 10:15
***The Godfather* Dinner and a Movie:** Wed, 7:00pm
Stranger Than Fiction: 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:35
***Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny:** Fri, 7:05, 10:00; Sat-Tue, 12:10, 3:00, 7:05, 10:00; Wed, 12:10, 3:00; Thu (12/14), 12:10, 3:00, 7:05, 10:00
Total Recall: Fri-Sat, 12mid
Turistas: 12:15, 3:10, 7:10, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*
Apocalypto: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15; Mon, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15; Tue, 12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15; Wed-Thu (12/14), 3:30, 7:00, 10:15
Babel: 9:55pm
Borat: Fri, 12:00, 2:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Mon, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Tue, 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:45; Wed-Thu (12/14), 4:45, 7:30, 9:45
Casino Royale: Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05; Mon, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05; Tue, 12:05, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05; Wed-Thu (12/14), 3:15, 6:45, 10:05
Déjà Vu: Fri, 3:45, 10:10; Sat, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 10:10; Sun, 3:45, 7:15, 10:10; Mon, 3:45, 10:10; Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 7:15, 10:10; Wed-Thu (12/14), 7:15, 10:10
For Your Consideration: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40; Tue, 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40; Wed-Thu (12/14), 5:00, 7:40
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 4:00, 9:50; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Wed, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Thu (12/14), 4:00, 9:50

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
***Blood Diamond:** Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:25, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 3:25, 7:10, 10:15; Tue, 12:00, 3:25, 7:10, 10:15; Wed, 3:25, 7:10, 10:15; Thu (12/14), 12:00, 3:25, 7:10, 10:15
Borat: Fri, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Mon, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Tue, 1:45, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Wed, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Thu (12/14), 1:45, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00
Casino Royale: Fri, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Mon, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Tue, 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Wed, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Thu (12/14), 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25
TV Party: ***The Gilmore Girls* and *Veronica Mars:*** Tue, 7:30pm
***The Holiday:** Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Mon, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Tue, 12:05, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Wed, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Thu (12/14), 12:05, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Apocalypto: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 2:15, 3:15, 5:20, 6:30, 8:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:00, 2:15, 3:15, 5:20, 6:30, 8:30, 9:40
Babel: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 2:45, 6:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:45, 6:45, 9:50
Blood Diamond: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:30, 2:35, 3:45, 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:30, 2:35, 3:45, 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:10
Bobby: 12:45, 3:30, 7:10, 10:00
For Your Consideration: 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:30, 9:30
Nudge 3.5: Wed-Thu (12/14), 7:00pm
The Queen: 11:45am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45pm

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) *Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
Babel: 6:35, 9:40
Bobby: Fri, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
Borat: Fri, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 9:55
Déjà Vu: Fri, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:40, 6:50, 9:50
Happy Feet: Fri, 1:30, 2:00, 4:05, 4:30, 7:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:05, 4:30, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:30, 2:00, 4:05, 4:30, 7:45, 10:20
The Nativity Story: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05
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 (12/14), 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20
Stranger Than Fiction: Fri, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Wed, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; Thu (12/14), 1:35, 4:20, 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 (12/14), 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts before 6pm.
***Apocalypto:** Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 11:05, 1:10, 2:05, 4:10, 5:05, 7:05, 8:05, 9:55, 10:55pm; Sun, 10:30am, 11:45, 1:30, 2:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:25, 8:45, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:30, 2:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:25, 8:45, 10:25
***Blood Diamond:** Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:35, 1:35, 3:40, 4:40, 6:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:50pm; Sun, 11:00am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:55, 5:20, 7:05, 8:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:15, 3:55, 5:20, 7:05, 8:40, 10:15
Casino Royale: Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 11:15, 1:15, 2:20, 4:15, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:15, 2:20, 4:15, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:15, 2:20, 4:15, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20
Deck the Halls: Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:00, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00
The Departed: Fri-Sat, 10:20am, 1:50, 5:10, 8:20pm; Sun-Tue, 1:50, 5:10, 8:20; Wed, 1:50, 10:05; Thu (12/14), 1:50, 5:10, 8:20
The Fountain: Fri-Sat, 10:40am, 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35pm; Sun-Tue, 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15, 10:30; Wed, 1:05, 3:30, 10:30; Thu (12/14), 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15, 10:30
***The Holiday:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55pm; Sun, 10:10am, 11:30, 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:15, 8:35, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:15, 8:35, 10:25
Marie Antoinette: Fri-Sat, 10:35am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05pm; Sun, 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05; Mon, 1:25, 4:05, 10:05; Tue, 1:25, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05; Wed, 1:25, 4:05; Thu (12/14), 1:25, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05
***National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj:** Fri-Sat, 10:55am, 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45pm; Sun-Tue, 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:35; Wed, 1:20, 3:45, 10:35; Thu (12/14), 1:20, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:35
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:00, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK *4401 N. I-35, 1-800-FANDANGO.*
***Apocalypto:** Fri, 3:30, 6:50, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 6:50, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:30, 6:50, 10:00
***Blood Diamond:** Fri, 3:15, 6:55, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 6:55, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:15, 6:55, 10:05
Borat: Fri, 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:20, 5:00, 8:10, 10:25
Casino Royale: Fri, 3:05, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 3:05, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:05, 6:30, 7:10, 9:45, 10:20
Deck the Halls: Fri, 2:00, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:00, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50
Déjà Vu: Fri, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15
Facing the Giants: Fri, 2:10, 5:10; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:10, 5:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:10, 5:10
Happy Feet: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 11:00, 1:00, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:00, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 9:30
***The Holiday:** Fri, 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
***National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj:** 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 (12/14), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri, 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:20
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 (12/14), 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55
Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10

DOBIE THEATRE *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*
Apocalypto: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/14), 6:50, 9:30
The Architect: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/14), 7:20, 10:00
Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus: Fri, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/14), 7:10, 9:50
The Holiday: Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/14), 7:00, 9:40

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.
***Apocalypto* (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15, 11:40; Sun-Thu (12/14), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
***Blood Diamond* (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, 11:25; Sun-Thu (12/14), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Borat: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45, 11:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/14), 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
Déjà Vu: 1:35, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Flushed Away: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 1:40, 3:35, 5:25, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/14), 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, 1:15, 5:15, 9:15, 11:15; Sun-Thu (12/14), 1:15, 5:15, 9:15
***The Nativity Story* (in DLP digital):** 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: 11:25am, 3:20, 7:15pm
***Unaccompanied Minors:** Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 1:45, 3:50, 7:00, 9:00, 11:05pm; Sun-Thu (12/14), 11:40am, 1:45, 3:50, 7:00, 9:00pm

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*
Borat: 12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:10
Casino Royale: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 12:35, 3:10, 3:40, 6:40, 7:05, 9:45, 10:15; Tue, 12:00, 12:35, 3:40, 6:40, 7:05, 10:15; Wed, 12:35, 3:10, 3:40, 7:05, 9:45, 10:15; Thu (12/14), 12:00, 12:35, 3:40, 6:40, 7:05, 10:15
***Casino Royale* (open captioned):** Tue, 3:10, 9:45; Wed, 12:00, 6:40; Thu (12/14), 3:10, 9:45
Deck the Halls: 12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:25, 9:55
Déjà Vu: 12:15, 12:55, 3:25, 3:55, 7:00, 7:30, 9:55, 10:25
The Fountain: 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
Guadalupe: 11:55am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:40pm
Happy Feet: Fri, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 10:05; Sat, 11:05am, 12:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 10:05pm; Sun, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35; Mon, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 10:05; Tue, 11:50am, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 10:05pm; Wed, 11:50am, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 5:20, 10:05pm; Thu (12/14), 11:50am, 12:20, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 10:05pm
***Happy Feet* (open captioned):** Fri, 11:50am; Sat, 2:20pm; Sun, 11:50am, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:50am, 7:35pm
The Holiday: 12:00, 12:30, 3:05, 3:35, 6:45, 7:15, 9:50, 10:20
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 8:00, 10:30
The Nativity Story: 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35
Stranger Than Fiction: 12:40, 3:15, 6:50, 9:40
Turistas: 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:45
Unaccompanied Minors: 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30

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 (12/14), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am; Mon-Thu (12/14), 10:00am

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Apocalypto: 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:05
Blood Diamond: 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
Casino Royale: 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Deck the Halls: 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
Happy Feet: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm
The Holiday: 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 10:00pm
The Nativity Story: 12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40
Unaccompanied Minors: 11:40am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:05, 9:40pm

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.*
Bobby: 7:15, 10:15
Borat: 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 8:10, 10:40
Déjà Vu: 12:05, 1:05, 3:10, 4:15, 6:50, 7:20, 9:50, 10:30
Flushed Away: 12:15, 2:40, 5:00
Happy Feet: 12:20, 1:15, 2:00, 3:15, 4:15, 4:45, 6:40, 7:10, 7:50, 9:55, 10:00, 10:35
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 12:00, 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 10:45
The Nativity Story: 11:55am, 1:00, 2:25, 4:10, 4:55, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:20pm
The Queen: 12:35, 4:40, 7:35, 10:25
Stranger Than Fiction: 1:10, 4:30, 7:35, 10:25
Turistas: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45
Unaccompanied Minors: 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

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 (12/14), 10:30am, 1:15pm
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Fri-Sat, 2:00, 6:15, 8:45; Wed-Thu (12/14), 4:15pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE *713 Congress, 472-5470.*
Best in Show: Fri, 7:00pm
Waiting for Guffman: Fri, 9:00pm

ROUND ROCK 8 *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm.
Alex Rider: Operation Stormbreaker: Fri, 2:15, 4:35, 7:35, 9:50; Sat, 11:55am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:35, 9:50pm; Sun, 11:55am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:15, 4:35, 7:35
Barnyard: 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; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
Flyboys: Fri, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10; Sat, 12:20, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10; Sun, 12:20, 3:45, 7:00; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:45, 7:00
Gridiron Gang: Fri, 3:35, 7:25, 10:20; Sat, 12:40, 3:35, 7:25, 10:20; Sun, 12:40, 3:35, 7:25; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:35, 7:25
The Grudge 2: Fri-Sat, 3:55, 9:55; Sun-Thu (12/14), 3:55pm
The Marine: Fri, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00; Sat, 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00; Sun, 12:25, 2:45, 5:10, 7:45; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:45, 5:10, 7:45
National Lampoon's Pledge This!: 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 (12/14), 2:10, 4:30, 6:50
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest: Fri, 6:40pm; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 6:40; Mon-Thu (12/14), 6:40pm
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning: Fri, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Sat, 12:00, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Sun, 12:00, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:35, 5:00, 7:20

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.*
***Apocalypto:** Fri, 12:05, 12:35, 3:25, 3:55, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 9:20am, 12:05, 12:35, 3:25, 3:55, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:05, 12:35, 3:25, 3:55, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35
***Blood Diamond:** 11:40am, 12:10, 3:05, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 9:55, 10:25pm
Borat: Fri, 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 9:30am, 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Casino Royale: Fri, 3:10, 6:35, 7:05, 9:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 3:10, 6:35, 7:05, 9:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 3:10, 6:35, 7:05, 9:50, 10:20
Deck the Halls: Fri, 12:00, 2:35, 3:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 9:25am, 12:00, 2:35, 3:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:00, 2:35, 3:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:30
Déjà Vu: Fri, 12:25, 3:40, 6:45, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 9:30am, 12:25, 3:40, 6:45, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:25, 3:40, 6:45, 7:10, 9:45, 10:15
Flushed Away: Fri, 11:45am, 2:05, 4:30pm; Sat-Sun, 9:05am, 11:45, 2:05, 4:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 11:45am, 2:05, 4:30pm
The Fountain: Fri, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 9:25am, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
Happy Feet: Fri, 11:50am, 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30pm; Sat-Sun, 9:00am, 10:00, 10:30, 11:50, 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 11:50am, 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:15, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30pm
The Holiday: Fri, 12:00, 12:30, 3:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 12:00, 12:30, 3:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:00, 12:30, 3:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 7:05, 9:40
The Nativity Story: Fri, 11:50am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10pm; Sat-Sun, 9:05am, 11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 11:50am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10pm
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:25, 4:05, 6:40
Stranger Than Fiction: 11:40am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35pm
Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny: 9:25pm
Turistas: Fri, 11:55am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05pm; Sat-Sun, 9:10am, 11:55, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 11:55am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05pm
Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm; Sat-Sun, 9:20am, 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.*
***Apocalypto:** Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 10:50, 12:50, 1:55, 3:55, 5:05, 7:00, 8:15, 10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:50, 1:55, 3:55, 5:05, 7:00, 8:15, 10:00
***Baabul:** Fri, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:30, 4:30, 8:30
***Blood Diamond:** Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:50, 5:00, 8:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:50, 5:00, 8:10
***Casino Royale:** Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 10:45, 11:45, 1:15, 2:00, 3:35, 4:35, 6:40, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:15, 2:00, 3:35, 4:35, 6:40, 7:10, 7:55, 9:55
Deck the Halls: Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 11:10, 12:55, 1:40, 3:25, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:55, 1:40, 3:25, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:20, 10:10
The Departed: 8:05pm
Facing the Giants: 10:10am, 1:10, 3:50pm
The Fountain: Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15
***Guadalupe:** Fri-Sun, 10:55am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:35, 4:30, 7:35, 10:20
***The Holiday:** Fri-Sun, 10:05am, 10:40, 1:05, 1:45, 4:05, 4:45, 7:05, 8:00, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 1:05, 1:45, 4:05, 4:45, 7:05, 8:00, 10:05
Sainikudu: Sun, 3:30pm
The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri-Sun, 9:55am, 11:05, 12:35, 1:30, 3:20, 4:55, 6:45, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 12:35, 1:30, 3:20, 4:55, 6:45, 9:35
Saw III: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/14), 2:05, 4:35, 7:50, 10:25
Tenacious D in The Pick of Destiny: 7:40, 10:15

WESTGATE 11 *South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
Apocalypto: 12:15, 3:25, 6:45, 9:50
Blood Diamond: 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10
Bobby: 7:45, 10:30
Borat: 12:45, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:05
Casino Royale: 12:30, 3:55, 7:10, 10:15
Déjà Vu: 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 10:00
Happy Feet: 11:50am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10pm
The Holiday: 12:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj: 12:00, 2:30, 5:05
The Nativity Story: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45pm
Stranger Than Fiction: 11:35am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:25pm
Unaccompanied Minors: 11:30am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40pm

▸ ***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.***

for updated showtimes, see **austinchronicle.com/film**

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF TAJ

D: Mort Nathan; with Kal Penn, Lauren Cohen, Daniel Percival, Glen Barry, Anthony Cozens, Holly Davidson, Steven Rathman. (R, 95 min.)

You have to hand it to screenwriter David Drew Gallagher. As a primer on 1,001 ways to refer to the female anatomy without actually using the word "vagina," his work on this highly unanticipated offering in National Lampoon's current crop of collegiate cinema is, without question, useful and informative. On the other hand, *National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj* is shit, the sort of cut 'n' paste horn-dog humor that original Nat Lamp CEO Matty Simmons would've called a writer on the carpet for right before he handed the lazy gagster over to Michael O'Donoghue for ritual evisceration. Like print issues of *National Lampoon*, the yuks in *The Rise of Taj* are scarce indeed. As the hipster Yank teaching assistant enrolled at a Cambridge knockoff, Taj (Penn) has to cajole a quartet of brainiac, hooligan, nymphomaniacal gameboys (and one girl) into the realm of cool so that they can declare class war on those posh toffs at the fraternity across the way and, you know, get their whiffy sticks waxed and whatnot. But Penn sports little of the squirrelly charm evidenced by the original *Van Wilder* star, Ryan Reynolds, and even less of Reynolds' trouser-snakester brio. I'll buy him *Ganja & Hess*-ing it to a midnight murderburger shack, but as a scheming lothario on a mission of mercy, he's a wash. Bluto Blutarsky would devour him in one swollen mouthful and then spew him back out all over the place. (Get it? He's a zit!) Granted, the state of the indie hipster and/or big-man-on-the-quad aesthetic has probably skewed a bit since I was a frosh, but good lord, man, it can't be this pale an imitation of campus life. I implore you: Go rent *National Lampoon's Animal House*, and leave this flaccid wanker alone. – *Marc Savlov*

AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S PLEDGE THIS!

D: William Heins; with Paris Hilton, Paula Garcés, Sarah Carter, Simon Rex, Nicky Hilton, Angela Dodson. (R, 89 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. It can't be a good sign when a film's star – in this case, the tireless self-promoter Paris Hilton – refuses to actively support this comedy romp in which she plays a sorority president in Florida's trendy South Beach who puts the new pledges through their paces. Filming was originally completed in 2004, but the producers then decided to do some reshooting in order to include some nudity (though, reportedly, none of it is Hilton flesh). Next, some pesky hurricanes interrupted the

*Freaks and Geeks*ter Paul Feig has got your number. Feig, a *Freaks and Geeks* writer who went on to direct numerous TV episodes of *The Office* and *Arrested Development*, has now directed this holiday kids' picture that's neither good enough to be an instant classic nor bad enough to disappear from video stores' seasonal rental shelves for many Christmases to come. *Unaccompanied Minors* is a pretty much by-the-numbers comedy about a half-dozen kids trapped by weather in an airport on Christmas Eve. They create lots of mischief to flummox the Scroogey airport chief (Black) and his head flunky (Valderrama) who's assigned to watch over the children. (Those in the know might also recognize three *Kids in the Hall*ers – Kevin McDonald, Bruce McCulloch, Mark McKinney – as hapless security guards.) Though the adult roles demand nothing more than moments of toothless sputtering, the child actors have all been well-cast. There's the de facto leader of the group (Christopher), his kid sister (Saldana), the rich girl (Mantegna), the tomboy (Shephard), the black kid (Williams from *Everybody Hates Chris*), and the fat kid (Kelly from *Bad Santa*). They run amok, create havoc, share secrets, plug Sharper Image products – all without terribly much imagination but effective execution nevertheless. Corddry gets the best laughs of the movie as a divorced dad who's driving through the snowstorm to rescue his kids and has to abandon his beloved biodiesel vehicle for a hated Hummer. *Unaccompanied Minors* isn't likely to become a frequent flyer, but it could strike a chord among children of divorce for many holiday seasons to come. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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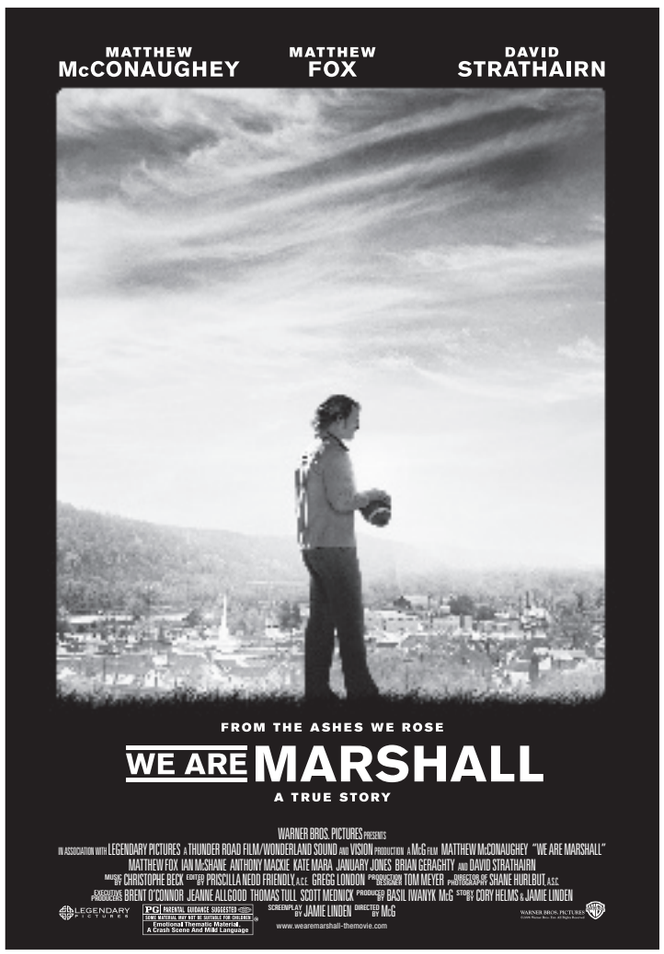

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TRANSFORMERS THE REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (12:10 3:00) 7:05 10:00
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★ NATIVITY Presented in DLP Cinema * (PG) Fri. - Thu. 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
★ RISE OF TAJ (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:15 5:15 9:15 11:15
Sun. - Thu. 1:15 5:15 9:15
DEJA VU (PG–13) Fri. - Thu. 1:35 2:05 4:40 7:20 10:00
CASINO ROYALE Presented in DLP Cinema * (PG–13)
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BORAT (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:45 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45 11:35
Sun. - Thu. 11:45 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45
SANTA CLAUSE 3 (G) Fri. - Thu. 11:25 3:20 7:15
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The Blank Generation

***The Blank Generation* (1976)** *D: Amos Poe and Ivan Kral. (NR, 55 min.)* **AMOA and the Austin Film Society.** Screening as part of AMOA's new exhibit "Radical NY!," this film classic documents the CBGB's scene during its early years in the mid-Seventies. Captured with a single 16mm camera are Patti Smith, Tom Verlaine, Blondie, the Talking Heads, Richard Hell, Wayne County, Johnny Thunders, the Ramones, and more. A Q&A with director Amos Poe follows the screening. @AMOA, Sat., 7pm; AMOA and AFS members free, nonmembers free with museum admission.

First Runs

***Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.**

ALEX RIDER: OPERATION STORMBREAKER

D: Geoffrey Sax; with Alex Pettyfer, Sarah Bolger, Robbie Coltrane, Stephen Fry, Damian Lewis, Ewan McGregor, Bill Nighy, Sophie Okonedo, Missi Pyle, Mickey Rourke, Andy Serkis, Alicia Silverstone. (PG, 93 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Based on the first of a series of youth adventure books by Anthony Horowitz, this film introduces the teenage spy to film audiences. *(11/10/2006)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Round Rock

✪ BABEL

D: Alejandro González Iñárritu; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Rinko Kikuchi, Kôji Yakusho, Said Tarchani, Boubker Ait El Caid, Elle Fanning, Nathan Gamble. (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

BARNYARD: THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS

D: Steve Oedekerk; with the voices of Kevin James, Courteney Cox-Arquette, Danny Glover. (PG, 90 min.)

The latest addition to the recent slew of computer-animated films about talking animals, *Barnyard* offers a slight but unwelcome variation on tradition by casting what would normally be the smart-aleck sidekick character as the protagonist. Otis the teenage cow wisecracks and parties his way through life on a farm where animals live like humans and cows are the ruling class – until his father dies at the hands of murderous coyotes. The tragedy leaves the guilt-ridden Otis alone to shoulder his newfound responsibility and confront the coyotes. Why Oedekerk decided to remake *The Lion King* with CGI farm animals is up for debate, but it certainly wasn't for aesthetic reasons; the animation looks shoddy and flat compared even to modern video games. The film's humor feels equally dated. By the end of the film, a less-obnoxious Otis learns that a little maturity and altruism go a long way. It's a fine message, but, in the case of the film itself, a little originality would have gone even further. *(08/04/2006)* – *Brian Clark*
★½ Round Rock

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, Heather Graham, Joshua Jackson, Shia LaBeouf, Joy Bryant. (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, Metropolitan, 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, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

✪ CASINO ROYALE

D: Martin Campbell; with Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Mads Mikkelsen, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright. (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 cardsharpery. 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*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DECK THE HALLS

D: John Whitesell; with Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, Kristin Chenoweth. (PG, 95 min.)

When boorish 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." 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 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 so begins a yuletide battle of almost biblical proportions. *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. *(12/01/2006)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*
★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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 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, AMC Barton Creek Square, 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 South

✪ 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 (*Chicken Run* and the ingenious *Wallace & Gromit* films) revels 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

Tupperware! — The Movie

***Tupperware! – The Movie* (2006)** *D: Laurie Kahn-Leavitt; narrated by Kathy Bates. (NR, 90 min.)* **AGLIFF Tupperware Party.** Documentary about the invention of the plastic-container empire and the Tupperware Ladies who hosted parties in living rooms across America. A Tupperware party will be held on the Alamo premises. Proceeds benefit the Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival. Tickets available at **www.originalalamo.com**. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Sun., 7pm.

East Austin Stories

East Austin Stories *D: Various. (NR)* The project is showing a collection of all-new short films produced in the University of Texas class, the East Austin Project, in conjunction with local residents and businesses. Subjects of the eight films this semester include Grammy winner Ruben Ramos, King-Tears Mortuary, porcelain artist Sunyong Chung, Nubian Queen Lola, elementary school lobbyists, and more. For more info see **www.eastaustinstories.org**, where you can also subscribe to the series weekly podcast. @Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Tues., 7pm. @Cafe Mundi, Tues., 9:30pm.

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*
★★★½ Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FLYBOYS

D: Tony Bill; with James Franco, Martin Henderson, Jean Reno, David Ellison, Tyler Labine, Philip Winchester, Abdul Salis, Jean Reno, Jennifer Decker. (PG-13, 139 min.)

Flyboys, which purports to chronicle the heroics of the Lafayette Escadrille, a subset of the French Air Service in World War I made up of non-native Francophiles who really, really wanted to fly. Franco plays airman Blaine, who gets the girl (Decker) and generally saves the day. Virtually all of the other members of the cast are the sort of stalwart, rough 'n' ready, general-issue military archetypes who seem to come preassembled from historical, derring-do scripts and Revell Model Kits. But then, the cast isn't the real draw here; the planes – and the resultant close-quarter, high-flying carnage – are. With that in mind, *Flyboys* isn't half bad, although technical discrepancies abound. While director Bill nails the sheer spectacle of the wide blue yonder, the earthbound action is strictly laissez-faire. Fans of zeppelins – and who isn't? – will savor the outrageously overdone climactic sequence. *(09/29/2006) – Marc Savlov*
★★ Round Rock

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

D: Christopher Guest; with Bob Balaban, Guest, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Harry Shearer, Fred Willard. (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*
★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

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, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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. 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. The film's organization ebbs and flows in its content and focus; the sections on politics and movies are the strongest. *F*ck* works best when it directs its focus to the hypocrisies engendered by the word. (*Plays Tuesday-Wednesday only.) (12/01/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

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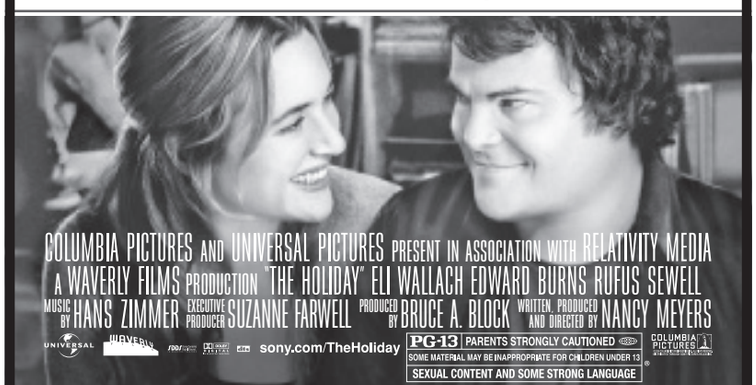

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GRIDIRON GANG

D: Phil Joanou; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Xzibit, L. Scott Caldwell, Leon Rippy, Kevin Dunn. (PG-13, 120 min.)

There's nothing special about this football tale of troubled, urban youth learning self-respect from a hardass sports coach, so audiences can be excused for underestimating it. Yet the film is a pleasant surprise – a swift, sure-footed, and gritty melodrama that plays to the strengths of its formula and elicits empathy for its kids. A probation officer (Johnson) starts a football team in hopes of lowering the camp's rate of recidivism, grimly training them to take on the snot-nosed pricks of a Christian youth sports league. Joanou mounts the game sequences with gladiatorial grandeur, and every sack echoes with a sickening crunch. These kids aren't contestants but combatants, the field of play a crucible of race and class war. Some reviewers have chastened the filmmakers for glamorizing thug life, but the complaint is misguided; its juiced-up style reflects the teenage adrenaline and hair-trigger fury of young men raised fatherless in poverty. *(09/15/2006)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★★½ Round Rock

THE GRUDGE 2

D: Takashi Shimizu; with Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Edison Chen, Arielle Kebbel, Jennifer Beals, Joanna Cassidy, Takako Fuji, Sarah Roemer. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Japanese director Shimizu may be the only director in history to have helmed a pair of Hollywood remakes of his two biggest hit films and managed to screw up both of them, proving once and for all my theory that big-budget, studio-commissioned remakes of contemporary Japanese horror films lose something in the cultural translation and end up, you know, sucking ass. What made Shimizu's 2003 Japanese film *Ju-on: The Grudge* – which, come to think of it, was already a sequel to two previous *Grudge* films – was its unnerving lack of exposition and an extraordinary attention to the tiny details of atmosphere too frequently overlooked by Shimizu's Hollywood counterparts. That said, this second remake – a third is on the way – is a disaster. Americans are befuddled by the inexplicable, and they demand explanations. With *The Grudge 2* Shimizu delivers them and thus defangs the horror, leaving us in a well-lit room, pining for the shadows. *(10/20/2006)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Round Rock

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*

★★★½ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS

D: Bob Dolman; with Luke Benward, Hallie Kate Eisenberg, Adam Hicks, Clint Howard. (PG, 98 min.)

Doubtless the idea of watching people eat worms for more than an hour will likely entice any conscious 10-year-old, but I can't deny more than a little reticence about the possibilities for an enjoyable moviegoing experience. Fortunately, the result was a pleasant surprise. While the film version of this hugely popular book lacks the complexity and wit to achieve the status of a classic, *How to Eat Fried Worms*, which was filmed in Austin, delivers heart and humor in a simple and straightforward manner. It's charming, funny, and even has a few good jokes for the over-18 set. The film tells the story of 11-year-old Billy (Benward), the new kid in a school suffering under the reign of the villainous bully Joe (Hicks). Ultimately, the film displays mature storytelling techniques, while never steering from the wide-eyed perspective of a kid who has to eat worms to prove his worth. *(08/25/2006)* – *Toddy Burton*

★★½ Millennium

MARIE ANTOINETTE

D: Sofia Coppola; with Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Rip Torn, Judy Davis, Asia Argento, Marianne Faithfull, Danny Huston, Molly Shannon. (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*

★★★½ AMC Barton Creek Square

THE MARINE

D: John Bonito; with John Cena, Robert Patrick, Kelly Carlson, Anthony Ray Parker. (PG-13, 93 min.)

With biceps the size of watermelons and the physical grace of a golem, WWE professional wrestler John Cena takes his place in the pantheon of American action-movie stars, satisfying our country's craving for one-man wrecking crews who can take out entire platoons of enemy soldiers using just their guts, their honor, and a big gun. After being discharged from the Marines, Triton returns home to live a simple, quiet life with his wife, Kate (Carlson), although that life turns decidedly unquiet when a gang of deadly jewel thieves kidnap Kate and leave Triton for dead. What follows is a maelstrom of gunfire, explosions, car chases, fistfights, and action-movie camera trickery, as Triton takes out the kidnappers one by one. What Cena does can't rightfully be termed "acting." And yet, we pull for him. Patrick leaves no scenery unchewed, and, in doing so, he gives life to an otherwise by-the-book script. *(10/20/2006)* – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★ Round Rock

THE NATIVITY STORY

D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Keisha Castle-Hughes, Oscar Isaac, Ciarán Hinds, Shohreh Aghdashloo. (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 travel 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 director of troubled-teen movies, Hardwicke paints her picture from the perspective of young Mary (Castle-Hughes) and her new husband, Joseph (Isaac). Unfortunately, Castle-Hughes gives such a stone-faced performance, it's difficult to experience the humanity of the person. The story is good, but the execution favors the safe over the challenging. *(12/01/2006)* – *Toddy Burton*

★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Iraq in Fragments

***Iraq in Fragments* (2006)** *D: James Longley. (NR, 94 min.)* **Third Coast Activists.** This multiaward-winning documentary was two years in the making, and tells stories about modern Iraq in the words of civilians of various ethnicities. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Mon., 7pm; $7, $5.50 students/seniors.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

D: Gore Verbinski; with Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jack Davenport. (PG-13, 150 min.)

Unlike the opening cannonade in what will eventually be a trilogy, this salvo is a bit much. Of course, there are those who would say the original was a bit much, and they'd be right. But pirate films by their very nature should always be a bit much, just not *too* much, if you catch my driftwood. *(07/14/2006)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Millennium, Round Rock

THE QUEEN

D: Stephen Frears; with Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Sylvia Syms. (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 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. (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*

★★½ Tinseltown South

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' stony alter 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 bizarro 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*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING

D: Jonathan Liebesman; with Jordana Brewster, Andrew Bryniarski, R. Lee Ermey, Taylor Handley. (PG-13, 84 min.)

Origin stories are difficult and none more so than those peculiar to the horror genre. So this prequel to Tobe Hooper's 1974 shocker arrives handicapped by both the odds and the lingering, flyblown stench of its forerunner. It's neither as bad as it could have been, nor as interesting as it should have been. The set-up has four teens, nominally led by Brewster, who end up victims of the Hewitts – the rural Texan cannibal clan. The teens are slaughtered (big deal) but the real hook, pun intended, revolves around series boogeyman Leatherface (Bryniarski). As in the 2003 remake of the original, the clan is led by Ermey's sadistic Sheriff Hoyt. As for his nephew Thomas, later to become the chain-saw-wielding force of nature, it turns out his bloodlust was keyed in the wake of layoffs at the local slaughterhouse. The rest of the cast is eminently forgettable. *(10/13/2006)* – *Marc Savlov*

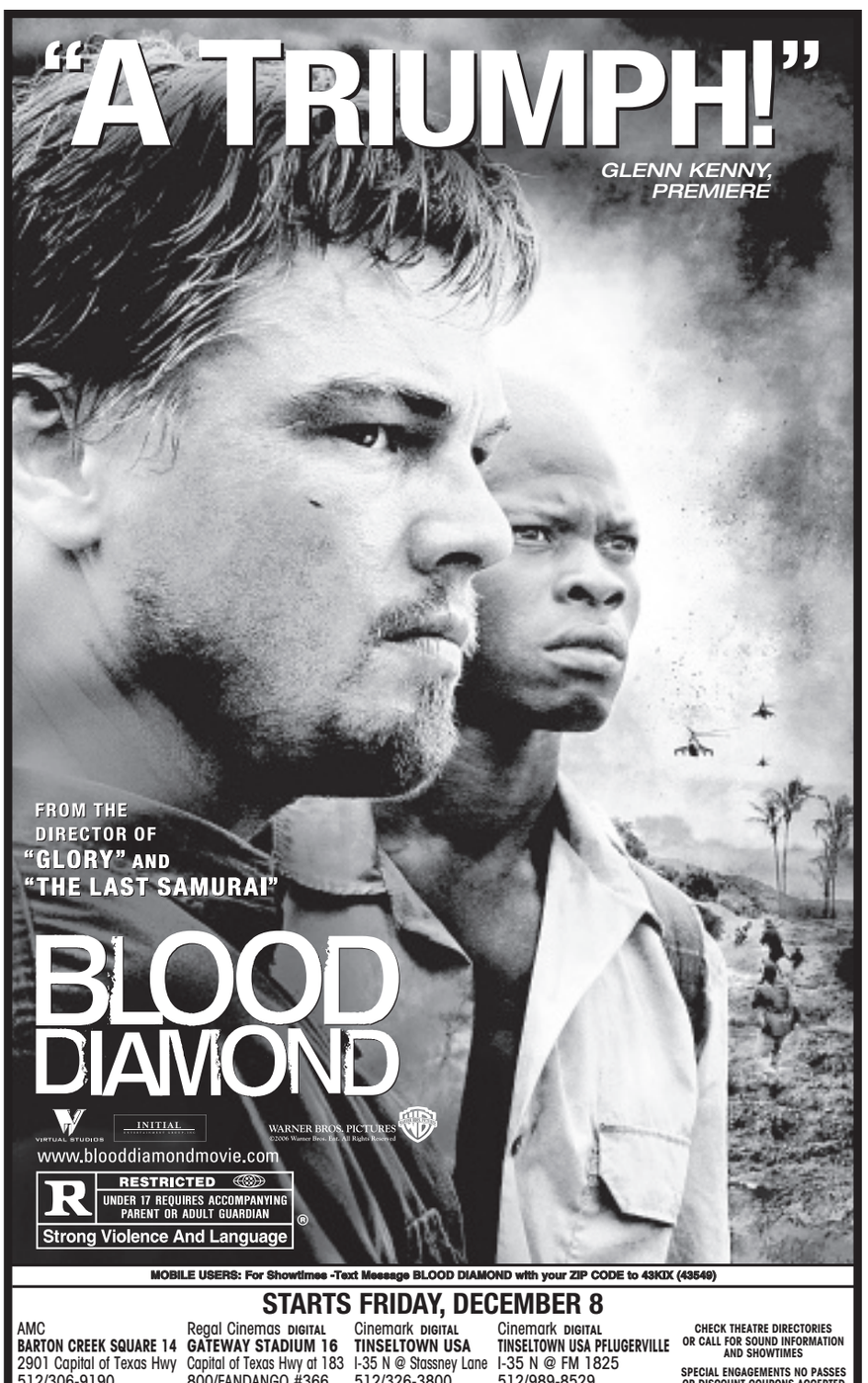
★½ Round Rock

TURISTAS

D: John Stockwell; with Josh Duhamel, Melissa George, Olivia Wilde, Desmond Askew, Beau Garrett. (R, 89 min.)

With *Turistas*, Stockwell dives head-first into a veritable riptide of churning, vicious exploitation cinema, and the result is surprisingly effective. Stockwell and writer Michael Ross have managed to update the tired and tiring tropes of your standard teens-in-peril outing by taking them south of the border (to Brazil) and stranding them in the rain forest, where they run afoul of a rural sawbones. *Turistas* is being tagged as a down-market version of Eli Roth's *Hostel*, but that obscures the fact that, if anything, this is the more compelling film. 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. *(12/01/2006)*– *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



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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.

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)** *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, 9:30pm.

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.

FRIDAY 08

***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. For tickets see **www.originalalamo.com**. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

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.

***Best in Show* (2000)** *D: Christopher Guest; with Guest, Eugene Levy, Fred Willard, Catherine O'Hara, Patrick Crenshaw, John Michael Higgins, Michael McKean, Bob Balaban, Jennifer Coolidge, Michael Hitchcock, Parker Posey, Jane Lynch. (PG-13, 90 min.)* Christopher Guest's sniggering Westminster Dog Show parody. (Double bill: *Waiting for Guffman*) (*) @Paramount, 7pm; $7, $5 children/students/seniors.

***Total Recall* (1990)** *D: Paul Verhoeven; with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin, Sharon Stone, Ronny Cox, Michael Ironside. (R, 109 min.)* This futuristic science fiction is based on a Philip K. Dick short story, and features award-winning special effects. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid; $8.

***Waiting for Guffman* (1997)** *D: Christopher Guest; with Guest, Eugene Levy, Fred Willard, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Bob Balaban, Lewis Arquette, Brian Doyle-Murray, Matt Keeslar. (R, 84 min.)* Guest's mockumentary tracks visiting drama teacher Corky St. Clair's biggest challenge: creating a workable musical revue celebrating his Missouri town's sesquicentennial using only local players. (Double bill: *Best in Show*) (*) @Paramount, 9pm; $7, $5 children/students/seniors.

SPACES

***Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers* (2006)** *D: Robert Greenwald. (NR, 75 min.)* **Fun Company Toastmasters.** Greenwald *(Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism)* turns his eye to the private contractors in Iraq. A facilitated discussion follows. @LCRA Colorado Room, 6:30pm; free.

***The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* (2004)** *D: Wes Anderson; with Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Huston, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Michael Gambon, Noah Taylor, Bud Cort, Seu Jorge, Robyn Cohen, Waris Ahluwalia, Niels Koizumi. (R, 118 min.)* Free. (*) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 9pm.

SATURDAY 09

Butt-Numb-a-Thon *D: Various. (NR)* **Ain't It Cool News.** Sold-out is the key phrase for the now-annual 24-hour film fest/birthday party thrown by *Ain't It Cool News* head geek Harry Knowles. The proceeds fund the yearlong Saturday Morning Film Club. You never know in advance what will be on-hand, but it's always well-programmed, and friends come in from around the world to help Harry celebrate. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12pm.

Danielson: A Family Movie

***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.

***Total Recall* (1990)** @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid; $8. (See Fri., 12/08)

SPACES

***The Blank Generation* (1976)** See p.96.

SUNDAY 10

***Sainikudu* (2006)** *D: Gunasekhar; with Mahesh Babu, Irfan Khan, Trisha Krishnan.* A righteous doctor blackmails a crooked politician in order to make him fulfill his promises. In Telegu, no English subtitles. @Tinseltown South, 3:30pm.

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, 9:45pm.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 4pm. (See Thu., 12/07)

***Tupperware! – The Movie* (2006)** See p.96.

SPACES

Edward Scissorhands* and *Ed Wood Free. @Opal Divine's, 8:30pm.

Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony An open-air screening on the plaza of the ceremony honoring Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank for fighting poverty and building peace through microcredit loans. Refreshments will be served. @Whole Foods Market, 4pm; free.

***They Live* (1988)** *D: John Carpenter; with Roddy Piper, Keith David, Meg Foster. (R, 97 min.)* **Austin Anti-Racist Action.** Free. @Spider House Patio Bar, 8pm.

Offscreen

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.austinfilmschool.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 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.austinfilmschool.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**.

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**.

Network Austin Mixer It's the only NAM meeting this holiday-strewn month, featuring a series of moderated roundtables where each person at the table can discuss their current projects for five minutes, and you switch tables every 20 minutes. If you're in film or similar media, here's where to increase your connections. *Wed., Dec. 13, 6:30pm*. *Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747*. **www.motheregansirishpub.com**.

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**.

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. (*) Thu. (12/7)-Thu. (12/14), 1, 6

***Happy Feet:* The IMAX Experience (2006)** *D: George Miller.* Digitally remastered version of the new animated musical. Thu. (12/7)-Sat., 11am, 2, 4, 7, 9pm; Sun., 2, 4, 7, 9; Mon.-Thu. (12/14), 11am, 2, 4, 7, 9pm

***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. Thu. (12/7)-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/14), 10am

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. 22 issue is Monday, Dec. 11**. 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**.

MONDAY 11

***Danielson: A Family Movie* (2006)** *D: J.L. Aronson. (NR, 105 min.)* **Music Monday.** The surprise of Aronson's debut doc – in which a sprawling, child-like musical group fond of strange arrangements, silly costumes, and screeching lead falsetto devel-ops a hipster audience, hooks up with Steve Albini, and, inevitably, meets Daniel Johnston – isn't indie rock's (perhaps arch) embrace of a Christian family band. Rather, it's the coherence of big brother Daniel Smith's vision: an art-damaged parade of nurse uniforms, salesman schtick, and sincerity that only a great deal of faith could sustain. – *Cindy Widner* @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

***Iraq in Fragments* (2006)** See p.98.

SPACES

City of Men Episodes 12 and 13. @Spider House Patio Bar, 8pm; free.

***Nacho Libre* (2006)** *D: Jared Hess; with Jack Black, Héctor Jiménez, Ana de la Reguera, Moises Arias, Rene Campero, Brett Chan, Cesar Gonzalez. (PG, 100 min.)* Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

***The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* (2004)** @Austin Java Co. (1206 Parkway), 9pm. (See Fri., 12/08)

White *D: Krzysztof Kieslowski; with Zbigniew Zamachowski, Julie Delpy, Janusz Gajos, Jerzy Stuhr.* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

TUESDAY 12

***Metropolis* (2001)** *D: Rintaro. (PG-13, 107 min.)* **Austin Film Society: Sublime Lines – Japanese Animé.** Japanese miniepic features eye-popping futuristic visuals and a plot that encompasses such heady themes as class, race, and eternal life. The series is guest-curated by Dr. Susan Napier of UT. For more info, see **austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A422689**. Reservations can be made at **www.austinfilm.org**. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; AFS members free, $4 nonmembers.

The Gilmore Girls* and *Veronica Mars **TV Party.** New episodes. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:30pm.

SPACES

***Bad Santa* (2003)** *D: Terry Zwigoff; with Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly, Lauren Graham, Lauren Tom, Bernie Mac, John Ritter, Cloris Leachman. (R, 91 min.)* Free. (*) @Spider House Patio Bar, 10pm.

East Austin Stories See p.96.

***National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)** *D: Jeremiah S. Chechik; with Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Diane Ladd, John Randolph, E.G. Marshall, Doris Roberts, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Mae Questel, William Hickey. (PG-13, 97 min.)* Free. @Spider House Patio Bar, 8pm.

Snatch *D: Guy Ritchie; with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt, Alan Ford, Vinnie Jones, Jason Flemyng, Benicio Del Toro, Dennis Farina. (R, 104 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 13

***Been Rich All My Life* (2006)** *D: Heather MacDonald. (NR, 81 min.)* **Texas Documentary Tour.** Five African-American octogenarians who were former members of the Silver Belles dance troupe, including choreographer and captain Marion Coles, recall their glory days as members of the chorus lines at the Apollo, the Savoy, the Cotton Club, and other Harlem clubs. Heather MacDonald will be present following the screening for a Q&A. See p.60 of this week's Screens section for more on the film. Austin Film Society, the UT Department of Radio-Television-Film, and *The Austin Chronicle*. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; $4 AFS members, $6 nonmembers.

***Bummer!* (1972)** *D: William Allen Castleman; with Kipp Whitman, Connie Strickland, Dennis Burkley, Carol Speed. (R, 90 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** This is a David Friedman-produced exploitation movie about a rock bassist-turned-murdering psycho and some topless dancers-turned-groupies. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Nudge 3.5 See p.98.

***The Godfather* Dinner and a Movie (1972)** *D: Francis Ford Coppola; with Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton. (R, 175 min.)* Screening of the crime classic with gour-met Sicilian feast. Menu available at **www.drafthouse.com**. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm; $55.

SPACES

***Silent Night, Deadly Night* (1984)** *D: Charles E. Sellier Jr.. (R, 85 min.)* Free. @Spider House Patio Bar, 8pm.

***Silent Night, Deadly Night Part 2* (1987)** *D: Lee Harry. (R, 88 min.)* Free. @Spider House Patio Bar, 10pm.

***The City of Lost Children* (1995)** *D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro; with Ron Perlman, Daniel Emilfork, Judith Vittet, Dominique Pinon, Jean-Claude Dreyfus. (R, 117 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

***The Vice Guide to Travel* (2006)** **Vice Magazine.** Visiting places in the world that no one wants to travel to, including Chernobyl, Pakistan, Paraguay, Beirut, Congo, and Bulgaria. @Beerland, 7pm; free.

THURSDAY 14

Nudge 3.5 See p.98.

***Rituals* (1977)** *D: Peter Carter; with Hal Holbrook, Lawrence Dane, Robin Gammell, Ken James, Gary Reineke. (R, 100 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Five doctors stuck in the wilderness are hunted by backwoods maniacs. Can you say *Deliverance*? @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5 This all-new collection of bizarre Japanese video oddities includes bawdy situation comedies, unex-pected 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 reserva-tions. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Thu., 12/07)

SPACES

Droppin' Science Vintage educational film-strip show from the collection of former science teacher Chris Moore. See **www.droppinscience.net** for more info. @The Stash, 7pm.

Run Lola Run *D: Tom Tykwer; with Nina Petri, Joachim Krol, Armin Rohde, Herbert Knaup, Moritz Bleibtreu, Franka Potente. (R, 81 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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"REMARKABLE ACTING."
-Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*
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PARAMOUNT
Film - Double Features
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- (512) 472-5470

Best In Show -- Friday, 7 pm
A colorful array of owners (and handlers) compete at a national dog show in which hilarity ensues.

Waiting For Guffman -- Friday, 9 pm
An off-off-off-off-off-Broadway director in Missouri invites famed critic Mr. Guffman to opening night.

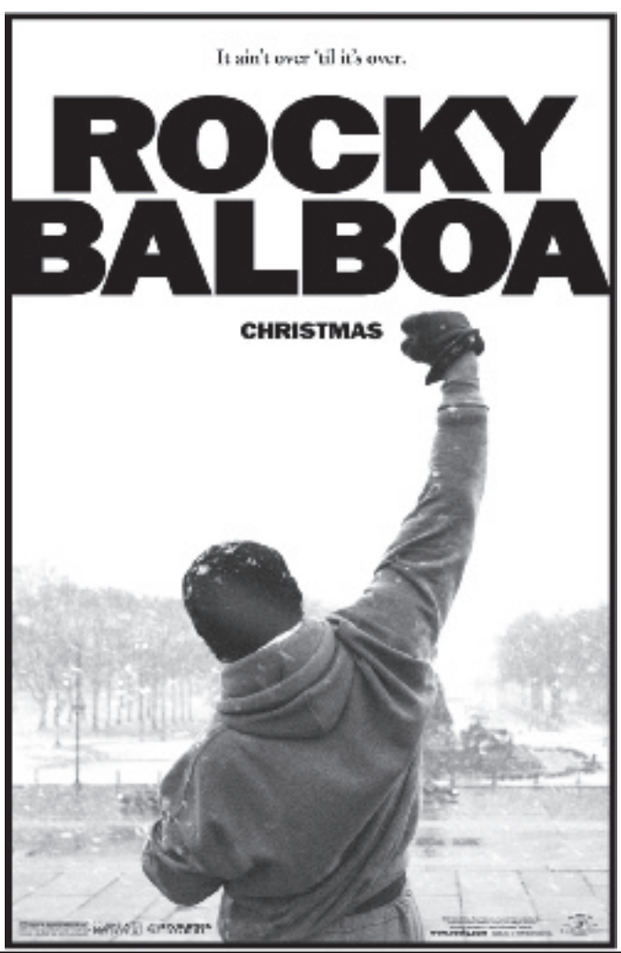
The Shop Around The Corner -- December 15 @ 7 pm | December 16 @ 3 pm
A Christmas Story -- December 15 @ 9 pm | December 16 @ 1 pm

Special ADVANCE Screening
Monday, December 18, 7:30pm

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to **austinchronicle.com/contests** by 4pm, Tuesday, December 12.

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-13.

Opens Nationwide Wednesday, December 20



CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com/contests

Cali Zack, Bavu Blakes, Zeale 32

FLAMINGO CANTINA, FRIDAY 8

Mining deep rhythmic crevasses, Austin's Cali Zack assembles his underground rapper friends, including Mr. Blakes, Zeale 32, Emcee, Joe Average, Broke Bread, Speaker, Crew 54, and Jonny Danger, to help celebrate the release of his new project, *The Clean South*. With support from DJ Shoestrings, expect long-winded drops into the most remote caverns of hip-hop iconoclasm. – *Robert Gabriel*

James Hand BROKEN SPOKE, FRIDAY 8

At last. This year's *The Truth Will Set You Free* (Rounder) made James Hand a bona fide Opry singer – as in Grand Ole Opry. The Texan's Oct. 28 appearance on WSM Nashville's legendary Saturday-night showcase was a lifetime in the coming, to say the least, but as a place for his lonesome croon to put a tear in your beer and a spring in your (two-) step, the Broken Spoke will always reign supreme. – *Christopher Gray*

The Channel PARISH, SATURDAY 9

The pop wrecking crew of Golden Bear and the Channel has become a force to be reckoned with. The Channel, well, channels their orchestral vibes and attacks the soundtrack to Harry Nilsson's *The Point*, offering costumes, narration, and a screening of the trippy 1971 animated film. Labelmates Golden Bear plus locals Haunting Oboe Music and Quien es, Boom! add layers to cake, so you can eat it, too. – *Audra Schroeder*

Diamond Smugglers, Honeypot

CONTINENTAL CLUB, SATURDAY 9

Fresh from rocking a fictional frat party on TV's *Veronica Mars*, Austin's high-energy Neil Diamond tribute band casts scruples to the wind, portraying the tight-pantsed icon jumping from "Holly Holy" straight into "Rape Me" and turning "Longfellow Serenade" into "Long Duck Dong Serenade." Even so, the Smugglers transcend camp with consummate showmanship. Meanwhile, Rockland Eagles ring maiden Kritter leads Honeypot to the promised land of riff-thickened keg-party rock. – *Greg Beets*

The Black Keys LA ZONA ROSA, SATURDAY 9

If the Black Keys' *Magic Potion* (Nonesuch) doesn't make you want to "Do the Rump," you might want check your pulse; the Akron, Ohio, duo's seamless, sensual, and intoxicating blues rock ditty "The Desperate Man" recently became the soundtrack to a Victoria's Secret commercial. Alternately, Philly fivepiece Dr. Dog's piano-driven Beatles pastiche gets nostalgic behind their holdover EP *Takers and Leavers* (Park the Van), which nuzzles between Daniel Johnston and Robert Pollard. Drink up. – *Austin Powell*

Rusted Shut, Grey Daturas

EMO'S, SUNDAY 10

Houston quartet Rusted Shut always pleasures in clearing rooms and assaulting ears with their "songs," and helping them is Australian trio Grey Daturas, whose SXSW 06 day show in a rickety shed was possibly the loudest thing ever recorded in Hyde Park. 2004's *Dead in the Woods* was a druggy initiation into the doom/drone cabal, and latest EP *Blood Trail* tosses the body in a shallow grave. Get some *Snacks* first with When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth. – *Audra Schroeder*

Joanna Newsom

PARISH, WEDNESDAY 13

Pleiades, peonies, poppies. Pollen. Scraps of sassafras. Swansdown and leather. Heather and hollyhock. This is the vast canvas of Joanna Newsom's *Ys*, colored with heavy golds and vivid reds. The 24-year-old California harpist drew both friends and foes with her otherworldly voice on 2004's *The Milk-Eyed Mender*, but her latest Drag City release is a full moon, a sophomore album that soars beyond former "freak folk" pigeonholes and proves she wasn't "born of a whistle or milked from a thistle at twilight. No, I was all horns and thorns, sprung out fully formed, knock-kneed and upright."

Wordy, yes, but the album's swirling, plucked climbs and vertiginous falls – supplied by a 34-piece orchestra, part of which will accompany her live – are a welcome addition. It doesn't hurt that Van Dyke Parks, best known for his work with Brian Wilson, co-produced and arranged the music, lending a theatrical gleam to Newsom's sing-song rhymes and jigsaw wordplay. She's a true storyteller, and *Ys* is a classic one: from the lush, Renaissance cover portrait of Newsom and star-crossed opener "Emily" to dancing bears and rattlesnake skin and meteorites and doves stuffed with sawdust and diamonds – a Hieronymus Bosch painting put into words. The stellar "Monkey & Bear" may sound like Disney, but this time around, there are darker forces at work in her songs and a maturity that's measurable in teeth bared. – *Audra Schroeder*

Newsom plays two shows, 6 and 10pm. Bill Callahan opens.

North Loop Holiday Block Party

PARLOR, SUNDAY 10

Seeing red this holiday season? Join the ever-hip North Loop crew for a twist on typical holiday fare. Dirk Michener's local psych trio Cavedweller headlines early, 8pm inside, with Tammany Hall Machine's perfect pop, Hex Dispensers' rowdy rock, and locals Manager's Choice, the Seas, and the Texreys starting off at 2pm. A Room Service/Modern Vintage fashion show is planned along with strip sales and discounts all day. – *Darcie Stevens*

The Faint, Ratatat LA ZONA ROSA, TUESDAY 12

A kohl-eyed, synth-fueled anomaly in their corn-fed hometown of Omaha, Neb., and among the acoustic saddoes of their label Saddle Creek, the Faint have nonetheless remained loyal to both. The quintet spent most of 2006 on side projects (Broken Spindles, Vverevvolf Grehv) and writing songs for the follow-up to 2004's brash *Wet From Birth*, before reconvening to escape the "abominable Nebraska winter." Brooklyn rocktronica duo and Pitchfork fave Ratatat opens. – *Christopher Gray*

Lomita CONTINENTAL CLUB, THURSDAY 14

From the sound wave of '05 debut *Stress Echo* – recently reissued by Indierect with bonus tracks – to the 21st century scratchboard of the Stones' "Ventilator Blues," Lomita might be Austin's best-kept secret. Headliners Tammany Hall Machine also aced a debut last year, Sixties pop psychedelia right out of the brown jug. Prescott C-Wolf/Grand Champeen offshoot One Mississippi demonstrated their guitar grit recently at Stubb's after MMJ. – *Raoul Hernandez*

IN-STORES

Friday: the **Flood**, **Sweet Skull**, **Chinga Bueno**, **Prison Folk**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6pm

Saturday: **Hit Space** CD Release, End of an Ear, 6pm; **American Nightmare**, **Inscrutable Vocabulary**, **Hit by a Car**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6pm

Tuesday: **Casket Architects**, **Shakey Bones**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6pm

A Scottish Christmas

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, THURSDAY 14

Scottish fiddle champ Bonnie Rideout brings seasonal music too joyous to be labeled "Christmas." With her ensemble of musicians and dancers, the tartan whirls while the bagpipes skirl, *A Scottish Christmas* bringing to the stage memorable tunes from the 10-year-old CD of the same name. Both the instrumentation and songs strike the harp and make merry with authenticity so dear to Celtic hearts. 8pm. – *Margaret Moser*

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

LEE ANN WOMACK
Midnight Rodeo, Thursday 7
After midnight, she gon' let it all hang out.

AMERICAN GRAVEYARD
Room 710, Friday 8
Local boys hopped up on bluegrass.

PINETOP PERKINS, LOU ANN BARTON
Antone's, Friday 8
A very Pinetop Christmas.

COLD BLOCKIN' IT 2
Emo's Lounge, Saturday 9
With H-town electro wizard Yppah, Bird Peterson, Dr. Knuckstable, Makestapes, and DJ Dayta.

BRUCE ROBISON AND KELLY WILLIS
Paramount Theatre, Saturday 9
Holiday classics, honky-tonk-style and allergy-free.

JONES FAMILY SINGERS
Threadgill's World HQ, Sunday 10
Gospel for brunch, 11am.

JANA HUNTER, PINK NASTY
Mohawk, Monday 11
Austin's six-string ladies, plus Charles Potts' Magic Windmill Band.

ROMI MAYES, GURF MORLIX, ADAM CARROLL
Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 13
Songwriters gone wild.

GIRL IN A COMA
Red 7, Wednesday 13
San Antonio brings the female trouble.

SHAPES & SIZES
Emo's, Thursday 14
Vancouver's pop tarts, with Weird Weeds and Benko.

WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
Red's Scoot Inn, Thursday 14
It's Festivus!

live music VENUES ▸ p.106
CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▸ p.108

Armadillo
Christmas Bazaar

December 9-24
11am-11pm
Austin Music Hall

3rd & Nueces, Downtown
5 Blocks West of Congress
Fine Art • Extraordinary Gifts
Live Music Nightly

ENTERTAINMENT

Sat 9	12:30 PM	Ray Benson
	3:30 PM	Eliza Gilkyson
	8:00 PM	Slaid Cleaves
Sun 10	12:30 PM	Ruthie Foster
	3:30 PM	Carolyn Wonderland
	8:00 PM	Lucky Tomblin Band
Mon 11	4:30 PM	Cienfuegos
	8:00 PM	W. C. Clark
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
	8:00 PM	The Mother Truckers
Mon 18	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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FROM TEXAS' OLDEST INDEPENDENT BREWERY

SPOETZL

SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS

WATERLOO

1) GUY CLARK
Workbench Songs

2) BOB SCHNEIDER
The Californian

3) DIXIE CHICKS
Taking the Long Way

4) GRUPO FANTASMA
Comes Alive

5) WILLIE NELSON
Songbird

6) AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
The Drugs I Need

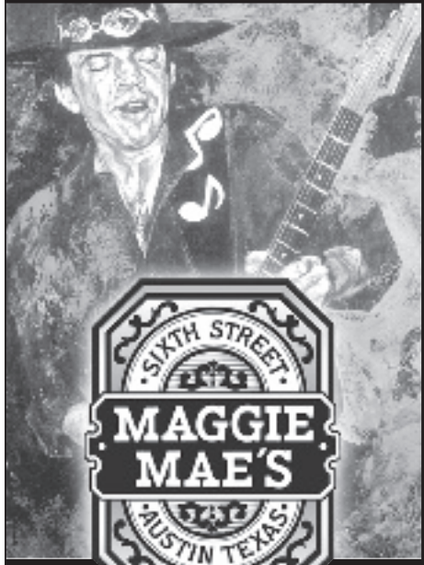
7) SHAWN COLVIN
These Four Walls

8) DON WALSER
Texas Legend

9) LOS LONELY BOYS
Sacred

10) AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
So Divided

Shiner
THERE'S *Nothing* FINER!



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$2 YOU HOLLER EVERY THURSDAY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NO COVER
DRINK SPECIALS BEFORE 11PM
$2 WELLS & DOMESTICS
NEW WEEKEND DECK
HAPPY HOUR 5-9PM

FRIDAY 12/8
10PM-CLOSE
ERIC TESSMER
LIVE TEXAS BLUES, NO COVER
7-9PM
47 POUND ROOSTER

SATURDAY 12/9
10PM-CLOSE
TABOO
GOTTA HAVE THAT FUNK, NO COVER

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8 - CLOSE
THE GREATEST BLUES SHOW ON PLANET AUSTIN
WITH THE TEXCELLORATORS
SPECIAL GUEST:
12/11 NATALIE ZOE

FRIDAY 12/15
7-9PM
ERIN JAMES
BLUES HAPPY HOUR
10-CLOSE
FLAVOR CONDUCTORS
DRINK SPECIALS, NO COVER

SATURDAY 12/16
10PM-CLOSE
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
LIVE MUSIC, NO COVER

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ALL THAT GLITTERS
★ SUE ZOLA
• FRI, SAT & SUN • 10PM
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MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
• TUESDAY • 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
• WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL AND FRIENDS

THURS DEC 7
HAPPY HOUR
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

MON DEC 11
HAPPY HOUR 6:30
PARIS '49

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONE STARS

TUESDAY DEC 12
HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE
+ DOAK SHORT
TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD

JESSIE DAYTON
12AM

11PM

WED. DEC 13
HAPPY HOUR
JAY MOELLER AND THE SOPHISTICATES

10PM

12AM

JAMES McMURTRY

HONKY

FRIDAY DEC 8
H. H. THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS

JON DEE GRAHAM
10PM

THURSDAY DEC 14
H. H. **THE MOTHER TRUCKERS**
TAMMANY HALL MACHINE

12AM

THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

LOMITA

ONE MISSISSIPPI

SATURDAY DEC 9
DIAMOND SMUGGLERS

FRIDAY DEC 15
H. H. THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
THE SKUNKS

12AM

HONEYPOT

10PM

THE LIFTERS

SATURDAY DEC 16
CHILI COLD BLOOD

SUNDAY DEC 10
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT AND ERIK HOKKANEN**
10:30PM

11PM

12:45AM
IAN McLAGAN
LOU ANN BARTON
9:30PM

COMING SOON • DEC. 21 • **BANANA BLENDER SURPRISE** DEC. 23 • **PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS**

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ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME
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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: **TUNAHELPERS**
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)
MAKESTAPES

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
TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
INSIDE:
MOONLIGHT TOWERS
FALL COLLECTION • BUTTERCUP
LOUNGE:
BABY ROCKETS • HORSE + DONKEY
FOOT FOOT • PLUS DJ BLIP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
EARLY SHOW, DOORS 6PM, SHOW 7PM:
BUZZ OVEN TOUR FEATURING:
FIREKILLS • FURTHEST FROM THE STAR
LEAVING JULY • QUIET COMPANY
OUTSIDE:
SLICK RICK • TBA
TICKETS AVAILABLE
INSIDE (DOORS @10:30):
DANNY & THE NIGHTMARES
FEATURING DANIEL JOHNSTON
TWO STAR SYMPHONY
JAD FAIR TICKETS AVAILABLE
LOUNGE:
THE LORD HENRY • AUX
THE BURNING HOTELS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
CLOSED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19
POCKETFUL OF DENG
THE WAR AGAINST SLEEP
THE MIKE TRUTH ALL STARS • CARTWRIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
SUMMER WARDROBE • FUTURE CLOUDS AND RADAR • CRAWLING WITH KINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
THE UGLY BEATS
BELLFURIES • DEADLY COMPANIONS

*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE AT
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OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT WATERLOO RECORDS & END OF AN EAR RECORDS

COMING SOON: 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

Flavor you can feel good about.

Wild Hop Lager is made with 100% organic barley malt, certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This hearty, organic lager displays a Cascade hop aroma and hints of caramel sweetness. Plus, Wild Hop is a proud supporter of the Organic Farming Research Foundation (www.ofrf.org), which fosters the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming practices.

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Wild Hop is a proud supporter of the Organic Farming Research Foundation.

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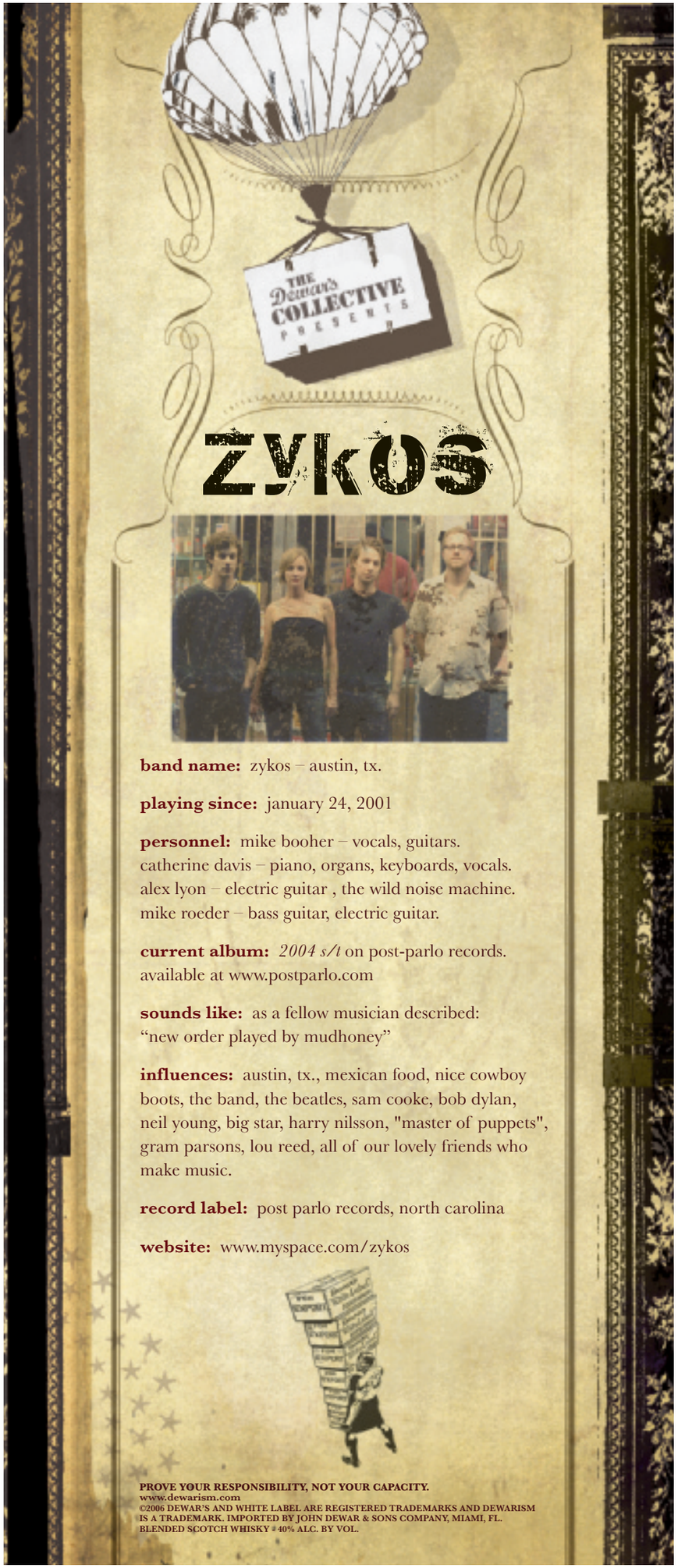

band name: zykos – austin, tx.

playing since: january 24, 2001

personnel: mike booher – vocals, guitars.
catherine davis – piano, organs, keyboards, vocals.
alex lyon – electric guitar , the wild noise machine.
mike roeder – bass guitar, electric guitar.

current album: *2004 s/t* on post-parlo records.
available at www.postparlo.com

sounds like: as a fellow musician described:
"new order played by mudhoney"

influences: austin, tx., mexican food, nice cowboy boots, the band, the beatles, sam cooke, bob dylan, neil young, big star, harry nilsson, "master of puppets", gram parsons, lou reed, all of our lovely friends who make music.

record label: post parlo records, north carolina

website: www.myspace.com/zykos

live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA, 11835 Jollyville, 257-2144
ARTS ON REAL THEATRE, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR, 16410 Stewart, 266-0331
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth and Guadalupe, 236-0074
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146
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
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BECK'S ON CONGRESS, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK
BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902
BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200
'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
BUDDY'S PLACE, 8619 Burnet Rd., 459-4677
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
CANARY HUT PUB, 11005 Burnet Rd., 837-7117
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
THE CARILLON, 2630 Exposition
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1110 Guadalupe, 476-6941
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777
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
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN, 1 Woodcreek Circle, Wimberley, 512/847-5950
DAN MCKLUSKY'S, 301 E. Sixth, 473-8924
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
DORIS MILLER AUDITORIUM, 2300 Rosewood, 476-4118
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
FADÓ, 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
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
THE GINGER MAN, 304 W. Fourth, 473-8801
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL, 730-A W. Stassney, 326-4466
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL, 2401 W. Howard, 255-8003
GREEN MESQUITE BBQ & MORE, 1400 Barton Springs Rd., 479-0485
GREEN MUSE CAFE, 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd, New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'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
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy., 251-5554
HYDE PARK THEATRE, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY
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
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829
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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
LIVE OAK COFFEEHOUSE, 3315 El Salido Pkwy., Cedar Park, 512/219-9008
LONGHORN CAVERNS, 6211 Park Road 4 S., Burnet, 877/441-2283, 830/598-2283
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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
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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
MIDNIGHT RODEO, 2201 E. Ben White, 443-2623
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
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THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137
PARAMOUNT THEATRE, 713 Congress, 472-5470
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THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 479-0474
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer, #1, 339-0663
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
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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 EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
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REDRUM, 401 Sabine, 469-0691
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RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK, 2120 N. Mays #100, Round Rock, 512/246-9444
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ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SAKÉ ON SIXTH, 621 E. Sixth, 478-8788
SALVATION PIZZA, 624 W. 34th, 535-0076
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 280-1299
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-1200
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SCHOLZ GARTEN, 1607 San Jacinto, 474-1958
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SIX/TAP ROOM, 311 Colorado, 478-2337
SNAKE EYES VINYL, 1211 East Seventh, 220-7019
SOUTH FORTY, 629 W. Ben White, 444-9329
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 6317 W. Bee Caves Rd., 327-1474
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca, 280-8590
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
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TAMBALEO, 302 Bowie, 472-3213
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TAYLOR SPJST HALL, FM 619 & US 79, Taylor, 512/352-9139
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM, 1009 E. 11th, 472-8891
THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1, 6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TONEY BURGER ATHLETIC CENTER, 3200 Jones, 414-2096
TONY'S VINEYARD, 2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
TROUBADOUR SALOON, 503 E. Sixth, 499-0350
VENTANA DEL SOUL, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174
WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WEST, 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 418-9700
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 481-8599
WOODY'S SOUTH, 321 W. Ben White, 851-9663
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
YARBOROUGH BRANCH LIBRARY, 2200 Hancock
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355
ZILKER PARK, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700

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THUR 7 - Rokkatone: CD Release • Avenue Elle • Abi Tapia

FRI 8

The Archibalds

Fancie (Germany)

SAT 9

Allen Cote

Honeydew Revue

Stayton Bonner

SUN 10 - Randy Weeks • James Deveney

MON 11 - Moon Whispers • Jeff Daily • Chris Kountoupis

TUE 12 - Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory

WED 13 - David Hamburger • Paul Sprawl (Berkeley, CA)

"$2 Beer Humpty Hump Night!"

THU 14 - South Paw Jones • The Coffee Sergeants

FRI 15 - The Lennings • Chris Brecht

SAT 16 - For Those Who Know

For Her and the Snow • Infinite Partials

New Year's Eve at SPIDER HOUSE

With

RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS

BRIGANTE

AUX ARMES

&

A complimentary champagne toast at midnight

TICKETS

$12 General Admission

Doors open at 8 p.m. December 31, 2006

21 and over/General Admission

"Drink Texas Vodka"

Spider house

2908 Fruth St. • 512.480.9562

ANTONE'S ON MYSPACE

AMD 64 LIVE!

Antone's

THIS WEEKEND!

THU 07 DEC

FREE CONCERT FOR VOTERS PRESENTED BY obopay

OLOSPO JUSTIN BROWN TRANSLATION

MORE INFO AT OBOPAY.COM/AUSTIN

WED 13 DEC

101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE XMAS SHOW!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

with PETE YORN SOUND TEAM STARSAILOR

ON SALE NOW! • WWW.ANTONES.NET

FRI 08 DEC

A SPECIAL ANTONE'S CHRISTMAS party with

PINETOP PERKINS

LOU ANN BARTON

YOU'RE INVITED!

AND CAROLYN WONDERLAND

THU 14 DEC

101X INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE XMAS SHOW!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BURDEN BROTHERS & SPARTA

with FIREKILLS

ON SALE NOW! • WWW.ANTONES.NET

SAT 09 DEC

wideawake

GREENRIVERORDINANCE

LATE: JUSTIN BROWN TRANSLATION

DAYTIME SHOW (3-5PM, $3)

the JELLYDOTS CD Release party! with the SQUIRRELS

FRI 15 DEC & SAT 16 DEC

two nights with STORYVILLE

12/15 with TYRONE VAUGHAN

12/16 with ERIC TESSMER

ON SALE NOW! • WWW.ANTONES.NET

SUN 10 DEC

the Austin Chronicle's Winter Jam

ALPHA REV • THE FALL COLLECTION & VEHICULAR • NO COVER! 18&UP

for tickets and more information, see austinchronicle.com/party

THU 21 DEC

THE GHOST OF XMAS FUTURE PRESENTS

GREYHOUNDS GROOVIN GROUND

& SPECIAL GUEST DROP TRIO

FRI 22 DEC

Neville FAMILY CHRISTMAS

with CYRIL NEVILLE & TRIBE 13

GAYNIELLE NEVILLE • PAPA MALI

CAESAR BROS. FUNK BOX • MR. TRINIDAD

ON SALE NOW! • WWW.ANTONES.NET

MON 11 DEC

mondays with BRANDON RHYDER

TUE 12 DEC

Blue Tuesday!

with DEREK & MALFORD and CHRIS LAYTON & DAVID HOLT

BIRTHDAY PARTY & ROCKIN CHRISTMAS WITH

SAT 23 DEC

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Cactus cafe & Bar ★ across from the co-op

23rd & guadalupe ★ all ages all the time

Thur & Fri ★ Dec 7 & 8

Two Great Nights! Thu ★ 8:30 pm no opener

Fri ★ 8:30 pm Guest Star Mark Erelli

CARRIE RODRIGUEZ

Fri ★ Dec 8 MIDNIGHT SHOW! $5

THE RETURN OF TWANG TWANG SHOCK-A BOOM

Sat ★ Dec 9 AUSTIN'S OWN

Darden Smith

special guest STEPHEN CLAIR

Sun ★ Dec 10

JOE ELY

WITH JOEL GUZMAN

special guest Ryan Bingham

tix @ HEBs, ERWIN CENTER BOX OFFICE, 477-6060, texasboxoffice.com or tix @ the door!

Down on the Drag!

Mon & Tue Dec 11 &12

SOLD OUT!

GUY CLARK

WITH SLAID CLEAVES

Wed ★ Dec 13

8:30 PM ADAM CAROLL ★ SAM BAKER ROMI MAYES ★ GURF MORLIX

Thur & Fri ★ Dec 14 &15

RUTHIE FOSTER

8:30 PM

Sat & Sun ★ Dec 16 & 17

ELIZA GILKYSON

9PM ON SAT ★ 7:30 PM SUN

MONDAY DEC 18

DYLAN THOMAS XMAS CONCERT

SUZI STERN

ALEX COKE

RICH HARNEY

CHRIS MARESH

7:30 PM

TUE ★ Dec 18 CD RELEASE

PAUL PEARCY

FREE SHOW 7:30 PM

★ WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/STUDENT/TXUNION/AE/CACTUS ★

★ CACTUS 2007 ★

1/12 ★ MONTE MONTGOMERY	2/10 ★ TROUT FISHIN'
1/13 ★ TOM RUSH	2/17 ★ TERRI HENDRIX
1/18 ★ AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'	3/03 ★ RICHARD THOMPSON
1/19 ★ RHETT BUTLER	3/23 ★ TOM RUSSELL
1/25 ★ JEFF DANIELS	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

THE TEXAS UNION

club listings

Thu 07

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ANTONE'S Olospo, Justin Brown Translation (8:00)
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
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brent Adair (6:00)
BEERLAND Buffalo Killers
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
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: Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson Feat. John Boutte (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Rhyme & Reason, Prentice, 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)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mary Welch y Los Curanderos (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Slim Richey's Dream Band w/ Gaila Kenneally, Tony Campise (6:00)
ELYSIUM When Life Has Ceased

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**.

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 7

Olospo, Antone's
Buffalo Killers, Beerland
Carrie Rodriguez, Cactus Cafe
When Life Has Ceased, Elysium
Atomic Bitchwax, **Pearls & Brass**, Emo's
Lee Ann Womack, Midnight Rodeo
El Paso Hot Button, the Mohawk
Chief Death Rage, Red's Scoot Inn
Krudas Cubensi, Ruta Maya

FRI 8

Carrie Rodriguez, Cactus Cafe
Fancie, **The Archibalds**, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Archer Avenue, Hole in the Wall
DAT Politics, **Kevin Blechdom**, **Proem**, the Mohawk
Tomorrow's Too Late, Red 7
Adrian Orange & the Child Slave Rebellion, **Mount Eerie**, Ruta Maya
The Cheatin' Hearts, Woody's South

SAT 9

Green River Ordinance, Antone's
Jo Hell & the Red Roosters, Deli Werks
Spoonfed Tribe, the Dirty Dog
Yppah, **DJ Dayta**, **Bird Peterson**, **Dr. Knuckstable**, **Kool DJ Ghost Dad**, Emo's
Cultura, **McPullish**, Flamingo Cantina
Black Keys, **Dr. Dog**, **Hacienda**, La Zona Rosa
Ad Astra Per Aspera, the Mohawk
The New Vintage, Room 710
Inscrutable Vocabulary, Snake Eyes Vinyl

SUN 10

Rusted Shut, **Grey Daturas**, Emo's
Gospel Silvertones, Stubb's
Jones Family Singers, Threadgill's World HQ

MON 11

Guy Clark, Cactus Cafe
Blind Guardian, **Leaves Eyes**, Emo's
Moon Whispers, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Jo Hell & the Red Roosters, Nuno's on Sixth
Casket Architects, the Parlor
Low Red Land, Room 710
Forward, Russia!, **Snowden**, Stubb's

TUE 12

Guy Clark, Cactus Cafe
The Faint, **Ratatat**, La Zona Rosa
Psychostick, Red Eyed Fly
Casket Architects, Room 710
Casket Architects, **Shakey Bones**, Snake Eyes Vinyl

WED 13

Pete Yorn, **Starsailor**, Antone's
J. DiMenna, Beerland
Romi Mayes, Cactus Cafe
The Royal Kustoms, Flamingo Cantina
Paul Sprawl, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Joanna Newsom, the Parish
Girl in a Coma, **the Offbeats**, Red 7
American Plague, Room 710
Jenny Reynolds, Threadgill's Old No. 1

THU 14

Burden Brothers, **Sparta**, Antone's
Shapes and Sizes, Emo's
Bonnie Rideout, Paramount Theatre
Near Miss, Red 7
Shanghai 5, Red's Scoot Inn
Torrid Flesh, Room 710

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

for your benefit

FRI 08

Love of Christi Benefit w/ Edge City, Freddy Steady 5, **Live Oak Coffeehouse**

Save Our Springs Holiday Benefit w/ Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band, **Mercury Hall**

Austin Metal Alliance Dimebag Tribute Show, Communities in Schools Benefit w/ Bangladesh, Soulblood Divide, Course of Ruin, Buried in Fire, **Redrum**

SAT 09

Music Resource Center of Austin Benefit w/ Redd Volkaert, **Arts on Real Theatre**

East Austin Market Place, Rosewood Recreation Center, Givens Recreation Center Benefit w/ Walter Hines, Kathleen Washington, Voices of Praz, Daughters of Ester, Anointed Voicez, **Doris Miller Auditorium**

Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Brothaly Love, LaKrea, **Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

SUN 10

Public Citizen Benefit, Blues for Blue Skies w/ the Eric Tessmer Band, Bus Stop Stallions, Zapata, **Scholz Garten**

UT Music Scholarship Benefit w/ Trombone Choir, French Horn Choir, Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble, Faculty Brass, **St. Michael's Episcopal Church**

WED 13

Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Starsailor, Sound Team, Pete Yorn, **Antone's**

THU 14

Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Firekills, Sparta, Burden Brothers, **Antones**

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

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Friday, December 8 • 8pm
MIKE SANFORD BAND
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Saturday, December 9 • 8pm
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12/9 ALAN HAYNES, TEXAS BLUES 10P
TBA 7P
12/10 JO HELL AND THE RED ROOSTERS 10P
JIMI LEE AND THE UNSUNG HEROES 8P
12/11 OPEN MUSICIAN JAM 10P
LITTLE STEPH & FRIENDS 8P
12/12 ALAN HAYNES, TEXAS BLUES 10P
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THIS SATURDAY
DEC 09 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM

DEC 15 DOORS 6:30PM SHOW 7:30PM
HOT TOUR Papa roach (hed)
DEC 17 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM

THE 8TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE 2006
FEAT. RADNEY FOSTER ROGER CREAGER RANDY ROGERS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST MAX STALLING & FRED ANDREWS (OF HONEYBROWN)

DEC 20 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM
AMOS LEE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST MUTLU

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JAN 18 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM

GALACTIC HOLIDAY RUN with Papa Mali
NEW YEAR'S EVE EVE EVE EVE
FREE CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT!
DEC 28 DOORS 8:00PM

the SUBDUDES
WITH SPECIAL GUEST BILLY HARVEY
NEW YEAR'S EVE

RAUL MALO
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
FEB 02 DOORS 8:00PM

FEB 01 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM
YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND
CABIN FEVER TOUR 2007

FEB 16 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM
BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL
208 NUECES & 3RD ST • AUSTIN, TX 78701

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DOORS 7:30PM SHOW 8:30PM
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS RECKLESS KELLY THE GOURDS
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club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

EMO'S Lounge: The Gathering; Inside: The Flood, Dixie Witch, Pearls & Brass, Atomic Bitchwax
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Illustrated Band, Three, Redefining the Moment, Sleeping Giant (8:30)
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)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Too Blue (6:30)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HEADHUNTERS Ironclad, Stanley Clarke Band, Exit the Sun, Van Buren Boys, Mitra, Meganaut
HILL'S CAFE Ryan Briggs
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ fStar
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Gil Breyer
LUCKY LOUNGE Sounds Under Radio (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery
MIDNIGHT RODEO Lee Ann Womack
THE MOHAWK El Paso Hot Button, the Paper South, the Early Tapes, Early Greyhound
MOMOS The Hudsons, Porterdavis, Proteus, Goldcure (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
THE OAKS Songwriter Night w/ Sharon May & Lew Andre Mathews (7:00)
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)
RILEY'S TAVERN Texas Saints
RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Ancient Faultlines, Manifesto, Devola, Peyton Gin
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson
RUTA MAYA Thursdaze w/ Krudas Cubensi , 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)
STUBB'S Hellapeno, O.A., the Big Fixx
TRIPLE CROWN Moondog, Spirit Things, Mind Divided, Three Leaf
TROUBADOUR SALOON Willie B., Squint, Pull 2, Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove Live Recording
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sean Russell (6:30)
WHISKY BAR The Snake Trap
WOODY'S SOUTH Mike Cross & Natalie Zoe w/ Laura Mordecai, Tommy Holden (7:00), Dinner With Danger (10:00)
Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura (6:00)

Fri 08

311 CLUB Last Straw, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANTONE'S Christmas Show w/ Carolyn Wonderland, Lou Ann Barton, Pinetop Perkins (9:00)
ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA Natalie Zoe & Mike Cross w/ Laura Mordecai (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Pubcrawler
BEERLAND Cassette, Ivory Class, Dynah, Rescue Mission
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Barrelhouse Dogs
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Chrissy Flatt (6:00)
BROKEN SPOKE James Hand
CACTUS CAFE Carrie Rodriguez (8:30), Twang Twang Shock-a-Boom (12mid)
CAFE CAFFEINE No Show Ponies (8:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Elizabeth McQueen, Cheryl Murdock
CEDAR STREET Shawn Phillips (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay, Adam Carroll, Slaid Cleaves, Lloyd Maines, Terri Hendrix, Gregg Andrews (5:30)
CIPOLLINA Cienfuegos (8:00)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Breezy, Ted Hadzi (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Mother Truckers, Li'l Cap'n Travis (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Mark Richey (8:30)
THE DIRTY DOG Wyrdgrl, That's Mister to You, Surrender Ave. (5:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Abra Moore (8:00)
EGO'S Rosie Flores, Brennan Leigh, Harry Jones (8:30)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Oliver Rajamani (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM David Chenu Quartet, Elias Hanslangr
EMO'S Inside: Pink Nasty, Those Peabodys, Centro-Matic; Lounge: Rubber Robot, Confuzatron, TunaHelpers
FINN & PORTER Benny Igancio, Benny Ignacio (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Cali Zack CD Release w/ DJ Shoestrings, Jonny Danger, Crew 54, Zeale 32, Speaker, Broke Bread, Joe Average, Emcee, Bavu Blakes,
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Archibalds, Fancie
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Glenn Collins (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Monsters of the Midway (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS Nathan Payne, Hazard of Industry, Rend, Bloodshot Pyramid, Carbide, Duke, By Any Means Necessary, Suicidal Failure
HI-LO DJ Honeycomb (11:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Danny Fast Fingers (6:00)
HILL'S CAFE Melody Mann (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Archer Avenue
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Davie Murray (7:00)
JOVITA'S Sally Semrad, Gunhands (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

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THURSDAY, DEC. 7, 9PM
BILLY DEE
FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 10PM
DAYZ LATER
SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 10PM
DJ ONION
SUNDAY, DEC. 10
BRUNCH & BLOODY MARY BAR 'TIL 3
MONDAY, DEC. 11
SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT
DRINK DISCOUNTS
TUESDAY, DEC. 12
WHISKEY TASTING NIGHT
TEA MERCHANTS 8PM
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13
PUB QUIZ 8PM
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TOMORROW!
Win a trip for 2 to MusicFest at Steamboat, Ski Town USA!
RADIO 107.1 KGSR AUSTIN
Christmas Bureau Star-a-Thon
Friday, December 8th
Join 107.1 KGSR for our ANNUAL Christmas Bureau Star-A-Thon!
We'll be broadcasting live from various locations all day long, from 6 in the morning till 6 in the evening - Taking donations and adopting out families for the Christmas Bureau of Austin & Travis County.
* 6am-10am: Listen to 107.1 KGSR for Morning Drive Location!
* 10am-3pm: Greater Texas Federal Credit Union (on North Lamar across from Threadgills)
* 3pm-6pm: Whole Foods Market at 6th & Lamar
WHOLE FOODS MARKET
All donors are registered for the GRAND PRIZE Vacation Package for 2 to the MusicFest at Steamboat, Ski Town USA! You might also win a New Year's Eve VIP Package to see Robert Earl Keen, Reckless Kelly and The Gourds at Austin Music Hall!
We'll also have thank-you gifts for everyone who stops by to make a donation.
FOX 7 KTBC • AUSTIN
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The Christmas Bureau is an umbrella organization that provides assistance for needy families and individuals throughout the holiday season. Call 453-3950 or visit KGSR.com for more details.

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The 4 4 4 Thursday
Beer Special
Fireman's #4 for $4
FRI., DEC. 8
Guinness Day
$3 20-oz. imperial pints
ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT
SAT., DEC. 9
College Game Day
ON ALL SCREENS
SUN., DEC. 10
Traditional Irish Brunch with brunch
The Tea Merchants Noon 'til 3pm
MON., DEC. 11
MATT POWELL & FRIENDS
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 7:30pm
LIVE ON ALL SCREENS
$1 Hotdogs • $3 Miller Lite 20 oz. pints
TUE., DEC. 12
JOIN US FOR
the all new Tuesday Night Trivia Quiz
Qualify for the finals & an opportunity to win FOUR ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO IRELAND
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« Monday »
Open Mic night hosted by Brad Brobisky and Calvin Russell ---- **8:30**

« 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**
$2 domestics and $3 wells until 11:00

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CONTACT INFO@TAMBALEO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Come Out & Celebrate with our Celebrity Santa & Drink Specials All Night

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BETSY'S BAR
301 West 6th Street

RED·FEZ

NIGHTLY MUSIC

THU	Nuthin' New All-Stars 10:00-2:00	
FRI	Green Letters 8:00-10:00	DJ In/Verse 10:00-2:00
SAT	I Need More Cow Bell 8:00-10:00	DJ Kurv 10:00-2:00
SUN	DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00	
MON	DJ Tats 10:00-2:00	
TUE	Twist Up with DJ Manny 10:00-2:00	
WED	Reflex 10:00-2:00	

REFLEX
WEDNESDAYS
10:00-2:00

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www.red-fez.com
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Check out DJ updates, event listings and photos.

club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

LIVE OAK COFFEEHOUSE Love of Christi Benefit w/ Edge City, Freddy Steady 5 (7:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Primm (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MERCURY HALL Save Our Springs Holiday Benefit w/ Bill Oliver & the Otter Space Band (7:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers, Capita Suspects (5:30)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Carl Hutchens
THE MOHAWK AMODA Digital Showcase w/ Majora y Minora, Proem, Kevin Blechdom, DAT Politics (9:00)
MOMOS Kacy Crowley, Vehicle Reason, J. Price, Map of Hawaii, Adrian & the Sickness (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
NAT'S PUB Fatty Lumpkin
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Nutty Idol Karaoke
THE OAKS Mike Sanford Band (8:00)
THE PARLOR Lazar Wolf, Ume, Beta Valentine (9:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL South Austin Jug Band
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RED 7 Inside: Despite the Loss, Last Place You Look, Tomorrow's Too Late, Seaflea; Outside: Velvet Brick, Jolly Garogers
RED'S SCOOT INN Hope Irish, Over the Hill, Faux Fox, Eve Monsees & the Exiles, Apeshits, Black Joe Lewis
REDRUM Austin Metal Alliance Dimebag Tribute Show w/ Bangladesh, Soulblood Divide, Course of Ruin, Buried in Fire
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Blue Mist (8:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Brandon Raines, Karaoke w/ Billy D. (9:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Omar & the Howlers
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Larry, American Graveyard (10:00)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati
RUTA MAYA Real Live Tigers, Karrie Hopper, Thanksgiving, Mount Eerie, Adrian Orange & the Child Slave Rebellion (9:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Hillbilly Parkers (9:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Todd Potter, Bonnie Bishop, Bruce Smith (8:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Lee Person (10:00)
SIX/TAP ROOM DJ Skot Kees (9:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL Prison Folk, Chinga Bueno, Sweet Skull, the Flood (6:00)
SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
STARDUST CLUB Lost John Casner (9:00)
STUBB'S Two Guy Trio, Anagen
TAMBALEO DJ Jah Mighty (6:00)
TAYLOR SPJST HALL Texas Pioneers (7:30)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bob's Your Uncle
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Susanna Sharpe & Catavento w/ Shirley Johnson (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Bill Jerram, Backwater Gypsy, Dual Exhaust, Oceanus
TROPHY'S Gentlemen's Social Club, Adrenaline Factor, New Disaster
TROUBADOUR SALOON Redd Herrings, Long Time Coming, Manhands, Civilians (8:00)
VENTANA DEL SOUL Phoenix Saga & Rhett Lee (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Lee Edwards & Claudia Voyles
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Bill Rice (10:00)
WHISKY BAR Grit, DJ Mel
WOODY'S SOUTH The Cheatin' Hearts (7:00), Shootin' Pains (10:00)

Sat 09

311 CLUB Jam Project, Joe Valentine & Lynn (9:00)
ANTONE'S Green River Ordinance, Wideawake (9:00)
ARTS ON REAL THEATRE Music Resource Center of Austin Benefit w/ Redd Volkaert (noon)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Ray Benson, Eliza Gilkyson, Slaid Cleaves (12:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner
BEERLAND Grand Champeen, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Moonlight Towers
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Jim Nosler
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson
CACTUS CAFE Darden Smith (9:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE ML Frank, Ariel Abshire, Blitzen, Transgressors (7:00)
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Capital City Men's Chorus Holiday Concert w/ Mundi (8:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brandon Rhyder (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00), Honeypot, the Diamond Smugglers (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)

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brazilian

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9
ELANA JAMES
western swing, hot jazz

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10
DAMIAN GREEN
western swing

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Sundays 12:30 – 3 pm

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singer-songwriter

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10
THE HUDSONS
americana

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 14
ABI TAPIA
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CENTRAL MARKET/KGSR
CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE BENEFITTING THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

3pm - Austin Girl's Choir
4pm - Elana James
4:30 - John Arthur Martinez
5pm - Damian Green Band
5:30 - Hudson's
6pm - Mundi
6:30 - Donna Hightower
7pm - Albert & Gage
7:30 - Hummingbirds
8pm - Boxcar Preachers
8:30 - TX Eastside Kings
9pm - W.C. Clark

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Wednesdays
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Ladies Night

Friday, Dec. 1
JIMMY LEE JONES

Saturday, Dec. 2
JOSH GRIDER

Tuesday, Dec. 5
THE TROUBADILLOS

Thursday, Dec. 7
GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS

Friday, Dec. 8
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND

Saturday, Dec. 9
DIXIE BEAL
THE GROUP W BENCH

Tuesday, Dec. 12
THE TROUBADILLOS

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Thurs. Dec. 7
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm

George Devore 11pm
Hhr. Rob Roy Parnell 6pm

Fri. Dec. 8
TODD POTTER 8pm

10pm Bonnie Bishop

12am Bruce Smith
HHr. The Regulars 6pm No Cover

Sat. Dec. 9
WC Clark 11pm

9:30pm Mike Milligan
CD Release
8pm HARRY BODINE

Sun. Dec. 10
The Band of Heathens 8pm

WALTER TRAGERT 10:30pm
12am JAY THOMAS

Mon. Dec. 11
Bukka Allen 7pm

8:30pm Graham Wilkinson & Underground Township
11pm Salinger
12:30am RICKY STEIN

Tues. Dec. 12
Amy Atchley 8pm

PAUL LEMMOND'S BIRTHDAY BASH 10:30pm
12am Will Sexton
HHr. Beth Black 6pm No Cover

Wed. Dec. 13
HHr. Pauline Reese 6pm

8pm MONTE MONTGOMERY
Red Spade w/ Malford Milligan 10:30pm
UNCLE LUCIUS 12am

COMING TO THE SAXON:
Sat. 12/16 - **Bugs Henderson**
Sat. 12/16 - **Jon Dee Graham**
Mon. 12/18 - **Bob Schneider**
Fri. 12/22 - **Stephen Bruton**
Sat. 12/23 - **Terry Allen**

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Tuaca Blaster

1½ oz. Tuaca
4 oz. Energy Drink

Combine ingredients in a tall glass with lots of ice.

Tuaca Lemon Drop

1½ oz. Tuaca
½ oz. Triple Sec
2 oz. Sweet & Sour

Combine ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake, strain and serve.

Tuscan Mule

1½ oz. Tuaca
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2 Lime Wedges

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SUN DEC 31
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club listings ◂◂ FROM SATURDAY

COTTON CLUB The Insiders (9:00)
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
DELI WERKS Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:30)
THE DIRTY DOG One Trick Monkey, Bombasta, Spoonfed Tribe (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT The Recliners
DORIS MILLER AUDITORIUM East Austin Market Place w/ Walter Hines, Kathleen Washington, Voices of Praz, Daughters of Ester, Anointed Voicez, (10:00 am)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Marc Devine Trio (8:00)
EGO'S Big Chris Gates & Gatesville, Winchester Twin (8:30)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Crash Bam Boom (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Gnappy (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, DJ the Gothfather
EMO'S Inside: Night of 100 Laughs; Lounge: Cold Blockin' It ll w/ DJ Dayta, Kool DJ Ghost Dad, Dr. Knuckstable, Bird Peterson, Yppah CD Release
END OF AN EAR Hit Space (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA McPullish, Cultura (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Love Gone Cold, Stayton Bonner
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE John Lowe (7:30)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Eve Monsees (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS Calbakes, Streetlight Suzy, Bent Gents, Queen Anne's Revenge, Sweet Skull, Roger's Porn Collection, More Fire
HILL'S CAFE Bill Rice
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Playin' Syxx (7:00)
JOVITA'S Kountoupis Brothers, Blues Mafia, Rockus Circus, Sixes & Eights (12:30), Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Hacienda, Dr. Dog, Black Keys (9:00)
LONGHORN CAVERNS Simple Sounds w/ Emily Kaitz
LUCKY LOUNGE Aston Teague (9:00)
MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Not Your Grandma's Holiday Bazaar w/ Joe McDermott (11:00 am)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Lost in Austin (9:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Carl Hutchens
THE MOHAWK Clap!Clap!, Ad Astra per Aspera, Paper Airplanes, Fiction
MOMOS UT Ethnomusicology Ensemble (8:00)
MOONRIVER Dixon Younger
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (11:00 am)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bill Rice
THE OAKS Red Spade/ Malford Milliagan, John Gaar, Tracy Conover (8:00)
PARAMOUNT THEATRE Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis Holiday Show (8:00)
THE PARISH Quien 'es, Boom!, Haunting Oboe Music, Golden Bear, the Channel
THE PARLOR Nicaragua, Set Aflame, Artless Fiction
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench
RADISSON Kent Mayhew
RED 7 Outside: Undergrowth, the Flood, Sedium, Mad Cow; Inside: Rubber Monster, the Violet Red, Exile to Naples
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)
RED'S SCOOT INN The Otters, Cavedweller, the Seas
REDRUM Honky
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Just Releaed (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Texas Sapphires
ROMEO'S Kirk Hale
ROOM 710 Ethan Azarian, Stickpony, the New Vintage, Grand Champeen
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Native Sons
RUTA MAYA Austin Daze w/ McPullish, Grimy Styles
SALVATION PIZZA DJ Radicon, Pat Physiks
SAM'S TOWN POINT Mark Jungers (9:00)
SÃO PAULO'S Phillipe Vieux w/ 3 Jazz Collective (7:30)
SAXON PUB Harry Bodine, Mike Milligan, W.C. Clark (8:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Autumn B (10:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL Hit by a Car, Inscrutable Vocabulary, American Nightmare (6:00)
SPEAKEASY Kalico Kings (9:30)
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Topaz
STARDUST CLUB The Unnamed Band
TAMBALEO DJ Kurupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Digital Juke
TONEY BURGER ATHLETIC CENTER Parking Lot: Sustainable Shopper's Ball w/ Twang Twang Shock-a-Boom (1:00)
TRIPLE CROWN The Warblers, Green Mountain Grass
TROPHY'S Tom Waits Hoot
TROUBADOUR SALOON Patrick Godbey, the Blaggards, Catfish Whiskey (7:30)
WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Brothaly Love, LaKrea (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Carter Francis, Sweetest Day
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Rhett Butler (10:00)
WHISKY BAR PRPL DRNK w/ Prince Klassen, DJ Dayta, DJ Witnes., DJ Resinthol
WOODY'S SOUTH The Washingtons, Puddin', Broken Teeth
YARBOROUGH BRANCH LIBRARY Winter Holiday Party w/ Capitol City Highlanders (11:00 am)

Sun 10

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Ruthie Foster, Carolyn Wonderland, Lucky Tomblin Band (12:30)
B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Billy Goerdt, Polk Shelton (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Kat's Meow (noon)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH Capital City Men's Chorus Holiday Concert w/ Mundi (4:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Ash Family (8:30)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ DJ The Bigg Sho (5:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB In the Club: Heybale! w/ Redd & Eric; Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Monte Peck's Acoustic Night (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM John Fremgen w/ Kevin Lovejoy, JJ Johnson (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Amerykah
EMO'S When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Grey Daturas, Rusted Shut

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exotic grooves by
world renowned beat makers
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Govinda 10pm
Carmen Rizzo 11pm
Mike Hiratzka 12:30pm
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Countdown cameos
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THURSDAY, DEC. 7
8-11PM $5 PITCHERS OF ZIEGENBOCK
$1 KAMAKZI SHOTS
FRIDAY, DEC. 8
7:30-10:30PM
$1 WELLS & $2 DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEER
SATURDAY, DEC. 9
OPEN TO CLOSE
$5 PITCHERS OF BUSCH
8-11PM $2 WELLS
SUNDAY, DEC. 10
OPEN TO CLOSE
$2 WELLS AND $1.50 BOTTLES OF MILLER HIGH LIFE AND LONE STAR
COWBOYS VS. NEW ORLEANS 1PM
SPURS VS. LAKERS 9:30PM
MONDAY, DEC. 11
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - HERE
$1 DRINK SPECIALS
DURING THE GAME
TUESDAY, DEC. 12
8-11PM
$2 WELLS & $5 PITCHERS OF ICEHOUSE
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13
8PM ON GIANT SCREEN TV
SOUL CALIBUR III TOURNAMENT
COME BEAT THE REIGNING CHAMPION
KITSUNE
8-11PM
$5 PITCHERS OF BUD ICE, $1.50 BOTTLES OF BUD SELECT, $1.75 PINTS OF BUD & BUD LIGHT
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 7
THE HUDSONS 8
GOLDCURE 1
PORTER DAVIS 10:30
PROTEUS 11:45
FRIDAY DECEMBER 8 / $8
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS 12
MAP OF HAWAII 11
J. PRICE 10
THE VEHICLE REASON 9
KACY CROWLEY 8
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9
UT ETHNOMUSICOLOGY ENSEMBLE
AN ECLECTIC MIX OF JAZZ, FUNK & SOUL
SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 / $5
WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30
THE PHOEBE JEEBIES 8
DAO STROM 12:30
MONDAY DECEMBER 11 / $5
MARSHALL JONES 12:30
10:30 ELIZABETH DONIHOO
KACY CROWLEY 9:15
MEAGAN TUBB 8
TUESDAY DECEMBER 12 / $5
CHARLIE FAYE W/ WILL SEXTON 8
PRIVATE PARTY AFTER 9
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 / $5
THE band of Heathens 9:30
GRAHAM WILKINSON & THE UNDERGROUND TOWNSHIP 12
UPCOMING SHOWS
12/14 HONEYBROWNE
STEPHEN CLARKE 12/15
12/15 WARTIME SOCIAL
DREW SMITH 12/16
12/16 WENDY COLONNA
PATRICE PIKE NEW YEARS EVE!
W/ GINGER LEIGH
TIX ON SALE AT WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

club listings ◂◂ FROM SUNDAY

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Randy Weeks, James Deveney
FRIENDS Open-Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (8:00)
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)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Gulf Coast Playboys (3:00)
HEADHUNTERS Matt Read, Nathan Payne, Lone Star Rebels, Fatback, the Tombstones
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA DJ Chicken George (11:00 am)
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
LUCKY LOUNGE Everyday People (10:30)
MANUEL'S Cienfuegos (11:30 am)
MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Not Your Grandma's Holiday Bazaar w/ Joe McDermott (11:00 am)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS LZ Love (10:30 am), Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL John Montez Band (9:45)
MOMOS Phoebe Jeebies, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Dao Strom (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 OASIS The Brew
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
THE PARLOR North Loop Holiday Block Party w/ the Texrays, the Seas, Manager's Choice, Hex Dispensers, Tammany Hall Machine, Cavedweller (2:00)
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 7 American Nightmare
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RED'S SCOOT INN Blue Dog; Happy Birthday, Beast! (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 3 Kisses, Los Hispanos UK
SAXON PUB Lisa Novak CD Release, Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas (8:00)
SCHOLZ GARTEN Public Citizen Benefit, Blues for Blue Skies w/ the Eric Tessmer Band, Bus Stop Stallions, Zapata (5:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH UT Music Scholarship Benefit w/ Trombone Choir, French Horn Choir, Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble, Faculty Brass (4:00)
STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Gospel Silvertones (noon)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Lee and Andy
TEXAS MUSIC MUSEUM Texas Music Christmas Party w/ James Polk, Ernie Mae Miller, Dr. Beulah Agnes Jones, Jimmie Jones (1:30)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Jones Family Singers (11:00 am)
TONY'S VINEYARD In the Pocket (noon)
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 Ike, Poise, Diamond Tip
WOODY'S SOUTH Southside Sunday Brunch w/ David Novian (noon), Jordan Price & Shad Blair (7:00)
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Asleep at the Wheel, Whitestone, Austin Symphonic and (7:00)

Mon 11

ANTONE'S Brandon Rhyder & Friends (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Cienfuegos, W.C. Clark (12:30)
BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ Nathan Black
BLIND PIG PUB Patrick Fleming (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
CACTUS CAFE Guy Clark (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Brian
CEDAR STREET Highly Likely, Jukebox Heroes w/ Robert Wagner (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Mike & Rob Haedge (5:30), Big John Mills (8:30)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49 (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S The Nortons, Will Knaak, Mike Vernon (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EMO'S Leaves Eyes, Blind Guardian
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Moon Whispers, Jeff Daily, Chris Kountoupis
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Texas 42 Nite
HANOVER'S Jay Dirks Band
HEADHUNTERS Eric Reyes, Matt Read, Nathan Payne, Kimberly Freemen
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/ Martin Woldman (7:00)
HYDE PARK THEATRE Eddy Hobizal (7:30)
JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)
LA PALAPA CL Smooth
LUCKY LOUNGE Swells Wave (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic Night
MAGGIE MAE'S Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators (8:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Rick Muir
THE MOHAWK Charles Pott's Magic Windmill Band, Pink Nasty, Jana Hunter
MOMOS Meagan Tubb, Kacy Crowley, Elizabeth Donihoo, Marshall Jones (8:00)
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jimi Lee & the Unsung Heroes, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)
THE PARLOR Casket Architects
RADISSON Larissa Ness
RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Tats
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
ROMEO'S Lisa Clark
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Soundsystem, Low Red Land
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Chip Sneed
RUTA MAYA Jammin' w/ the All-Stars (8:00)
SAXON PUB Bukka Allen, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township, Salinger, Ricky Stein (7:00)
STUBB'S Snowden; Forward, Russia!
TAMBALEO Open Mic w/ Calvin Russell (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns
TROPHY'S The Meshbanes
WHISKY BAR True School w/ DJ Tako, DJ Notion
WOODY'S SOUTH Billy Dee, Honky (7:00)
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Radio Station (9:00)

Tue 12

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Hayes Carll (8:00)

PHOTO BY M. DAPRA
3201 South Lamar • 442-6189
THU, DEC 7 8-9PM COUNTRY DANCE LESSONS
CHAPARRAL W/ JEFF HUGHES 9PM
FRI, DEC 8 JAMES HAND
SAT, DEC 9 DALE WATSON
TUE, DEC 12 HONKY TONK PIANO NO COVER
WED, DEC 13 BAND CAMP
BANDS OF AUSTIN NO COVER

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SA BRANDON RHYDER
SU THE ASH FAMILY 4-8PM
MO BIG JOHN MILLS
WE EVERY WED. KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE
COMING SOON
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KVUE NEWS

Where Trust Is Earned

Austin doesn't close down at night. Neither does KVUE News. As your day winds down, KVUE News is still going strong. Tyler Sieswerda, Christine Haas and the KVUE News team are working harder to bring you all the LIVE late-breaking news in our community. Get more perspective and more of what's important to you on KVUE News Nightbeat.

NIGHTBEAT 10PM

KVUE IS AUSTIN'S NEWS STATION

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10PM, $3 COVER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 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.
Lee EDWARDS & Claudia VOYLES — FRI. DEC. 8
Carter FRANCIS — SAT. DEC. 9

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FILTERS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

A CAMEL EVENT

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT

THE FAINT

A SPECIAL ONE NIGHT ONLY EVENT

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
RATATAT
LIVE AT LA ZONA ROSA @ 8PM

Event restricted to adults 18 years of age and older. 18+

TICKETS: AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL CAMEL REP. TRACK DOWN YOUR REP BY GOING TO CAMELSMOKES.COM OR BY CALLING 1.866.988.8800. THERE ARE LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE VENUE.

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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
HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC
QUIEN ES, BOOM!
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

FRI 12.15 ..... DOORS 9PM
CRAWLING WITH KINGS

IAN MOORE AND LOSSY COILS
FUTURE CLOUDS
IN RADAR

SAT 12.16 ..... DOORS 9PM
THE LEMURS

MANEJA BETO
'TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTORY
XCELLA

SAT 12.23 ..... DOORS 9PM
HOLIDAY HIP HOP CLASSIC
WITH THE RETURN OF THE COLD ROCKIN' IT CREW

SUPA LUVA CG
TREACHEROUS TATS
DJ DONNIE DEE
HOSTED BY RAPP MASTER V-ZILLA

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club listings ◂◂ FROM TUESDAY

B.B. ROVERS Buster Gutbucket & Friends (7:30), Average Joe Crane (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BROKEN SPOKE Honky Tonk Piano
BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)
CACTUS CAFE Guy Clark (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Brian
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Sam Arnold, the Early Sound (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Vela & Jordan Minor (5:30)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Freewave (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00), In the Club: Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), Barfield, the Tyrants of Texas Funk (11:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)
THE DIRTY DOG Jazz Jam (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Sunny Sweeney, Eric Hisaw (8:30)
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), "Fireball" Jon Blondell (9:30)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Joe Richardson Express (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 Unravel Mars, Left Out
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, Mosaic (6:00)
LA PALAPA Brewer Nation
LA ZONA ROSA Ratatat, the Faint (9:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox (10:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT R.G. Stark (7:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery
MOMOS Will Sexton (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
THE PARLOR Loy Bones
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 EYED FLY Teabag, Psychostick
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
RED'S SCOOT INN Flip for Real! w/ DJ Fil, DJ Zorn Does Jazz Nite (9:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine Trio (6:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann Band
RIVERBEND CENTRE Handel's *Messiah* w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra, Chorus Austin (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Lions of Tsavo, Casket Architects, High Cost of Living
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), Amy Atchley, Paul Lemmond, Will Sexton (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke (9:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL Shakey Bones, Casket Architects (6:00)
SPEAKEASY Drew Davis & the Hard Luck Band (9:30)
TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN RC Banks, Ethereal Architect, Bloodshot Pyramid
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)
WOODY'S SOUTH Shotgun Party
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ O'Henry Middle School Choir, We Are the Chorus, Grupo Flor y Canto (7:00)

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Wed 13

219 WEST Kris Kimura (6:30)
311 CLUB Sindrome (8:30)
AGAVE Andy Macintyre w/ Eric Tessmer (9:00)
ANTONE'S Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Starsailor, Sound Team, Pete Yorn (8:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Biscuit Brothers (10:00 am)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ South Austin Jug Band (8:00)
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 Daughter, Dolly Partens, J. DiMenna, the Onlys
BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin Band
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
BUDDY'S PLACE Shelli Coe Band
CACTUS CAFE Adam Carroll, Sam Baker, Romi Mayes, Gurf Morlix (8:30)
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Sprinkler in the Rain, Jennifer Cook
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
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, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)

APHRODITE'S
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Naughty elves & Ms. Claus in red lingerie, Sat., Dec. 9
Christmas Costume Party
An elegant, sensuous evening never to be forgotten
NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL
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THU 9/14 > MEGANAUT, SUPERCRASH (P), NITRA, THE VAN BUREN BOYS (P), EXIT THE SUN, STANLEY CLARKE BAND (P), IRONCLAD
FRI 9/15 > SUICIDAL FAILURE (P), BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY, DUKE (P), CARBIDE, BLOOD SHOT PYRAMID (P), REND, HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY, NATHAN PAYNE (HH)
SAT 9/16 > MORE FIRE, RODGERS PORN COLLECTION (P), SWEET SKULL, QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE (P), BENT GENTS, STREET LIGHT SUSIE (P), CALRAKES
SUN 9/17 > THE TOMBSTONES, FATBACK (C.ZOMBI & BARNYARD BALLERS), LONESTAR REBELS, NATHAN PAYNE, MATT READ
MON 9/18 > KIMBERLY FREEMAN, NATHAN PAYNE, MATT READ (DUKE), ERIC REYES TUE 9/19 > LEFT OUT, UNRAVEL MARS
WED 9/20 > LONESOME HEROS, CHOMP CHOMP, THE GARY NEWCOMB TRIO, SKARAOKE (P),
MIKE DAVIS AND HIS BROKEN HEARTED BAND

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THE DIRTY SOUND

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 8
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THE MIDGETMEN
THE BOXING LESSON
LABLE ME THIS

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 9
CRASH GALLERY
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SHARPEN, ALEXANDER!
JOY BUS

SUNDAY-DECEMBER 10
GOBI
LOVE AND RAGE AND DEATH
RIN FLETCHER

MONDAY-DECEMBER 11
CAMEL X-MAS EVENT
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THE JUNGLE ROCKERS
THE IVORY CLASS

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 12
PSYCHOSTICK
TEABAG
BLOOD SHOT PYRAMID

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 13
PULSE & THEORY
LAST RIDE IN
WESTERN ANATOMY
DR. ZOOM

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 14
OHMA
EXIT THE SUN
RED LINE RIOT
AIM YOUR RIFLES

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 15
LA GUNS
BROKEN TEETH
NEW DISASTER

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 16
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Sun 12.10
LOS HISPANOS, U.K.
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$2

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HADLY
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Tue 12.12
HIGH COST OF LIVING
CASKET ARCHITECTS From NYC
LIONS OF TSAVO

Wed 12.13
MAD COW
AMERICAN PLAGUE From TN
FORTRESS

UPCOMING SHOWS

12.14 Demonbuny, Tonic Nein, Miss Carriage, The Blood Horse 12.15 Gun Totin' Mealeaters, Devola 12.16 Pong, Arab League 12.19 Program

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SAT HAVEN DEC 9
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w/ SPECIAL GUEST DJ EDMINISTER
Saggitarius Party! (Saggitarians get in free)

SUN retro 80's DEC 10
REGRESSION
DJs AMERYKAH & BOBA FETT

TUE lesbian night DEC 12
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & GUEST

WED NO COVER DEC 13
MID-WAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ THE GOTHFATHER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu Dec 14 * *Live! Turbo 350, Shinola, A Crack in the Wall*
Fri Dec 15 * *Live! Black Math Experiment, Hipnautica, Gravity Euphonic*
Thu Dec 21 * *Electrocution - "white night"*

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8pm Blitzens play your Christmas favorites
will rhodes/ richard galloway birthday show-
sa 9 lil cap'n travis, til we're blue or destroy, moonlight towers, DJ Polecat
su 10 Jigglewatts Burlesque Show
mo 11 Rock and Roll Karaoke 1000+ songs--no cover
tu 12 Avi Hartman's B-day Roast
we 13 The Onlys, Dolly Partners, J Dimenna, Saturday's Radar
7pm *The VICE Guide to Travel*
th 14 Giant Squid, Watching the Moon, Will Go Machete
fr 15 December to Dismember: Those Peabodys, Strange Boys, The Carrots, Yellow Fever
7pm Ugly Beats Happy Hour
sa 16 Bob's Birthday- Sons of Hercules, Bad Rackets, Victims of Leisure

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SATURDAY 12/9 BLACKTOP HIGHWAY 8PM
JOHN DEERY 10:30PM
SUNDAY 12/10 FREE POKER 5 & 8PM
MONDAY 12/11 JAY DIRKS BAND 8PM
TUESDAY 12/12 PETE BENZ & KEVIN HAVRON 8PM
WEDNESDAY 12/13 FAT DOG 7PM
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SPEAKER, ISAIE 32, CREW 54, JOHNY DANGER, DJ SHOESTRINGS
SAT 12/09 - REGGAE ---------- DOORS 830, SHOW 9
CULTURA
WITH SPECIAL GUEST McPULLISH
WED 12/13 - ROCK ---------- DOORS 830, SHOW 9
RED BOOK AUDIO
THE ROYAL KUSTOMS, AND MORE
12/14 - OHN, Lids Medicine, Opposite Day, Terremoto 12/15 - Catch A Fire Dancehall Soundsystem 12/16 - Young Mick & Haze Boys, C. Vanderslice, DJ Manny, Carabelas Collective, Vehicular, Many Birthdays, AfroFantastic 12/19 - Omonstrations, Zom Zoma, Teeners, Undoing of B. Wright 12/20 - Voodoo Glow Skulls, Against All Authority, Time Again 12/21 - From Nite, The Boxing Lesson, The Authors, Paperwork, The Cobo Maltese 12/23 - Grimy Styles, Green Mountain Grass 12/26 - Spoonfed Tribe, Slider 12/31 - Shantytown Underground, Mau Mau Chaplains 01/06 - Joh Roots 01/09 - Bass Therapy w/ McPullish and Friends (every Tues!) 01/13 - MISPRINT shindig
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club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

CONTINENTAL CLUB Jay Moeller & the Sophisticates (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:00)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam, Free Wave (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Crying Monkeys (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ the Gothfather
EMO'S Silky; the Dresses; Hello, Lovers; Transgressors
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Royal Kustoms, Red Book Audio (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Hamburger (8:00), Paul Sprawl (9:00)
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 Echosystemz (8:00)
HEADHUNTERS Mike Davis & His Broken-Hearted Band, Skaraoke, Gary Newcomb Trio, Chomp Chomp, Lonesome Heroes
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE R. Kane (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Robert Henry
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ Byrne Rock (8:00)
JOVITA'S Harry Bodine Trio, the Lost & Nameless Orchestra (6:00)
LA PALAPA Big Frank Gomez & Friends (7:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Meridian West (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Carl Hutchens
MOMOS Bruce James, Band of Heathens, Graham Wilkenson & the Underground Township (8:00)
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
THE OAKS Big Show (8:00)
PARDNERS Kara
THE PARISH Bill Callahan, Joanna Newsom (6:00, 10:00)
THE PARLOR Rabbit Fist
PARMER 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 7 Murder Scene, the Offbeats, Girl in a Coma
RED FEZ The Reflex w/ DJ Honeycomb, DJ Fuckin' A (10:00)
RED'S SCOOT INN Flower to Hide, Tia Carrera (9:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Rick Hornyak
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Fortress, American Plague, Mad Cow
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
RUTA MAYA Cienfuegos (9:00)
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
THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1 Jenny Reynolds, Jud Newcomb (7:00)
TRIPLE CROWN King Tears, Treehouse, Hollow, Enemy of Mankind
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)
WHISKY BAR DJ Thrillkill
WOODY'S SOUTH Richardson Seeds (9:30)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:00)
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Kopy Kats, Music Express (7:00)

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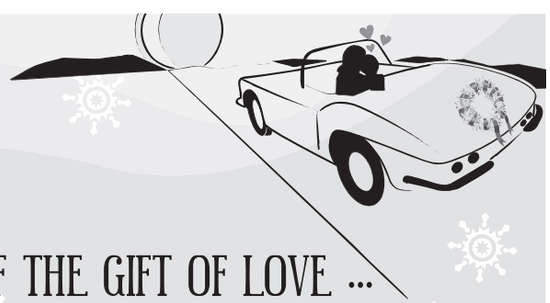
Thu 14

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ANTONE'S Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Firekills, Sparta, Burden Brothers (8:00)
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Toni Price (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Latin at Heart (7:00)
BEERLAND We'll Go Machete, Watching the Moon
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Mo Pair (6:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CACTUS CAFE Ruthie Foster
CAROUSEL LOUNGE La Snacks, Evildoers
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), Romi Mayes, Sam Baker, Gurf Morlix (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), One Mississippi, Lomita, Tammany Hall Machine (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (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)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Fr 8 Bill Jerram 6pm
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Backwater Gypsy 9pm
Sa 9 Green Mountain Grass, The Warblers 10pm
Su 10 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate
Mo 11 Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns 6pm
Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm
Tu 12 RC Banks 6pm
Bloodshot Pyramid, Ethereal Architect 10pm
We 13 King Tears 6pm,
Enemy Of Mankind, Hollow, Treehouse 9pm
Th 14 Phil Stevens 6pm
The Dedringers - Birthday Bash
w/ Special Guests 9pm
Fr 15 Rabb Rodriguez y Los Killa' Hogs 6pm
Kallisti Gold 10pm
Sa 16 Eta Carinae, Subtle Creeps, Fambly 10pm

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BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
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MON, DEC 11, 10PM — **SWELLS WAVE**

TUE, DEC 12, 10PM — **BOOMBOX**

WED, DEC 13, 10PM — **MERIDIAN WEST**

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SATURDAY, DEC. 9 CALICO KINGS 9:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 "SUNDAY SOCIAL" 9:30PM

TUESDAY, DEC. 12 TEXAS TUESDAYS DREW DAVIS AND THE HARD LUCK BAND 9:30PM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13 O'POSITIVO 9:30PM

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club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Django's Mustache, Ephraim Owens Quartet
EMO'S Benko, the Lovely Sparrows, Weird Weeds, Shapes and Sizes
FLAMINGO CANTINA Lila's Medicine, OHN
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 Mark Jungers Mule Tide Party (7:30)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HILL'S CAFE Texas Renegade
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
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), Damesviolet (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery
THE MOHAWK Low Line Caller, Sthil
MOMOS The Hudsons, Weeden, Honeybrowne (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
PARAMOUNT THEATRE Scottish Christmas w/ Bonnie Rideout (8:00)
PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED 7 Inside: Arms in Danger, You Make Engine, Fulton Read, War Against Sleep; Outside: Best Fwends, Manikin, Near Miss
RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)
RED'S SCOOT INN Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five, Shanghai 5, White Ghost Shivers
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Meatwood
RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 The Blood Horse, Miss Carriage, Torrid Flash, Demontuary
RUTA MAYA Sick & raina, Green Mountain Grass CD Release, Flounders Without Eyes (9:00)
SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy Dee
SPEAKEASY Backslider (9:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Phil Stevens, Dedringers
TROPHY'S We Dream in Daylight, Three Leaf, Kazki & the Electric Children, Kentucky Shade
TROUBADOUR SALOON Uncle Lucius, Jabarvy, Moving Matter (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sean Russell (6:30)
WHISKY BAR Red Leaves, Learning Secrets w/ Ben Craven
WOODY'S SOUTH Mike Cross & Natalie Zoe w/ Laura Mordecai, Tommy Holden (7:00)
Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ McNeil High School Musicale, Rock da Spot (7:00)

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Saturday 12.9
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Monday 12.11
JANA HUNTER - PINK NASTY
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Wednesday 12.13
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
MOONHANGERS 12AM
RICE MOOREHEAD BAND 11PM
HACKLES 10PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
CRAWLING WITH KINGS 12AM
AUX 11PM
MANIKIN 10PM
SALLY SEMRAD 9PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
ROCK & ROLL FREE FOR ALL 12PM
SUPEREGO ALL-STARS 10PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
SHOOT FOR THE STARS AND KILL THEM 12AM
iKiLLCaRS 11PM
THE HOT AS SHITS 10PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
THE MESHBANES 12AM
CUE 11PM
DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE 10PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
HUMBLE 12AM
COMBO MAHALO 11:30PM
SHORTY LONG 10PM
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There's a right place and a wrong place for this type of development. What it looks like, exactly, I don't know. But then again, I'm not building a 200,000 square foot, 24-hour supercenter. - Wells Dunbar

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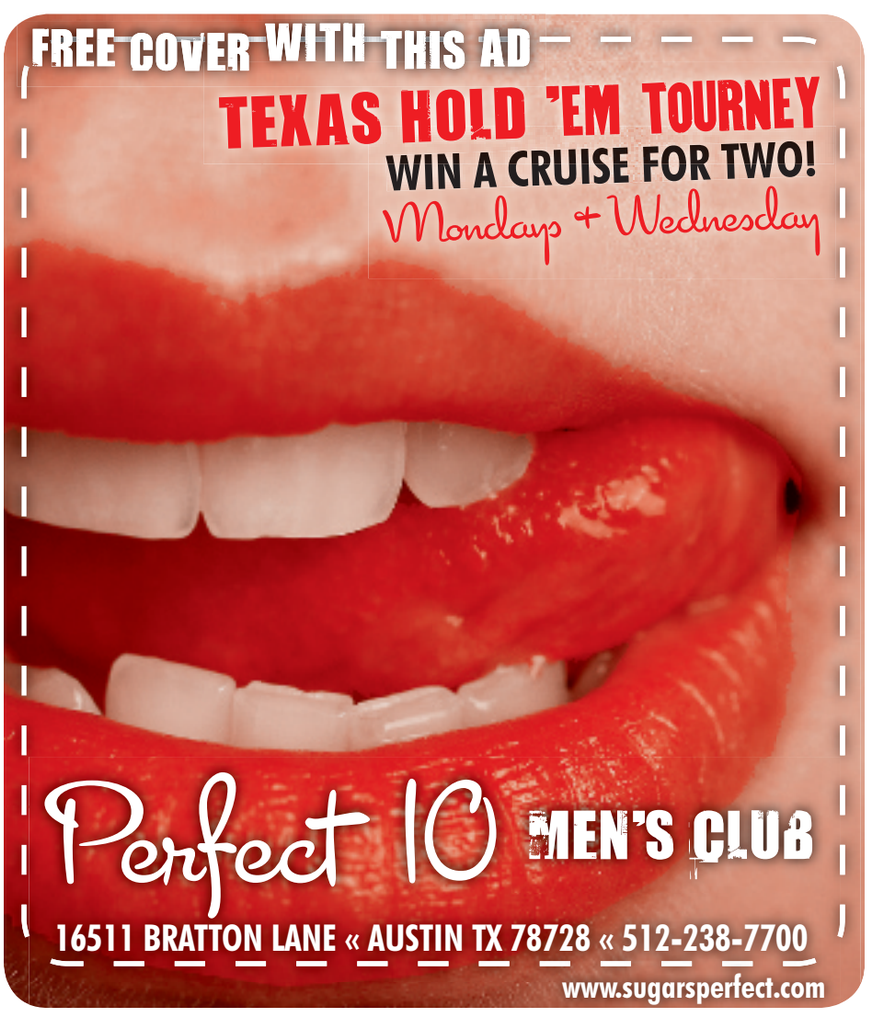

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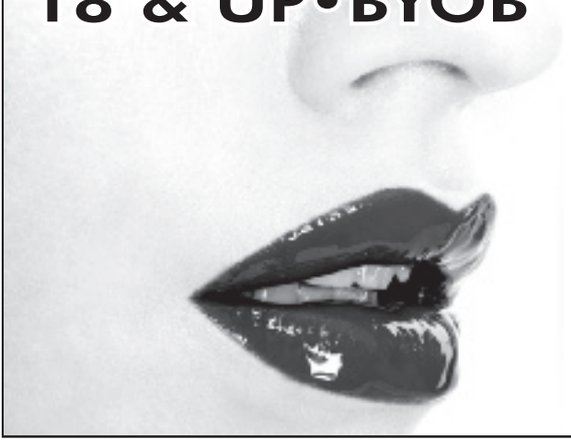


MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS
$5 DANCES 7-11PM

TUESDAYS AND SUNDAYS
$10 DANCES

$2.99 STEAK & FRIES
OPEN-6PM DAILY

HAVE YOU EVER
OILED UP
A NAKED LADY?

OIL WRESTLING
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 10:30PM & 12MID

$10 OFF
AT THE DOOR
WEDNESDAYS AFTER 6PM

$10 COVER
WITH THIS AD
AND COLLEGE ID

Make your Holidays SWING!

turn onto EASY STREET

If you're looking for a relationship that's a bit … unconventional, you need to turn on to Easy Street. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, you can meet real people from right here in Austin who share your interests and lifestyle. Browse ads, looks at pictures, read profiles – all absolutely free.

Place a profile with a photo on Easy Street and you'll be entered to win a Forbidden Fruit prize package worth $150!

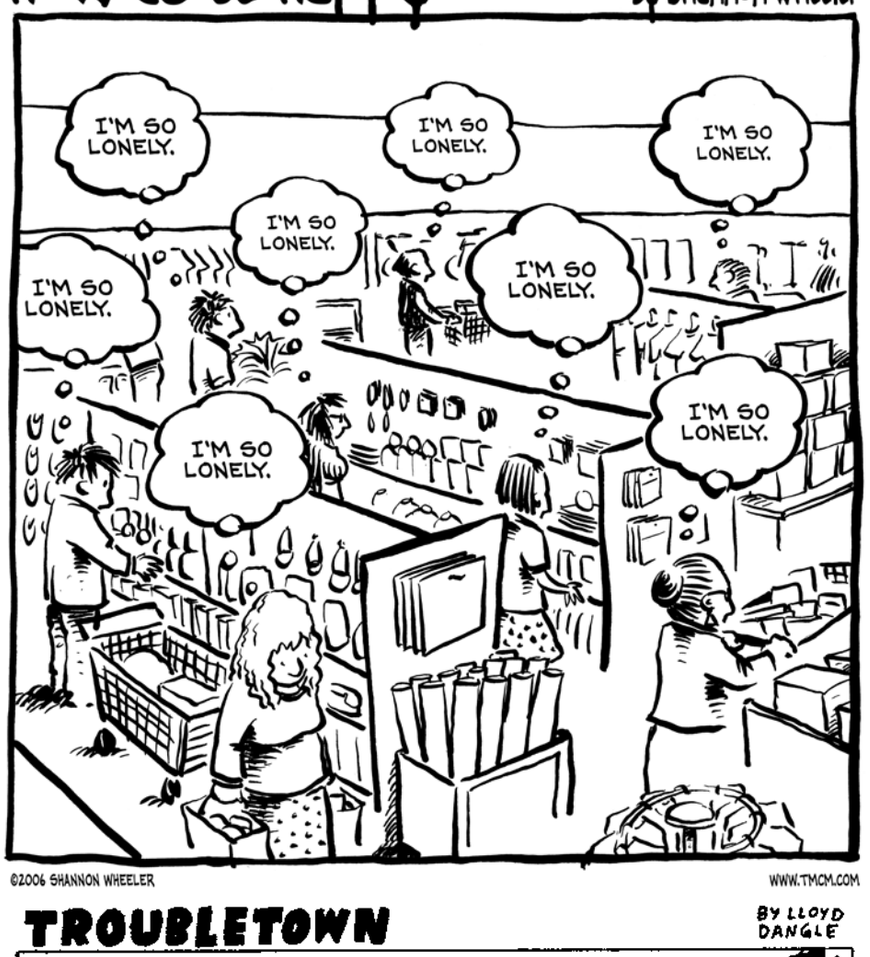
FORBIDDEN FRUIT

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com

COMICS

How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



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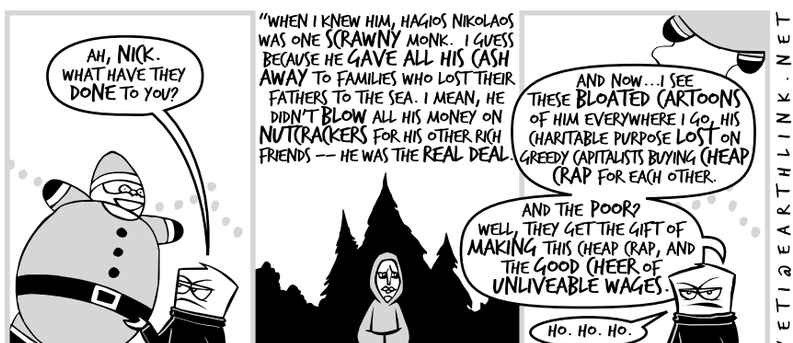
TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE

© 2006 www.troubletown.com

BITTER YETI IN THE CITY

JASON STOUT @ 2006



BITTERYETI@EARTHLINK.NET

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

Del Monte has already halted its Hawaii operations immediately, well ahead of a 2008 closing announced this year.

Acton State Historic Site, in Cleburne, Texas' smallest state park, is also the smallest state park in the U.S., and it's the burial place of Davy Crockett's second wife.

M.T. Supermarket, the recently opened Asian grocery at Chinatown Center on North Lamar in Austin, has an "international foods" aisle.

In October 1920, King Alexander I (ruled Greece 1917-1920) was bitten by his favorite monkey and died. Winston Churchill would later write that "it was a monkey bite that caused the death of 250,000 people."

"Anthimeria" is the use of a word as if it were a member of a different word class, such as using a noun as if it were a verb.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail **mrpants@austinchronicle.com.**

TRADE UP CLASSIFIEDS

454-5767

austinchronicle.com/tradeup

100 JOBS

110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/ Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING

210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/ Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/ TRADE

310 Antiques/ Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/ Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/ Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/ Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES

410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NEIGHBORHOOD

510 Activites
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS

Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages

Please check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs. *The Austin Chronicle* is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. *The Austin Chronicle*'s liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm
Phone: 512-454-5767
Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com

JOBS

115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

HAIRSTYLIST Stylist needed for one of the nicest and largest 5500sf upscale day spa. 60% comm/rent. Georgetown
Kenney 775-3767, beaustin@hotmail.com, fax 260-2763

HAIRSTYLIST CENTRAL AUSTIN HAIR STUDIO. Build Your Business Now. Parking. Ph 576-4683.SO-LA District.

LEASE APPLICATIONS Aloha Galleries in Round Rock is currently accepting lease applications for the following positions Hair, Massage Therapist, acupuncturist, Estheticians, and Life Coaches. This is a great opportunity to work in a professional enviroment with lots of parking avaible. There are a limitied number of rooms available. Please call 512-255-6775 to schedule an appointment to view these beatiful rooms.

MASSAGE THERAPIST
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY! $28,000-$35,000 Base Salary or Commission based.
Downtown, North, West South Locations available.
•401(k) retirement plans start in 2007
•Health Care Benefits
•We prefer on-line applications
Phone: 512-391-1569
Fax: 512-391-0760
myBodyMechanic.com

MASSAGE THERAPISTS
Needed in a therapeutic massage clinic. Now hiring licensed massage therapists at several locations. Immediate client base, plus FT / PT. Contact Don at 512-971-6873
or dwright@massageheights.com

NAIL TECH

NAIL TECH
AT RUSS & CO.
Moving out of state.
Need excellent tech to take over clientele. Ample parking, great atmosphere, UT/ Downtown area. Receptionist provided, $425mo.
472-6961

STYLIST Prime booth space for rent for independent stylist. Some clientele required, $420/mo. Call 477-9166.

125 GENERAL

ALL Computer literate individuals wanted for work beginning Dec 18th through late January $8.00 and up based on experience. Call 478-3334

ACTIVISM
Holiday Jobs for Social Justice!
M-F 2-10 PM
Benefites, Pd. Train.
Excellent Comm Skills
Apply Today,Start Tomorrow!
www.texasenvironment.org

AGENTS
Fox Rental Car hiring for agents hourly up to $12. Call (512) 530-3902

COPY OPERATOR High Speed Copier Operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 shifts available. Call 472-5353

GIS ANALYST

GIS ANALYST
Job # - 20-220-061121
$35,654 - $44,568/year

Maintain and update the City's geographic information system (GIS). Ensure accurate and timely input and analyses of data. Produce maps and overlays. Interpret plans, as-builts, and plats; verify spatial accuracy of incoming subdivision parcels, zonings, and utilities. Requirements: BA/BS in geography, civil engineering, database management, GIS, Urban Planning or related field. 2+ year's exp, prefer municipal, county or state government.ty or state government.

RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUE 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

DRIVERS
$1,000 Student Sign-On Bonus
Company-Paid CDL Training
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
Earn up to $37,000
Your First Year
P.A.M. TRANSPORT
Driver Training Hotline
1-877-825-8645
Apply online at
www.otrdrivers.com

HOME BUSINESS Realistic $250-500k first year potential. Call for free two min. msg. 800-897-8039

POLICE OFFICER

Police Officer - Part-time - Job # 20-300-060605

Protects the life, property, general safety, and welfare of the general public within appropriate jurisdiction by enforcing, City, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Patrol City streets to deter crime and assist citizens as needed; note suspicious persons, activities, or establishments; take action or report the situation.
Requirements: Licensed Peace Officer or cadet in approved academy.

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

MOTORCYCLE MECHANIC Needed. Own tools.
Japanese experience. Great environment. See Bill.
Kasson Yamaha, 2603 S. Congress.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS
Outdoor ed. program focusing on academic & adventure courses. Work with 4th-9th graders 5 days/wk. Located on Lake LBJ in TX Hill Country. Dorm-size room and most board provided + $200/wk. Seeking instructors to teach pre-approved curriculum, facilitate low & high ropes and run evening activities. Paid training! Hiring for Spring season (Feb. 4th - May 19th). Contact Ali Horton at ahorton@outdoorshcool.com. or call 1-800-696-3334ext. 239 or Check out www.outdoorschool.com

PART TIME

Extend-A-Care for Kids

Class in the a.m.
Cash in the p.m.
Gain experience in the afternoons with elementary age kids. Position includes paid ongoing training, and the opportunity to work on 64 school campuses. Work hours 2:15-6:15 p.m. M-F. Starting pay $9.00-$9.60/hr. EOE. Apply at
Extend-A-Care for Kids,
55 North IH 35,
or download an application from www.eackids.org,
or call 472-9929 x408.

FREE ADS Got a car you need to sell? Looking for a roommate? Want to unload that old refrigerator? Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians?
All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

POST OFFICE JOBS Avg. start $20/hr. Full Benefits. No Exp. Needed. Call 24 hrs/day 1-860-237-4558. Ref #1684.

PREPS/DRIVERS Needed!

Enterprise rent-a-car

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: wash, clean 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

SALES

GOT $
Need to make some fast, easy income? I have the solution. Any and all sales experience is considered. If you have strong phone sales skills and a determination for getting things done, then I have a job for you.
Starting out at $8/hour + commission. Call Derek @
512-698-3601
Need 2 positions filled by December.

SHEET METAL MECH. needed immediately for roofing company. Call 512-833-8492

Chronicle
CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE
POST FREE 24/7 IN 70+ CATEGORIES

LET AUSTIN KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
with the *Chronicle*'s new ONLINE FORUMS

Post now and enter to win prizes!

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living in Austin who give tips on how they made it. A German journalist is doing research.

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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

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 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 Round Rock location.

In order to secure the best position fill out an application at any Pluckers Wing Bar or apply online today

www.pluckers.net

ALL

Bagpipes

NOW HIRING

- **Servers**
- **Bartenders**

Make up to $300 per shift.

- **Hostess**

Apply in Person After 9am

9070 Research Blvd. 101

183 and Burnet Rd

467-8600

www.bagpipespub.com

ALL

WOKS OF COOKING

FOOD SERVERS HOSTPERSONS

Please apply:

Monday - Friday

10-11am, 2-5pm.

2002 Manor Rd.

ALL

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOME RESTAURANT COMPANIONSHIP?

Me: Single friendly restaurant, local hang-out for sports junkies and wing enthusiasts, filled with cool managers & employees.

You: Talkative, extroverted, money loving, enjoy fast-paced atmosphere.

PLUCKERS is NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS!!

Servers/Hosts/Cashier/Cooks/ Delivery Drivers welcome

No 'flair' required

Apply in person at the following locations or online at www.pluckers.net

2222 Rio Grande

West Campus

9070 Research #201-C

Crossroads Shopping Center

300 N. Mays Crossing # 300

Round Rock, TX

ALL

EMBASSY SUITES ARBORETUM

is now hiring

- **AM BANQUET SERVER**
- **AM & PM SERVER**
- **AM DISHWASHERS**
- **BREAKFAST ATTEN.**

Apply in person at

9505 STONELAKE BLVD

or call 512-372-8771

EMBASSY SUITES

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

InterContinental STEPHEN F AUSTIN

Are in the know? Do you have what it takes to be a leader in the world's most global hotel company? If you're looking for a unique opportunity that is tailored to your skills and interests, or you don't want to miss out on great opportunities, make it happen and apply now for a career with InterContinental Stephen F Austin Hotel.

We have openings in F&B and Guest Services.

Apply at www.careers.ichotelgroup.com

EOE, D/V, M/F

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to $300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

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)

CASHIER Quality Seafood accepting applications for evening food service cashier. Apply in person, 5621 Airport Blvd. Mon-Sat. 2-6pm. References Required.

COOK Experienced and Reliable Grill Person needed for fast-paced N. Austin deli. M-F, no nights or weekends! Email resume to joiousoccasion@yahoo.com or fax to 342-8817.

DANCERS & WAITRESSES

The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG $$$

FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport.

385-2878.

DELIVERY DRIVERS

Earn up to $10-$15/hr at Rocket's. Fast pace, M-F 10:30-8 pm Flex Schedule

No Weekends.

Apply at:

118 W. 5th St.

ENTERPRISE MANAGER Manages all aspects of LifeWorks' Ben & Jerry's Partnershop operation including operational and financial performance & Job Training Program. BA + 5 years related experience. Visit www.lifeworksweb.org for more information. Minority and bilingual candidates encouraged to apply. Resume /cover letter to LifeWorks, Attn: Jay Scheumack 3700 South 1st St, Austin, TX 78704. Email jay.scheumack@lifeworksweb.org. EOE.

DOORMAN AND DJ Charlie's-Austin now hiring exp. DJ and exp. doorman. For more information contact David 474-6481 between 10 AM-2PM M-F.

ENTERTAINERS

JOY

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.

HOSTS & SERVERS Now hiring for FT/PT. Apply in person Tues - Sat: Las Palomas, 3201 Bee Caves Rd #122 (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.

RETAIL Seafood counter position FT. Evenings and Saturdays til 7.

Apply in person or Call Lee 454-5827.

SERVERS & CASHIERS Mongolian Grille Downtown, 183 North, Round Rock. Call 775-2241 / Apply In Person.

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)

ACTIVISM

Fight Bush, make a difference. Help the Dems, HRC, Amnesty Int'l, PFAW, and others! Up to $16/hr w/ guaranteed base, Flexible PT & FT schedules.

Call 916-4001 for interviews

www.Telefund.com

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

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JOBS

with the

SIERRA CLUB

$300-$500/Week

- Stop Global Warming!
- Career opps & benes avail
- Work w/ Great People!

call Kris 479-9804

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

ALL POSITIONS Needed, Mama Fu's Asian House. Previous experience required. MamaFusAustin.com. 637-6771, jobs@mamafusaustin.com, or in person 1pm-4pm.

WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! **austinchronicle.com/classifieds**

145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

DISPATCH Need organized, multi-tasked individual. Fast paced setting. 2nd/3rd shift. Fax 512.442.8509 or email wlasater@jaguartechnologies.com

RECEPTIONIST/ ADMIN ASSISTANT

The Austin Chronicle is seeking a part-time receptionist, 30 hours per week. Competitive starting salary with merit raise possible after 90 days. Position requires familiarity with a multi-line phone system and the ability to function in an insanely busy office. The happiest candidate will be one who enjoys a mental and organizational challenge. Please email your resume to Jenn Nuzzo at jnuzzo@austinchronicle.com.

NO Phone Calls.

CHRONICLE

austinchronicle.com

BARTON CREEK RESORT & SPA

Current Employment Opportunities:

- Golf Attds.
- Waitstaff
- Greenskeepers
- Hoststaff
- Night Cleaners
- Stewards (PM)
- Laundry Attds. (PM)
- Conference Billing Clerk
- Dishwashers
- Housekeepers AM/PM
- Kids Club Attds.
- Spa Desk Attd.
- Aerobics/Spin Instructors
- Fitness Desk Spvsr.
- Purchasing Delivery Clerk
- Front Desk Spvsr.
- Bell Staff
- Fitness Desk Attd.

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**

BARTON CREEK OFFERS A COMPLETE BENEFITS PACKAGE & COMPETITIVE WAGES.

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

155 PROFESSIONAL

APPLICATION ENGINEER
- Develop and test next generation optical transport solutions for telecom test equipment technology company. Fax resume to 512-692-2634 or mail to Anue Systems, Inc., Human Resources, 9111 Jollyville Road, Ste. 100, Austin, Texas 78759. EOE

PROCUREMENT ANALYST
Federal government contractor seeks qualified

PROCUREMENT ANALYST
4 years Federal Contracting experience, FAR.
Email resume to: Margaret.Donaldson@drahq.com
or call **703-642-2446** EOE

160 RESEARCH STUDY

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.

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

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.

165 RETAIL

WARDROBE CONSULTANT
Scarbroughs is looking for a friendly, enthusiastic personality with a passion for selling fashion. Weekend and Thursday evening hours are a requirement. Experience is a plus! Please contact Cara Will at 452.4220

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
ALLDIGITAL

170 SALES MARKETING

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
85% of businesses fail. Access free information on how to prosper and profit in this new economy. Call 888-235-3398

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Growing Austin, Texas company seeking outgoing self-motivated sales consultant. Account management required, and general knowledge of print logistics a plus. Inside and outside positions available. Email resume to amuscio@reactivitystudio.com or fax to (512)351-3561.

FREE ADS
Got a car you need to sell? Looking for a roommate?
Want to unload that old refrigerator?
Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians?
All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE.
Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print!
Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

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.eckerdyouth.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 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 iterant 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 texasteachingfellows.org

180 TECHNICAL

SQL SERVER ADMINISTRATOR
Responsible for testing, coordinating, and implementing changes to computer databases, applying knowledge of SQL server database management systems. Send resume to: Broadwing, Attn: Dale Smith, 1122 Capital of Texas Hwy South, Austin, TX 78746.

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pluckers Wing Bar

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
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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 an application at any Pluckers Wing Bar or apply online TODAY.
IT YOU DON'T LIKE OUR WINGS, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE BIRD!

CLOSING EARLY

FRIDAY, DEC., 8

The Chronicle offices will be closing early Friday, Dec. 8, at 3:30pm and will resume regular business hours

MONDAY, DEC. 11

Enterprise rent-a-car

Car Preps/ 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

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EOE/D/V/M/F

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 Personnell, 2013 W. Anderson Lane, Austin, TX 78757 512-454-9561** EOE

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."

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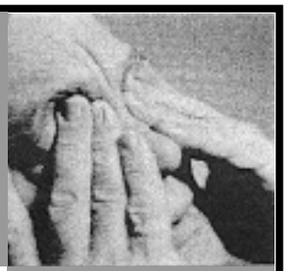
or visit www.mediatechinstitute.com
Classes start January 8, 2007

mediatech institute

Mountain Cedar Allergies



Do you suffer from cedar allergies? Do you have symptoms such as sneezing, itchy nose and/or eyes, nasal congestion or runny nose, and are at least 12 years of age? You may be eligible to participate in a research study of an investigational nasal spray for seasonal allergies. Participants will receive at no cost research related ECGs, lab work, a skin test if required, physical exams, study medication, and financial compensation for time and travel.

— Allergy &
— Asthma
Associates
— Research Department

Jay F. van Bavel, M.D.
& Bernard L. Causey, M.D.
3410 Far West Blvd. (at Mopac)
Ste. 146

For more information please call 512-349-0703

research STUDIES

NEED TO EARN EXTRA MONEY?

TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE research studies

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com

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.

The City of Pflugerville Texas

Where Quality Meets Life

GIS Analyst - Job #20-220-061121 Full-time, $35,654-$44,568/year
Maintain and update the city's geographic information system (GIS). Ensure accurate and timely input and analyses of data. Produce maps and overlays. Interpret plans, as-builts, and plats; verify spatial accuracy of incoming subdivision parcels, zonings, and utilities. Requirements: BA/BS in geography, civil engineering, database management, GIS, urban planning, or related field. 2+ years experience, prefer municipal, county, or state government.

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

The City of Pflugerville Texas

Where Quality Meets Life

Police Dispatcher I - Job # 20-300-061001 - Salary: $11.29-$13.55/hour
The City of Pflugerville has current openings for Police Dispatchers. Join the dedicated team that help keep our growing city safe. Police Dispatch is a challenging career that offers on-the-job training, great benefits and opportunities for advancement.

Police Officer - Part-time - Job #20-300-060605
Protects the life, property, general safety, and welfare of the general public within appropriate jurisdiction by enforcing city, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Patrol city streets to deter crime and assist citizens as needed; note suspicious persons, activities, or establishments; take action or report the situation. Requirements: Licensed Peace Officer or cadet in approved academy.

RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUE 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**. Equal Opportunity Employer

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

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HOUSING

215 APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

CEDAR PARK http://AustinCool.com "Your source for cool & unique Austin rentals." 693-7231.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Bouldin Creek, hardwoods, min. to dwntwn, Mary St 78704, $650

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Town Lake 2BDRM, SoCo shops/ restaurants/nightlife, $845.

CENTRAL NEAR ZILKER, greenbelt access, lots of trees, gated, pet park. Will prelease. From $690. A+ , 231-1400 Broker

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Dwntwn 2BDRM, modern kitchen, pool on lake, 2wks free! $700

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Properties for Lease
• Piazza Navorna
2-2 $1495 WOW!
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479-1300
www.utmetro.com

CENTRAL Near Seton and Central Market, small well kept community with pool. Small pets ok, 1 br $629, 2 br $799. A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL SUPER SWANKY LUXURY LIVING! Concrete Floors, $1100+, Call 512.241.1111 Agent.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 SoCo 3BD, hardwoods, stainless, W/D, WiFi, walk everywhere

CENTRAL
Travis Heights 1/1 660sf
$650, 1 week UT Shuttle
JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Hidden Zilker treasure, cute & quiet, patio, trees, $495.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 New downtown highrise, views, rooftop pool, granite, hardwoods, stainless appliances.

CENTRAL 3 BR ON TOWN LAKE, minutes to Auditorium Shores, granite countertops, funky layout, bills pd. 1st timers OK!! $910. A+, 231-1400 Agent

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CENTRAL
78704
TRAVIS HEIGHTS
CREEKSIDE
1-1 $635
2-2 $795
2-1.5 Townhomes
$850
ApartmentExperts.com
416-8100 Broker

CENTRAL ONE OF A KIND, NOT COOKIE CUTTER!!! close to downtown, the Capitol, Zilker Park, SoCo, & Auditorium Shores!! Gated, gym, pool, from $1099. A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL Tarrytown - Large 2/1 Apartment, 910 sf. Available for January Move-in. $895. Ground floor, Brick accent walls in living room, Lots of closet space, Ceiling fans. On-site pool & laundry room. Paid cable. 2600 Enfield. 451-0414.

CENTRAL $0 Deposit! UT Shuttle. Jr.1-1 $465, 2 bedroom $775. Cheap Bills! www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525

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MOVE-INS!
Enjoy apartment living in a residential neighborhood. Close to eateries, grocery stores, sports/health centers. Walk/Bike/bus to campus. Leases through May
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Guadalupe @ 46th
EFFs $515 gas/water paid
Guadalupe @ 35th and 43rd
EFF $525 gas/water paid (450sqft) San Gabriel @ 19th
NINE LOCATIONS.
OWNER MANAGED.
WAUGH PROP., INC
(512) 451-0988

CENTRAL FAR WEST FIRE SALE! 1 Month FREE! UT Shuttle! HUGE! $675+ www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

CENTRAL ** CANOES, DUCKS, VIEWS! Studio $575, 1/1 $645, 2br $775, 3br$910. Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

CENTRAL AUSTIN'S HOTTEST ZIPCODE, 78704. SoCo is where it's at!! W/D, parking, pool. 1br $915, 2 br $1625. A+, 231-1400 Agent

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300 West Ave
Austin's Nicest
NEWEST DOWNTOWN
PROPERTIES $1370+
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CENTRAL Grand Oak, 1000+ sf, deluxe 2/2 at UT, St. David's Hos., Red River. Plank floors, 9 ft. ceilings, walk-in closets, W/D conn., free high-speed internet/ cable. Smokeless, petless, quiet. $1350. 2901 Swisher. 472-2097

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DEC-FEB
MOVE-INS!
Enjoy apartment living in a residential neighborhood. Close to eateries, grocery stores, sports/health centers. Walk/Bike/bus to campus. Leases through May.
1/1... $615 2-story
35th @ Guadalupe
1/1... $615 (600sqft)
35th near MoPac
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OWNER MANAGED.
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CENTRAL
78704
HARDWOOD STYLE
2/2 BEDROOM SPECIAL
$649 + $200 Deposit
Apartment Experts
416-8100 Broker
ApartmentExperts.com

CENTRAL 2 Bedroom Blowout! Right On Town Lake recently remodeled nice $700+ Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

CENTRAL ECLECTIC DOWNTOWN LOFT, big dogs ok. A+, 231-1400, Agent

CENTRAL creek atmosphere $199 first months rent. Prices start at 1/1 $550 2/1 $625 2/2 $720. Cable, water, waste water & trash paid.
Apt Experts
Broker 416-8100.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Town Lake, big windows, min. to dwntwn, 2BDRM, W/D, $750.

CENTRAL near Oltorf cheap deposit, No app fee special, water paid, Fitness, WD Conn, Large 1 BR $560 Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL Spectacular Downtown Views! 1034 sq ft 2-2. Granite counters, W/D conn. ASAP Move-in! www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

CENTRAL
CAMPUS
• Efficiency $400, 1-1 $500
• 2-2 $639, 1010 s.f. UT Bus
SOUTH
• Studio $415, • 2 Bedroom Townhome $625. Large Patio 1-1 $465 Great Location.
• Greenbelt: 2 BD $610
Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!
Call Ray Day at Flat Finders
(512) 496-3725

CENTRAL GUADALUPE & LAMAR, Gated, near UT Shuttle and Central Market. 1 br $525, 2 br $805. A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL lowest prices $455 + and Specials. Apt Experts 416-8100 Broker.

CENTRAL **SUPER MODERN ART DECO. 5 min from DT. Call for pics and Floorplans! Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

CENTRAL Arboretum! Granite, hardwoods, yards! Luxury 360 views! Call today! Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

CENTRAL $595 2 bedroom! Free Cable Included. 3 Minute from Downtown. Won't last long. 692-4525 www.apartmentlocating.com

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Remodeled on lake, SoCo, kayak storage, walk dwntown, $685.

CENTRAL 693-7231 http://AustinCool.com Greenbelt trail at door, W/D incl, walk to shops/restaurants $675.

CENTRAL
78704
•EFF-$439, $0 dep, $0 app, it's gold! Free Cable
•1BR-$449, private lake & tanning bed
•2BR-$535 Free Cable
•3BR-$799, W/D conn. 2 pools
•4BR-$850 are you kidding me?
•2BR-$99 total move in $670 wood floors.
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SEXY DOWNTOWN LOFTS in the heart of the warehouse district, hardwoods/stained concrete floors, 16ft ceilings, great views.
See narrated video tour and pictures/floorplans for this property @ http:// www.Austinapartmentstore.com or call 828-4470 for current availability.

CENTRAL Hyde Park - First floor apartment 1/1 w/ CONCRETE FLOORS, Enclosed deck area, Ceiling fans. On-site laundry. On UT bus route. Near Central Market and Quacks. 450 sqft. $595. 451-0414.

CENTRAL Barton Creek greenbelt condo. Direct grnbelt access. Lrg 1/1 $700, 2/2 $850. Hidden and quiet. APP 474-4900
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CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Hip & cool, near Whole Foods, deck, stone floors, $740.

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CONCRETE FLOORS!
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Warehouse-style apartments with exposed metal accents. All new appliances including Jacuzzi jet tub in each unit! Musician/Artist-friendly.
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1 BR $490
2 BR $700
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CENTRAL HYDE PARK JUST REDUCED!! 2 BR $850. Location, Location, Location. Close in, near UT. A+, 231-1400 Broker

CENTRAL MOPAC & 45th, central courtyards, pool, gas pd, close in. 1 br $575, 2 br $675, 2 br TH $850. A+, 231-1400 Agent

CENTRAL 1/1.5 Clarksville, All appliances, stocked w/ dryer, fireplace. $1100.00. The Taylor Company 512-481-8600 ext. 217

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• Any price range.
• Best specials.
• Fast friendly service.
• We can email pictures & floor plans to the hottest specials in town.
Give us a call at 828-4470.

CENTRAL
Travis Height Duplex
3/2,1300sf, $1275 Dec.
JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

CENTRAL In the Shadow of the Engineering Building. Walk to campus. Guaranteed Parking 504 Elmwood (@Duval) Hardwood floored Eff in an old house, gas & water paid - $495., 500 Elm-wood 1/1 $595 window unit AC, cat friendly (NO DOGS) laundry on site Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Hip SOCO living. Small cmplx. Minutes from dwntwn. 1/1 $670, 2/2 $830. Garden tub. APP 474-4900. bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Walk dwntwn, lrg balcony, wooded view, big dogs, 2BD $770.

CENTRAL http://Austin-Cool.com 693-7231 Walk dwntwn, hike/bike trail, small property, $615.

CENTRAL 693-7231 http:// AustinCool.com Downtown elegance, city-views, hardwoods. Rooftop deck, W/D.

CENTRAL Elite Living - Elegant Interiors,concrete, hardwoods, kitchen islands $1205, 1-1 must see!Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

CENTRAL/SOUTH near Woodward. 2-1.5 $650, $299 1st Months Rent, Free Cable, UT/Metro Bus Service. Apartment Experts 416-8100, Broker.

Properties of the Week!

CENTRAL

- SoCo 78704 neighborhood, small community, 1 bedroom, $475.
- 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!
- On Zilker Park Greenbelt, hidden pet-friendly community, 1 bedroom $759, 2 bdrm $825, 50 ft. to trail, washer/dryer included.
- Heavily wooded hilltop 2 bedroom, huge 16 ft. private porch, oversized garden tub, $755, utilities paid! W/D connections.
- Exclusive 2-level townhouse condo w/ large private deck, w/d connections, $849.

SOUTH CENTRAL

- On Congress, hidden community, 1 bedroom $530, 2 bedroom flat $725, walk to everything!
- Raw modern warehouse-style apartments. Concrete floors, musician/artist friendly. 2 bedroom $739, 4 bedroom $1199.
- Zilker Park on Hike & Bike Trail. 1 bedroom, $769. 2 bedroom, $825 (large deck). Mountain bike and swim!
- On Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, 1 bedroom $545, 2 bedroom $665. Ceramic tile and free cable!
- Travis Heights flat $550, free cable!

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SOUTHWEST	NORTHWEST	CENTRAL
3/2.5/2 house Custom paint, tile, covered patio, $1095	2/1 at Mesa Village reserved parking, tennis court, pool $795	2/1 1930s house on Bouldin Creek $1295

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NW Easy Access to 183, Near Major Employers, Pool, Sundeck, 1bd $529, 2bd $729
N 1 Month FREE! W/D, Pool, 1bd $565, 2bd $745
C Wood Floors, 1bd $650, 2bd-$775
S 2 weeks FREE! Pool, 1bd $710, 2bd $820
SW Access to Mopac & 360, W/D, 1bd $595, 2bd $755

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Keeping Austin weirder one day at a time

Eff - $439 0 dep 0 app 78704, it's gold! Free cable
1br - $449 private lake and tanning bed
2br - $535 free cable
3br - $799 w/d conns. 2 pools
4br - $850 are you kidding me?
2br - $199 total move in $699 w/d conn.

Specializing in difficult situations, immediate move-ins, and cheap rent. You name it, I will find it with no problem mon!! Available weekends too ... so call now, mon.

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I AM FAST, FRIENDLY AND BEST OF ALL FREE!

CENTRAL One block from Guadalupe! 1/1 with Loft, Faux Wood Floors, Large Balcony, Walk-in Closet. Covered Parking. Paid Water. $725.00. Available January. 451-0414.

CENTRAL/SOUTH Gas Cooking, Huge square footage, 1/1 $549. Water, waste water, trash & gas PAID. Apt Experts 512-416-8100, Broker.

METRO luxury 1/1 South, 615sf $675, w/d conn. ready JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH Bad Credit Okay 1-1 $455, 2BR $605, 3BR $680 Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent.

NORTH 2/2 Luxury, North 1000sf $675,w/d conn Jan 1st JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH Super Deal Wells Branch 1-1 from $480, 2-2 from $685 Save $250 Off 1st month rent. Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH First month free 2 bedrooms! 1-1 $525 2-2 $825. Wood floor and new appliances. Hike and Bike nature trail. AAL@apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH 3/2 stylish North, 1110sf $817, w/d conn, 2nd flr JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH
4/2, 1350sf North
$920, w/d conn now
JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH ** DREAM BIG! Studio $399, 1/1 $575, 2 BR TH $720, 3 BR $800. Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH Hug A Tree. Property loaded with trees, private park, efficiency $435, $499 pergo floors. Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent.

NORTH FREE RENT, 1 month free. Near Mopac, gated community, huge hot tub, nice gym. W/D inc. Starts at $499, 2 br $745. A+, 231-1400 Agent

NORTH CENTRAL 1-1 $530, 2-2 $805, Pool, gated. Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH Huge 2 Story Townhouse.1204 sgft. Only $685 great roommate plan, screened in patio.Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH **GI-NORMOUS! 2 br/2 story TH! $685 Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH Faux hardwoods! 2 months free! New construction, modern appliances/fixtures. Call today! Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH Lofts & Townhouses - 1-1 $685 loft, 2-2.5 TH, huge windows $794, pool, courtyard Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH 2/2,Nearly new, North 950sf $712, w/d conn. 2nd flr. JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH 1st Month Free! ASAP Move-ins! 1-1 $525, 2-2 $675. Lg. Decks, Fit Center, W/D conn. www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH Old English Charm 1-1 $530 2 bedroom from $655.Pool, fitness center, gas cooking, heating, hot water paid.Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH Hill Top Livin'! 2 weeks Free& $0 deposit 1-1. W/D connections. www.apartment locating.com 231-9888

NORTH 1 MONTH FREE! Washer/Dryer included! $520+ call today! 512.241.1111 or email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH $125 MOVE IN!W/D INCL.$499, 2br $725, Agent 512.241.1111 email lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH ACC Northridge Best Deal. 1-1 $578 2-2 from $845. Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent.

NORTH Zilker townhomes w/ garages! 1, 2, 3s, call for pricing! Agent 512.241.1111 lease@aptsaus.com

NORTH Free Cable and Gas! $99 deposit. Gigantic 1-1 $595, 2 bedroom $750 www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH 1/1 sun rm 644sf North $515 clean, light, spacious JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH Awesome Value 1-1 676 sqft. with washer/dryer connections Only $500 1036 sqft. 2-2 from $665. Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTH Wells Branch Bargain! 1-1 $460 +$200 off 1st mth, 2-2 $685 w/d conn. www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH 1/1 luxury 684sf, North $599 w/d conn Dec 1st JOHN, 659-5339, AGENT

NORTH PRESS RELEASE - Sonterra Goes Green! Located at 8801 Ranch Road 620 N, Sonterra Apartment Homes is the largest apartment community in Austin to purchase 100% renewable energy.For more information, contact our office at 512.249.9422 or sonterraaustin@greystar.com

NORTH CENTRAL FREE CABLE, cozy courtyard community with pool! Near Mopac and 183. 1 br $535, 2 br $625. A+ 231-1400 Agent

NORTH AUSTIN:
- Studio. $389. Townhome 2-2 $625 month W/D conns. Fireplace. Vaulted Ceiling.
- 1-1 $435 W/D Connection.
- 1-1 $410 UT Bus route
- 2 BD $575 1 month free

NORTHWEST
- 1-1 $509
- Huge 2-2, 1314 S.F $729
- 1-1 $520 UT Bus Route

Bad Credit? Broken Leases? Felonies? Big Dogs? OK!
"PRE-LEASE TODAY"
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(512) 496-3725

NORTHEAST Dellwood 1-1 - $450 + water. Small community. Gas(heating & hot water), garbage included. Laundry on-site. Section 8 available. Small pets welcome! 1313 E 52nd (east of 35, by Capitol Plaza). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

NORTHWEST Lost In Space Huge Townhomes 1350 sqft. 2-2 $750, 1600 sqft. 3-3 $800 Apartment Experts 339-4411 Agent

NORTHWEST $639 Lake Austin Condo! 2-1 $835 W/D conn. and covered parking included. www.apartmentlocating.com

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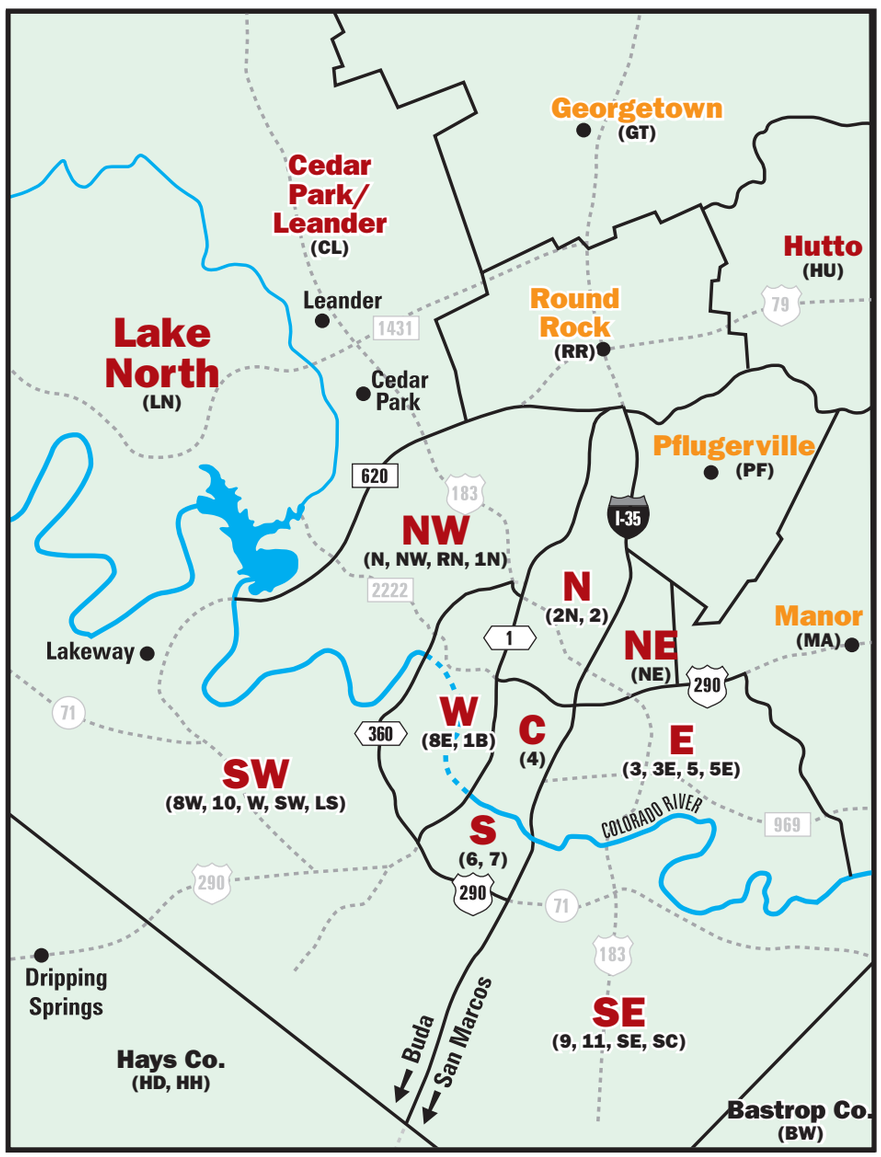

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SOUTHEAST 1-1 sunroom, 858 sf, $599, UT shuttle, gated, Covered Pkg, 657-2314. yorkapartmentlocators.com

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SOUTHEAST Large 1-1, $539, WD, Concrete FLS, Pool, UT shuttle. 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

SOUTHEAST 1-1, $480, 2-1, $599, 2-2, $630, 1st mth rent: $99! Most bills Pd. 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

SOUTHEAST Large 1-1, $530, WD conns. Water Paid. Pool, UT Shuttle, 657-2314, yorkapartmentlocators.com

SOUTHEAST Large 2-2.5, $800, Townhome, WD, fenced yard, 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

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CENTRAL 3-1. Large fenced/treed yard. Fireplace, W/D conn. $950/mo., Avail Dec 1. Owner - Glenda - 343-2278

CENTRAL CUTE! LARGE 2Br/1BA duplex near 45th & Lamar. Hardwood floors, cozy porch, CACH, yard, W/D on-site. $925/mo. 4910 Grover Ave, #B. Call 750-9904.

CENTRAL 4/2 1950's home near downtown and UT . Newly remodeled and painted bamboo floors and ceramic tile throughout. W/D conn. Separate storage house in backyard. $1375/month neg. 512-472-2123 www.barkleyhouses.com

CENTRAL Tarrytown - gigantic 1/1's in 4-plex, hardwoods, large common yard area for gardens or just relaxing under the trees, windows everywhere, large kitchen, NO W/D connections, window a/c's. Cats welcome - NO dogs! $775. 2304 Enfield. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL 4414 Dudley 3-2-2 CACH, W/D connect., fenced yard, great South Central location. Avail. Jan. '07 $1250. 1914 C Cullen ALL BILLS PAID 2-1, laundry on site. Avail. Jan '07 $750. www.cbimanagement.com 658-9493.

CENTRAL Several 1/1 & 2/1 bdrm apts. in historic houses avail. near downtown and UT. Price range $700 - $1175/month. Please view www.barkley-houses.com. 512-472-2123

CENTRAL Barton Hills 2/2.5 Duplex. Close to Zilker. 2 car garage. W/D conn. $1300. The Taylor Company 512-481-8600 ext. 217

CENTRAL 2014 Bergman Ave. 1/1 beautiful bungalow on Town Lake Metropolitan Park. 1/2 block from Town Lake trails, close to dwntwn. Great for nature lovers! This home has a deck, hardwood floors, W/D and yard. Avail. in Dec. Call for Appt: Mary Ann 512-663-1967/512-236-0669 $795.00.

CENTRAL Brykerwoods houses, 2-1 & 2-1 with bonus, gorgeous renovation, hardwoods, tile, fenced, skylights, $1,400 & $1,600. 3100 Oakmont & 3102 Oakmont.

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CENTRAL Downtown convenience without the price! Spacious 1/1 in 6-plex, bright & airy, covered parking, laundry on-site, upstairs unit. No indoor smoking. Small pets welcome! $775, 1504 Windsor (at Enfield). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, rollotex@yahoo.com

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CENTRAL

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CENTRAL 2905 Rio Grande, Close to Campus, 2-1, $1250 Washer/Dryer Inc., Hardwood FRS, New Paint, Fenced Yard, Pets Allowed, 408-521-5900

CENTRAL 420 W. Johana, 2/1 with 2 dining areas, built in 1935. Washer/Dryer included, large fenced yard with view of Bouldin Creek, $1,295. Call PRE (512) 443-2526.

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SOUTH Large 3-1. W/D, lg fenced yd w/dog, covered patio, greenhouse. $750 dep., $1000/mo. 585-9790

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EANES PROPERTIES

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SOUTH 3/2 + study, dishwasher, W/D hookups, backyard, patio, pets ok, $1,135. James Haller Dr., 220-4160.

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230 COMMERCIAL

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235 ROOMMATES

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CENTRAL ROOM RENTAL: Prefer young, liberal male. Located on UT shuttle and city bus lines. Call or email Phil: preece@grandecom.net, 512-220-7966.

CENTRAL -Share house! Yours:600ABP 1/1 w/shared areas. Nice!Be gayfrndly&cln. vanessa.ring@sbcglobal.net 482-3270

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NORTH Female wanted to share 2 bed/1 bath. Near Mopac/ Parmer. Washer/dryer, fenced yard. $295/month includes utilities. 497-6870

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NORTHEAST 21 yr old female college student looking to share 2/2 apt with male or female. The rent is only 195. 404-264-0780.

NORTHEAST 1600 sq ft condo w/bed & bath. near UT. washer/ dryer. appliances new. covered parking. $525 + half utilities. 480-231-6670.

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ROUND ROCK 3rm/2.5 bath PF seeks PF 2rms for rent NS/No Pets move in Dec incl utilitie Must See call Lesa 512-284-6716

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SOUTH Looking for a clean and responsible college aged roommate to share a new 4 bedroom house. The house is 6 miles south of downtown, with 3 common areas, washer/dryer, pool table, wireless internet. Split bils. 512-448-4491

SOUTH wm cann & 1st. pool, hot tub, ponds/waterfall, 1000sq ft deck, game rm, pool table, cable, roadrunner. perfer male, blk or hispanic, open minded & stable income. 383-0037

SOUTHEAST

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$425 All bills paid.
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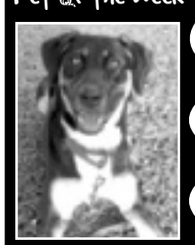

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CODE OF ETHICS

AS A MEMBER OF THE T.A.M.T. ALL TEXAS REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPISTS SHALL:

- Provide quality care to those who seek professional massage therapy and maintain high standards of professional competence.
- Recognize the scope of massage therapy and refer to other health care professionals when appropriate for the client's/patient's health and well-being.
- Administer all treatments in a professional manner with respect for client-patient confidentiality, boundaries, safety and privacy.
- Maintain honest and accurate records, a clean and professional work environment, and high standards of personal hygiene.
- Respect the client's/patient's right to continue, modify, or discontinue massage therapy at any time, and respect the integrity of each person by avoiding any sexual conduct or activities involving their clients/patients.
- Respect all ethical health care practitioners and work together amicably to promote health and natural healing.
- Invest in their communities by fostering an understanding and acceptance of massage therapy as a valuable heath service, abiding by all laws governing the practice of massage, and work for the repeal of revision laws detrimental to the legitimate practice of massage.

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to YOUR HEALTH

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES HEFFLEY, PH.D, 1941-2006

Jim Heffley's death, on November 26, was a loss not only to his large circle of family, friends, and colleagues but to all of us in the extended Austin community who, over the course of 30-plus years, were lucky enough to benefit from his extraordinary professional expertise, either caringly administered in person or, since 2001, via his "To Your Health" columns in *The Austin Chronicle*. Jim was always way ahead of the curve in his scholarly, evidence-based conviction that good health was inextricably bound up with good nutrition; the surest way to keep the doctor away was to provide the body with the nutrients it required over a lifetime. And if you came to this realization late, Jim always had a Plan B: a biochemical/nutritional approach that shored up one's own immune system or, in the case of his large clientele of cancer patients who suffered the harsh effects of medical treatments, fortified the body so it could withstand the onslaught of the medical "cure."

Today, few would question the role of nutrition in good health. But back in 1974, when – with his newly acquired doctorate in biochemistry from UT's Clayton Foundation Biomedical Institute – Jim hung out his nutritional-counseling shingle, his approach triggered the resistance of those in the medical community who traditionally viewed nutrition with a jaundiced eye. Jim soldiered on, and soon his appointments book began to fill with physician referrals, as well as with grateful laymen, like myself, who until his retirement, turned to him – first – on all matters of family preventative health or illness.

Jim will also be remembered – in an era of rushed and rude health care – for his personal kindness. As trite as this may sound, he really cared – way more about what brought you in to see him than about how you intended to pay for his services. He'll be missed terribly; there's really no one else like him. – *Anne S. Lewis*

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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 an 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

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545 LEGAL NOTICES

398932

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 398932, wherein Travis County, Water Control Improvement District No. 15, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Laura L. Fellman, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Laura L. Fellman are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,847.63** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 21, 2001.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 46, Block B, Lago Vista, Section 2, Plat No. 11/45 as described in Volume 2718, Page 259 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,847.63** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

463888

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 463888, wherein Travis County, Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 and Village of Briarcliff are plaintiffs, and William E. McKemie, Jr., if Alive, and if Deceased the unknown owners, assigns, successors, and heirs of the Estate of William E. McKemie, Jr., Carolyn Ralph McKemie Loran aka Carolyn Ralph Loran, Village of Briarcliff (In Rem Only) and Briarcliff Property Owners Association, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,029.13** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 18, 2004.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 512, Briarcliff, Inc. Sec. 3, Plat No. 37/36 as desc. In Vol. 5086, Pg. 2077 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,029.13** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

477422

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 331st District Court of Travis County, on the 8th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 477422, wherein City of Austin, County Education District, Austin Community College, Travis County, Austin Independent School District and FM Road are plaintiffs, and William F. Zidell, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of William F. Zidell and Charles Patterson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$15,473.80** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 331st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 12, 1997.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 22, Block 2, Chernosky Subdivision No. 9, Plat No. 4/190 as described in Volume 2272, Page 273 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$15,473.80** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

92-11563

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 299th District Court of Travis County, on the 8th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 92-11563, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County ESD NO.1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Clifton E. Hall, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Clifton E. Hall and Jennifer Jean Hall aka Jeannifer Jordan Hall aka Jennifer Jean Jordan are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,472.46** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 299th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 18, 2002.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1357, Country Club Estates, Section 7, Plat No.

47/42 as described in Volume 7249, Page 276 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,472.46** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

94-06812

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 8th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 94-06812, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No.1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and James H. Olyniec and Lucille M. Olyniec are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,831.66** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 30, 1998.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6073, Highland Lake Estates, Section 6, Plat No.

51/76 as described in Volume 9870, Page 185 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,831.66** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

94-07022

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 94-07022, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Charles G. Porter, Individually & dba Porter Construction Company are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$10,895.36** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 7, 2000.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1356, Country Club Estates, Section 7, Plat No.

47/42 as desc. In Volume 8974, Page 847 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$10,895.36** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

CAUSE NO. 85,710 IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL W. POUNDS, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration With Will Annexed for the Estate of MICHAEL W. POUNDS, Deceased, were issued on November 21, 2006, in Cause No. 85,710, in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to LARS HELMAN aka LARS A. HELMAN, as Independent Administrator Without Bond.

The residence of the Independent Administrator is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the post office address is:

Estate of Michael W. Pounds

c/o Deborah Green

The Law Offices of Deborah Green & Kris Hochderffer, L.L.P,

7200 North MoPac Blvd., Suite 300

Austin, Texas 78731

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 28th day of November, 2006.

By: /s/ Deborah Green

Attorney for Independent Administrator

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF BARCLAY JAMES GRAHAM, Deceased, No. 85879 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

PRESTON JAMES GRAHAM alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 1st day of DECEMBER, 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship and to Issue Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said BARCLAY JAMES GRAHAM, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear and answer before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 1st day of December, 2006.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 1748,

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PAIGE LESLIE LOHRSTORFER, DECEASED, Cause No. 06-0560-CP4, in County Court at Law No. 4 of Williamson County, Texas.

JOSEPH LOHRSTORFER, applicant, in the above numbered and entitled estate,

filed on the 22nd day of November, 2006, an APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR ORDER OF NO ADMINISTRATION of the said estate and requests that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PAIGE LESLIE LOHRSTORFER, DECEASED, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse Annex in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 22nd day of November, 2006.

NANCY E. RISTER,

County Clerk

Williamson County, Texas

By /s/ Dianne M. Flores, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF KEVIN O'NEAL MITCHELL, DECEASED, No. 85881 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

CAROLINE BOGUES MITCHELL alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 1st day of DECEMBER, 2006, an Application to Determine Heirship and Necessity of Administration & Request for Issuance of Letters of Administration the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said KEVIN O'NEAL MITCHELL, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 1st day of December, 2006.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 748,

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LENORE MEYER BOSTON, Deceased, No. 85883 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JODI WELLBORN ZIPP alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2006, an Application for Independent Administration, Issuance of Letters of Independent Administration and Determination of Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LENORE MEYER BOSTON, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 1st day of December, 2006.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 748,

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ M. C. Arzola

GV-001112

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250TH District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-001112, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Cornelius Robinson, Texas Higher Education Board (In Rem Only), Andrew Waden (In Rem Only), Patricia Waden (In Rem Only), Ted Stokley, Jr. (In Rem Only) and First National Acceptance Company (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 382017 = $3,216.48 and Tract Two: Billing Number 79107 = $3,172.32** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 27, 2003.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 382017

19.5 ft. by 40 ft. out of Lot 9, Block1, S. I. Wilson Subdivision (Olt. 13, Div. B), Plat No. 3/178, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 13295, Page 2888 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 079107

Tract B, Masonfield, Plat No. 4/205, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 12717, Page 1491 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 382017 = $3,216.48 and Tract Two: Billing Number 79107 = $3,172.32** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-100203

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-100203, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District,Travis County, City of Austin and County Education District are plaintiffs, and James H. Givens, Vera L. Givens, MeraFinancial Services (In Rem Only) and The United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,672.62** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 10, 2002.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 26, Block 1, Chernosky Subdivision No. 10, Plat No. 4/200 as Desc. In Vol. 9866, Pg. 66 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,672.62** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-101030

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201ST District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-101030, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County are plaintiffs, and US Life Title Company of Austin aka Title USA Company of Austin, Trustee aka Dallas Title Company and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 528254 = $22,696.65 and Tract Two: Billing Number 562714 = $7,600.52** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 30, 2004.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 528254

Lot 31, Block R, Resubdivision of Lot 30, Block R, Village Park at Travis Country, Plat No. 92/206, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 12111, Page 78 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 562714

3.013 of an acre out of 30, Block R, Resubdivision of Lot 30, Block R, Village Park at Travis Country, Plat No. 92/206, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 5019, Page 1681and Volume 12111, Page 78 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 528254 = $22,696.65 and Tract Two: Billing Number 562714 = $7,600.52** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-203282

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-203282, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Edward C. Martin are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,057.05** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 11, 2003.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16236, Baar-K Ranches Plat 16, Plat No. 66/78, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2000052824 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,057.05** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-203296

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 8th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-203296, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Artelia Kincheon Roberson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Artelia Kincheon Roberson, City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,892.78** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 15, 2003.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3, Block 21, Grandview Place (Olt. 8-11 & 62, Div. B), Plat No. 3/17 as described in Volume 585, Page 158 and Volume 11476, Page 32 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,892.78** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-302170

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 7th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-302170, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, County Education District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Larry D. Jones, Patty M. Jones, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (In Rem Only), Texas Employment Commission nka Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only) and NRC, Inc. formerly known as National Resort Communities, Inc. aka Bar-K Corporation are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,091.80** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 3, 2004.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16118, Bar-K Ranches Plat 16, Plat No. 66/78, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 10194, Page 747 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,091.80** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the

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AV1221 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

DECEMBER 21, 2006 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

063250231	1994	BUIC	SW	G12CMP	TX	1G4AG8540R6429705
065059395	1989	HOND	2DR	X13SCB	TX	1HGCA5289KA030872
065060702	1985	CHEV	PK	ZN0366	TX	1GBG7D1B5HV207789
065060889	1988	BUIC	4DR	M71CWG	TX	1G4CW51C3J1654614
065060929	1989	CHEV	4DR	C99SKC	TX	1G1JC5116KJ209667
065061399	1991	MAZD	2DR	K71CTD	TX	JM1BG232XM0303273
065061698	1986	BUIC	2DR	J01YXV	TX	1G4GM47Y6GP220911
065061699	1975	FORD	PK	63HCL1	TX	F10BLW42866
065061700	1984	FORD	4DR	K19GNX	TX	1FABP3938EA178717
065062439	1998	DODG	4DR	633CRH	TX	1B3ES47C6WD595401
065062442	1985	TOYT	2DR	K33KTZ	TX	JT2MA67L5F0166694
065062443	1995	EGIL	2DR	B58VMZ	TX	4E3AL54F7SE001670
065062454	1977	FORD	PK	PN2575	TX	X15SKY69628
065062459	1990	TOYT	4DR	W13FSP	TX	JT2AE94F2L0097286
065062461	1986	TOYT	PK	38DDC2	TX	JT4RN55R0G0187411
065062462	1991	HYUN	4DR	L32PFX	TX	2HMBF32T6MB054762
065062463	1987	BUIC	4DR	V67ZPG	TX	1G4CW5136H1419179
065062465	1991	PONT	4DR	T59SNT	TX	1G2WH54D2MF276801
065062467	1997	NISS	4DR	YGX15F	TX	1N4AB41D8VC754377
065062606	1984	OLDS	2DR	Y94YZV	TX	1G3AN37YXEX334103
065062608	1989	TOYT	4DR	P63MZF	TX	4T1SV21E6KU039201
065062673	2000	PACE	UT	19YKMM	TX	47ZFB1011YX010255

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the COMMON LAW

by **Luke Ellis**

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORK

A co-worker has started to make some really crude comments over the last few months that make me uncomfortable. I'm not really sure if this is sexual harassment or not. How can I know if the way I am being treated is sexual harassment?

Public awareness of sexual harassment in the workplace has been on the rise ever since Anita Hill asserted sexual harassment claims against Clarence Thomas in 1991. Despite increased awareness, many people are unclear about how sexual harassment is defined and what kind of behavior constitutes sexual harassment.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission describes sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

Applying this general definition, courts and government agencies (after reviewing the relevant facts and circumstances of each case) have found the following types of conduct to be illegal sexual harassment:

- repeated sexual innuendo, obscene or off-color jokes, lewd remarks and language (some courts have focused on a pattern of repeated behavior and held that only one remark was not the type of behavior that supported a sexual harassment claim);
- sexually explicit material in letters, notes, e-mails, etc.;
- persistent unwanted sexual overtures or propositions, subtle or overt pressure for sexual favors;
- displaying pornographic pictures, calendars, cartoons, or other sexual material in the workplace;
- coerced or unwelcome touching, patting, brushing up against, kissing, stroking, massaging, tickling, etc.;
- coerced sexual intercourse (e.g., as a condition of employment or advancement).

In addition to being morally wrong, sexual harassment in the workplace may violate both federal and state law. Read next week's column to learn more about options for an employee dealing with sexual harassment.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to **thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com**. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-302350

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345TH District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-302350, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Mauricio E. Villatoro, Delores (Dolores) Villatoro, and Texans Credit Union fka Texins Credit Union (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 66419 = $1,715.17 and Tract Two: Billing Number 66651 = $1,774.85** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 28, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 066419

Lot 16029, Bar-K Ranches Plat 16, Plat No. 66/78, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2000136194 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 066651

Lot 10205, Bar-K Ranches Plat 10, Plat No. 63/25, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2000136199 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas .

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 66419 = $1,715.17 and Tract Two: Billing Number 66651 = $1,774.85** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-304370

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200TH District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-304370, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Rosa Mata Moreno (In Rem Only), if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Rosa Mata Moreno, Transportes Lucano, Inc. aka Transportes Lucano, Inc., J. Guadalupe Mendez (In Rem Only), D.R. & L., Inc. dba Texas Printing (In Rem Only), General Electric Capital Corporation (In Rem Only), Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 73367 = $12,348.69 and Tract Two: Billing Number 73366**

= $10,483.73 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 21, 2006.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Tract 1: Billing Number 73367

Lot 5, Block 11, Gary & Peck Subdivision (Olt. 19, Div. O), Plat No. T/273, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 13159, Page 948 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

Tract 2: Billing Number 73366

Lot 6, Block 11, Gary & Peck Subdivision (Olt. 19, Div. O), Plat No. T/273, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 13159, Page 948.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 73367 = $12,348.69 and Tract Two: Billing Number 73366**

= $10,483.73 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-400746

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250TH District Court of Travis County, on the 17th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-400746, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Sardar Ali, Shah Firoze, Bank of Overton nka Nebraska State Bank nka Security First Bank (In Rem Only) and City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista ISD, Travis County and Travis County ESD No. 1 (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,170.72** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 1, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 57C, Lago Vista Travis Plaza, Plat No. 39/50, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7278, Page 19 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,170.72** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-400768

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53rd District Court of Travis County, on the 8th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-400768, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Coralynn Angelica Young aka Coralynn Goodman Young and Trent Miller (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,669.02** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 3, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16, Block 1, Cedar Valley Addition, Plat No. 5/55 as described in document number 2002109689 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,669.02** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-401174

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126th District Court of Travis County, on the 7th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-401174, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Joe Martinez Hipolito, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Joe Martinez Hipolito, Rudy Hipolito and Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County ESD No. 11 (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$12,190.46** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on March 8, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3, Block M, Driving Park Addition (Olt. 37, Div. O), Plat NO. 2/206 as described in Volume 3230, Page 1954 and document numbers 2003019766, 2003019767, 2003019768, 2003019769 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$12,190.46** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-402568

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-402568, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Joan Auzenne are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$1,895.99** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 25, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1498, Country Club Estates, Section 7, Plat No. 47/42 as Desc. In Doc. No. 2000099163 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$1,895.99** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-503307

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-503307, wherein Plaintiffs are Austin Community College, City of Jonestown, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 7 and Travis County Hospital District and Intervenor Leander Independent School District, and James E. McCormick are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and intervenor, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 69352 = $7,182.61 and Tract Two: Billing Number 69353 = $1,979.82** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenor, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 13, 2006.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 069352

Lot 25, Pecan Terrace, Plat No. 53/42, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 1999139353 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 069353

Lot 27, Pecan Terrace, Plat No. 53/42, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described n Document No. 1999139353 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 69352 = $7,182.61 and Tract Two: Billing Number 69353 = $1,979.82** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs and intervenor, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of $2.10 per line OR $25 per column inch (for display advertising.)

Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request.

Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE Subcontractors for the following City of Austin Projects: Dessau WWTP Fish Tract Lift Station. CIP 7265.001, Bid date 12-14-06 at 9:30 AM. Areas of specialty: Trenching, Boring, Fencing, Photo/Video, Asphalt Paving, Erosion Control, Clearing, Hauling, Pipe Suppliers, Lift Station Control Panel, Lift Station Pumps, Lift Station Structure & Surveying. Call Susan @ 512 219-6001.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1)OWNER: FRANK & LINDA FAUCETTE

1994 HONDA

VIN: 2HGEJ1121RH555414

2)OWNER: VALENTIN ROCHA

1991 LINCOLN

VIN: 1LNCM83W0MY791309

3)OWNER: MIKE ARCHULETA

1993 OLDSMOBILE

VIN: 1G3AG54N0P6369130

4)OWNER: MIGUEL VERDE

1992 FORD

VIN: 1FACP50U0NA140792

5)OWNER: ARTURO RODRIGUEZ

1995 FORD

VIN: 2FMDA514XSBC29845

6)OWNER: KEITH TUXHORN

1990 HONDA

VIN: 2HGED6356LH531743

7)OWNER: REYNALDO LIMON

1997 MERCURY

VIN: 1MELM13P9VW651355

8)OWNER: REBECCA THOMPSON

1993 FORD

VIN: 1FAPP31X5PK133137

9)OWNER: THEODORE BACON

1996 HONDA

VIN: 1HGEJ6602TL007372

10)OWNER: JENNIFER EVERETT

1991 DODGE

VIN: 2B3CB56U7MH809108

11)OWNER: NICOLAS PEREZ

1996 FORD

VIN: 1FTCR10A7TTA38619

AUCTION: December 22, 2006 @ 6:00 AM

About Town Towing

2905 W. Howard Lane

Austin, TX 78728

(512) 835-5444

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1)OWNER: UNKNOWN

1982 OLDSMOBILE

VIN: 1G3AY69Y9DX338924

LP: 136GNT (AR)

2)OWNER: KHALIL ZAIDAN

1995 HONDA

VIN: JHMRA1860SC023913

3)OWNER: ARTEGA SANTANA

1994 ACURA

VIN: JH4CC2661RC006847

4)OWNER: GETACHEW TESFAYE

1991 TOYOTA

VIN: 4T1SV21E1MU331048

5)OWNER: SAMANTHA KAMRADT

1991 FORD

VIN: 1ZVPT20C3M5156390

6)OWNER: HAROLD BOOTH

1994 NISSAN

VIN: JN1EJ01F2RT504490

7)OWNER: VALENCIA SINGLETON

1996 TOYOTA

VIN: 1NXBB02E6TZ433164

8)OWNER: NELDA AGUILAR

1993 TOYOTA

VIN: 4T1SK12E7PU248732

9)OWNER: PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ

1996 CHEVROLET

VIN: 1G1JC5249T7205233

10)OWNER: MARK MCCANN

1990 ACURA

VIN: JH4DA9364LS009875

AUCTION: December 15, 2006 @ 6:00 AM

About Town Towing

2905 W. Howard Lane

Austin, TX 78728

(512) 835-5444

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:

PRECINCT THREE: SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ON GENERAL WILLIAMSON DRIVE.

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 NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:

PRECINCT TWO: SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED

MEALS ON WHEELS AND MORE

PUT YOUR COMPASSION INTO ACTION...

Volunteer Today!

Volunteer Training
every Thursday
12:15 - 1:15pm

Meals on Wheels and More
3227 East 5th Street
476-MEAL
mealsonwheelsandmore.org

LIMIT ON JAKES HILL RD.

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, REFIGERATOR, 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, MATTRESS, 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

E066 JESSICA REITTIE, 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,

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 tables, 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 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, numberous boxes, stuffed toys, clothes, shoes, hshld items. William L. Hatch unit #251 boxes, hubcaps, B.Q. grill, misc. items. Katty Mclivain unit #267 mattress, boxes, vacuum cleaner, hshld goods. Peter J. Inigarida unit #319 tool chest for pickup, file cabinet, desk, shelves, plastic tubs, weedeater, tire, misc. hshld items.

NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE DATED November 27, 2006, and issued pursuant to a judgment decrees of the District Court of Travis County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Constable, Pct. 5, of said Court, I have on November 27, 2006, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in January, 2007, the same being the 2nd day of January, 2007, at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Austin, between the hours of 10:00 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M. on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Travis and the State of Texas, to-wit:

No. GV502233, Leander Independent School District vs. Debbie Hinton and CMH Homes, Inc. DBA Clayton Homes, successor in interest to Oakwood Acceptance Corporation, Lienholder (In Rem Only) a 1998 Oakwood Manufactured Home, Label NTA0785481, Serial HOTX08807732, located on Jonestown Mobile Home Park, Space 12, Travis County, Texas

No. GV502728, Leander Independent School District vs. Leslie Garzonie, Litchfield Financial Corporation, Lienholder (In Rem Only), Green Tree Servicing, L.L.C. (In Rem Only) and Conseco Finance Servicing Corporation (In Rem Only)

Lot 185, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Cherry Hollow Court) Travis County, Texas and a 1994 Southern Energy Mobile Home, 16 Feet X 76 Feet, Label #TEX0509384, Serial #SSETX00381 being that property more particularly described in Volume 12966, Page 3358 and Volume 83, Page 95B of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas,

No. GV500650, Leander Independent School District vs. Debbie Yates and Bank One, N.A., Lienholder (In Rem Only)

1.929 Acres being Lot 14, Block E, Long Canyon I-A Subdivision, (5800 Gibbs Hollow Cv.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Document 2003000427 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

No. GV501907, Leander Independent School District vs. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

0.59 Acre being Lot 156, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (21418 Creekside Dr.) Travis County, Texas and a Mobile Home, Label PFS612927 being that property more particularly described in Document 2002133022 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas,

No. GV503233, Travis County and Leander Independent School District vs. R-BAR-B Properties, Inc., A Texas Corporation and New Life Corporation of America (In Rem Only)

29.85 Acres out of the A.F. Hoffman Survey 194 and the Abstract 436 of the W.A. King Survey, (FM 2769) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 11468, Page 229 and Volume 12096, Page 83, SAVE AND EXCEPT those portion as described as Tract 1 and Tract 2 in document number 2004009845 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T26110000010050)

155.35 Acres out of Abstract 80 of the Charles Cornea Survey and Abstract 101 out of the Michael Cody Survey, (FM 2769) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 11468, Page 233 and Volume 12096, Page 83 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T01570000003058)

3.761 Acres out of Abstract 436 of the W.A. King Survey and Abstract 194 out of the A.F. Holman Survey, (Twin Creeks Club Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in document number 2004009845 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T04710000001E058)

35.360 Acres out of Abstract 101 of the Michael Cody Survey, (FM 2769) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 11468, Page 223 and Volume 12096, Page 83 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T2190000000030051)

16.960 Acres out of Abstract 101 of the Michael Cody Survey, (FM 2769) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 11468, Page 233 and Volume 12096, Page 83 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T2190000000040051)

17.01 Acres out of Abstract 101 of the Michael Cody Survey, (FM 2769) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 11468, Page 233 and Volume 12096, Page 83 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T2190000004A051)

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST BY THE COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON, TEXAS IS OFFERED FOR SALE PURSUANT TO SECTION 34.05 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE

Tract 1 - Lot 49, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Ridge Rim Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 12113, Page 1883 SAVE & EXCEPT that property described in Volume 12863, Page 1601 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas.

Tract 2 - Lot 50 South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Ridge Rim Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 12113, Page 1883 SAVE & EXCEPT that property described in Volume 12863, Page 1601 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas

Tract 3 - Lot 53, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Ridge Rim Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 12113, Page 1883 SAVE & EXCEPT that property described in Volume 12863, Page 1601 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

Tract 4 - Lot 54, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Ridge Rim Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 12113, Page 1883 SAVE & EXCEPT that property described in Volume 12863, Page 1601 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas

Tract 5 - Lot 55, South Cherry Hollow Estates, (Ridge Rim Dr.) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly described in Volume 12113, Page 1883 SAVE & EXCEPT that property described in Volume 12863, Page 1601 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest and costs of suit and sale; subject, however, to the right of redemption, the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the period of time and in the manner provided by law, and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest rendered in the above styled and numbered

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Car TALK

by **Tom** *and* **Ray Magliozzi**

CHANGE CAN BE MADE FROM POWER TO MANUAL, BUT WHY?

Dear Tom and Ray:

My name is Heather, and I'm a 20-year-old automotive technical-college student. My pride and joy is a 1985 Ford Ranger that is clinging to the last pathetic shreds of life. I love my truck dearly, and I plan on keeping her well past her reasonable life expectancy. However, I want to convert her power steering to manual steering. My dad, who is on your evil-genius intelligence level, thinks I'm insane for wanting manual steering. My old truck (1994 Isuzu Pickup) had manual steering, and I loved it. So, what I want to know is, how crazy am I? Am I completely alone in my love for manual steering? – Heather

TOM: Are you alone in loving manual steering, Heather? Well, we knew a guy once in East Treetrunk who also liked it. So there are at least two of you in the country.

RAY: You certainly can do this, Heather. I believe the 1985 Ranger was available with optional manual steering, so the parts should all exist. What you need to do is compare the two parts lists.

TOM: If you don't have access to the lists, just go to a parts store and ask to see the lists of steering components for the '85 Ranger with and without power steering. Then compare the part numbers, and that'll tell you which parts are the same and which you will have to change.

RAY: You'll have to change the steering box and, at the very least, remove the power-steering pump's belt. In fact, that's better than actually removing the pump itself. That way, when you come to your senses in a few weeks, the power steering will be much easier to reconnect.

TOM: You'll probably find that the tie rods, center link, and pitman arms are all different, too. And you might even need to change the steering column.

RAY: But you'll find all that stuff at a junkyard, and you can swap it out in an afternoon. And voilà! Your truck instantly will be impossible to parallel park!

TOM: The good news is that the manual steering will really build up your arm strength, Heather. And if you're planning to make a career as a mechanic, that'll come in handy when you're trying to keep transmissions from falling on your chest.

* * *

It's *never* cheaper in the long run to buy a new car. Want proof? Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

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cause, together with interest thereon and costs of suit and sale, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

DATED November 27, 2006, at Austin, Texas.

By Bruce Elfant

CONSTABLE Prec. 5, Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

You may contact the Plaintiff's attorney at 512-943-1645

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF DAVID G. VAN NOY, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 85719, styled Estate of David G. Van Noy, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on November 26, 2006, to Carol M. Van Noy.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty,

Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: Kevin Holcomb

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 1st day of December, 2006.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

(512)480-5627 Telephone

(512)478-5827 Telecopier

By: /s/ Kevin Holcomb

State Bar ID No.: 09824000

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 29, 2006, Mary Ann Maloy was issued letters of independent administration with will annexed for the Estate of Patrick Shields Maloy, Deceased, In Cause No. 85775, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the independent administrator is

c/o Tricia Deats, 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. Mary Ann Maloy, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Patrick Shields Maloy, Deceased

By: Tricia Deats, Attorney for the Independent Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Velma Leona Hargrave, Deceased, were issued on November 28, 2006 in Cause No. 85748 pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to Claude Samuel Hargrave as Independent Executor.

Claims must be presented in care of the Executor's attorney to the following address:

Claude Samuel Hargrave, Executor

c/o J. Winston Krause

Krause & Associates, LP

504 West 13th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 28th of November, 2006.

By: /s/ J. Winston Krause

Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Alvin Leroy Satterwhite, Deceased, were issued on November 28, 2006, in Cause No. 84,284, pending in Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to Jacqueline A. Richard.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: James L. Arth

700 Lavaca Street,

Suite 1150

Austin, Texas 78701

DATED November 29, 2006.

/s/ James L. Arth

Attorney for Jacqueline Richard

State Bar No.: 01362900

700 Lavaca Street,

Suite 1150

Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 479-8989

Facsimile: (512) 482-0525

NOTICE TO CREDITORS On November 29, 2006, Carolyn Goldston was issued letters testamentary for the Estate of Donald N. Goldston, Deceased, in Cause No. 85705, 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. Carolyn Goldston, Independent Executor of the Estate of Donald N. Goldston, Deceased

By: Craig Hopper, Attorney for the Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of NELLIE JEAN HAAS, Deceased, were issued on November 16, 2006, in Docket No. 06-0513-CP4, pending in the County Court at Law Number Four of Williamson County, Texas, to FRANCES LOUISE STUBBLEFIELD.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, but mail is sent to the post office address of:

c/o Guy F. Gebbia, Attorney

1505 West Koenig Lane

Austin, Texas 78756

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 30th day of November, 2006.

/s/ Guy F. Gebbia

Attorney for the 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.

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.

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LYNETTE FAIREY YORK were issued on November 29, 2006 in Docket Number 85724, pending in the Probate No. One, Travis County, Texas to ANN CHAMBERS HARDY, Independent Executor. The address of record for ANN CHAMBERS HARDY is 1114 Reagan Terrace, Austin, Texas 78704. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. S/ Ann Chambers Hardy, Independent Executor of the Estate of LYNETTE FAIREY YORK

X96-06464

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 7th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered X96-06464, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and George D. Cosby and Janice M. Cosby are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,417.48** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 17, 2000.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3235, Bar-K Ranches Plat 3, Plat No. 57/15 as described in Volume 7658, Page 268 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,417.48** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-10959

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered X96-10959, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Herman Susilo are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,093.09** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 29, 1998.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 58C, Lago Vista Travis Plaza, Plat No. 39/50 as desc. In Vol. 7276, Pg. 259 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,093.09** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X98-11966

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY

DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53RD District Court of Travis County, on the 17th day of November, 2006 in a certain cause numbered X98-11966, wherein Travis County, Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, Travis County Hospital District and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 5 are plaintiffs, and O.V. Grubert are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 191866 = $2,763.09, Tract Two: Billing Number 192266 = $3,530.56, Tract Three: Billing Number 192265 = $3,502.48, Tract Four: Billing Number 192267 = $3,514.78, Billing Number 192275 = $2,023.49** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 13, 2006.

I, on the 27th day of November, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 2nd day of January, 2007, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 191866

A tract shown as Green Belt, Arroyo Doble Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 70/71, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 4345, Page 312 of the Travis County Deed Records

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO.: 192266

Lot 17, Arroyo Doble, Plat No. 59/66, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 4296, Page 2211 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT THREE: BILLING NO.: 192265

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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.

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Lot 16, Arroyo Doble, Plat No. 59/66, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as a being a portion as described in Volume 2546, Page 454 and Volume 4296, Page 2211 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT FOUR: BILLING NO.: 192267

Lot 18, Arroyo Doble, Plat No. 59/66, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 4296, Page 2211 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT FIVE: BILLING NO.: 192275

The Eastern portion of that tract shown as Onion Creek, Arroyo Doble, Plat No. 59/66, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 2546, Page 454; Volume 4296, Page 2211 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 191866 = $2,763.09, Tract Two: Billing Number 192266 = $3,530.56, Tract Three: Billing Number 192265 = $3,502.48, Tract Four: Billing Number 192267 = $3,514.78, Billing Number 192275 = $2,023.49** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

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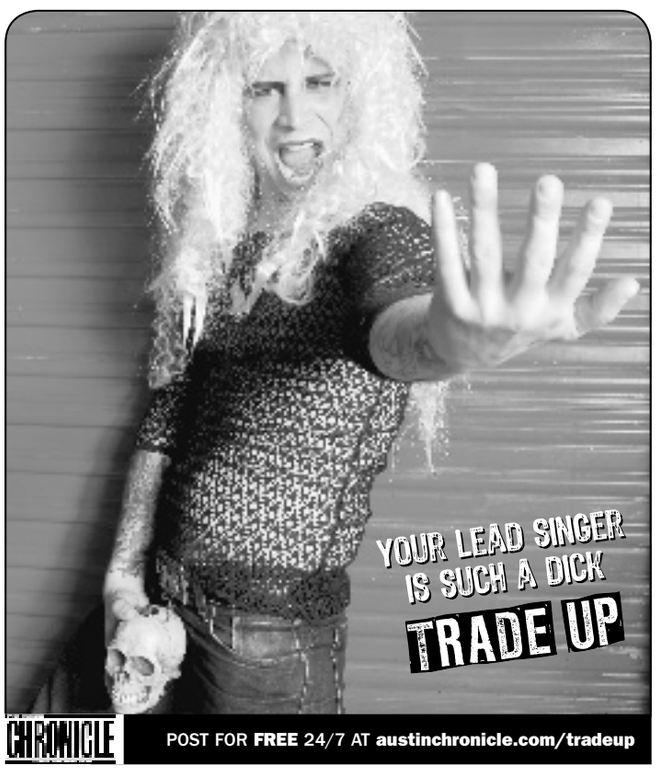

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Looking for a man who appreciates an hour glass figure and big, beautiful all natural breasts for play, discreet encounters, or a relationship. Big, muscular guys are a turn-on! **DDarling**, 33, 📷, **#119360**

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 intellegent 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**

FUN LOVING COUPLE
She -48 and He-50. Party @ home in our hottub and go out to clubs for live music.Patron tequillia crazy.420 friendly. looking for friends with benifits. **40ishcouple**, 50, 📷, **#119802**

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**

DAMNHIPPIEPERVS
my girlfriend and I are looking for some playmates. we like all types as long as youre down for fun and have an open mind and imagination. **rocknzac**, 22, ☎, 📷, **#119519**

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**

LOVERSPLEASE, NO KINKIES
Into sex mid-40's couple never done it but want to try it with the right couple. Looking for sexy,clean, DDF, discreet couple to play with– sweet gentle lovers, not kinkies! **jswlj**, 46, ☎, 📷, **#119289**

THICKN SEXY CPL
Fun couple,him husky she plus sized. Love thick confident women. seeking single female to join with him, play with her, if onlyw/him she must watch couples also.must be kind, cleanand,discreet. **FunThickloving-Couple**, 26, 📷, **#119274**

THREE'S COMPANY
Attractive and adventurous couple seeks another woman to join us for one evening of play. Playful, passionate and looking for same. This is in Austin, the last weekend in October. **VinnyandFrankie**, 23, 📷, **#119236**

ISO CUTE GIRL
Attractive couple ISO a cute girl. She is 5'4 120, He is 6'0 160. We go to downtown with you, flirt, makeout, party... **Want_sum_fun**, 27, 📷, **#118971**

MOVE ME
I'm looking for a special girl who can help me get to the next level. I want a hot girl, more agressive than passive, totally femme, bright, worldly and experienced. **Whiplash**, 26, 📷, **#119900**

ALWAYS WANTING MORE...
hey...i'm really looking for a hot girl to have fun with..i want someone who will keep satisying 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**

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
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**

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 discreat 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**

DAGUYINBLU
Hey im a young guy looking for action.. and looking for dat sugardaddy, wanting to experience new things.. **daguyinblu**, 18, 📷, **#119820**

YOUNG CURIOUS GUY
Young college guy looking for some new experiences and some fun. More dominant than submissive. **Curiousjoe**, 19, ☎, 📷, **#119359**

LOOKING TO PLAY
looking for a guy my age to play with. oral only lets meet and have a drink. **sumac_54**, 55, 📷, **#119281**

SEXY IN STILETTOS
W/M, 49, married and Bi seeks secret encounter with other crossdressers or M/M or M/F couples for erotic pleasures. Too sexy in my stilettos and stockings. May introduce wife later. **eddyfreestyle**, 49, 📷, **#118296**

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR
Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discret encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discret Open to new things with guys around my age or youngers.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 42, 📷, **#118402**

WANTING 2GET WILD
Single fit male wanting to get wild in the bedroom - or wherever the mood may strike. I've had taste of the wild side and was left hungering for more. **breid**, 46, 📷, **#118984**

POLYAMOROUS BISEXUAL TIGER
Raconteur, entrepreneur. Fit, attractive, bright, witty, creative cat about town seeks couples or singles who feel sex should be a lighthearted form of play. Join me in my hot tub! **cheshirecat**, 42, 📷, **#118817**

YOURBACKDOORMAN
Hello Ladies! Looking for some manlady lovin'. Must be discreet; one timer 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**

OPEN MINDED MALE
I am a very open minded male and into just about anything. I am looking for a female or couple that would like a male to partake in sexual activities. **gogetnaked**, 56, 📷, **#115993**

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. **mrkbigglesworth**, 25, 📷, **#115729**

FUNNY PROFESSOR-TYPE
Handsome guy, professor-type, funny, seeks fun, safe encounters with TV/TS or M/F couples who enjoy no strings safe respectful fun. Adult movies are a blast–I've got a nice collection! **cabinman**, 47, 📷, **#115172**

2GOOD 2MISS
If you're a hot girl, energetic, unique and bright I'm interested so speak up! I expect quality conversation too so it will help if you've traveled or matured since school. **Aquaman**, 28, 📷, **#118277**

MUSCULAR DEVIANT ANGEL
Seeking female Twin of FIRE: Passionate, non-vanilla, Spontaneous, Loyal, Excellent Communicator, Fit or endeavoring to be fit, honoring, respectful, explorer, empowering, sexual deviant, fully functioning left-right brain hemispheres, loves life. **SirDeviantAngel**, 40, ☎, 📷, **#119779**

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**

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**

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YES PLEASE MASTER

Submissive woman, who is comfortable with who and what she is, financially and emotionally secure, with a great attitude and sense of humor, who would love to find a patient, honest Master to help me become the submissive that i can only dream of. My imagination as to the potential of serving, obeying, and loving a Master keeps me going in my quest.

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THE LUV DOC

Whole Foods Rooftop Skating Rink
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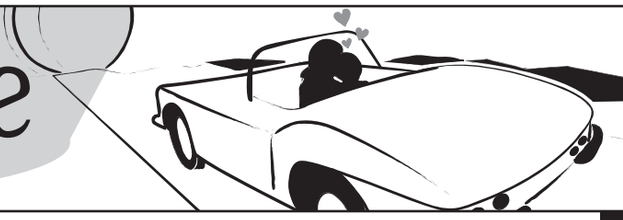
Austin isn't much of a winter wonderland. Sure, we get a little cold snap every now and then – just enough to make the green thumb paranoids cover their flora with moving/dog/smallpox blankets and old HEB bags; just enough for annoying small children to pretend like they're smoking imaginary cigarettes; just enough to turn a respectably sized penis into a tiny, wrinkled, shriveling turtle neck or full supple nipples into the shape and texture of mechanical pencil erasers; but we never get the kind of lip welding arctic blasts enjoyed by our northern neighbors. That's OK. Chances are you didn't move here for the ice fishing. What we do have in garish profundity however is holiday decoration. Lights, in particular. Lights in general. Lights infinite. Where your bigger, generic burbs tend to express their schmaltz with huge, inflatable lighted replicas of Christmas characters like Santa, Rudolph, Frosty, and the dear, sweet, 8 pound, 6 ounce newborn baby Jesus (pre-inflated), Austinites decorate like they just smoked a bag of Maui and beer-bonged a quart of mushroom tea: Lights everywhere. On the house, the shrubs, the trees, the lawn, the car, the cat, and the holiday themed, blinking Bobby Brooks sweater (purchased at Goodwill, of course – buying it new would be … just … so … pathetic). Also, unlike our suburban sprawling red state relatives, we keep our lights up year round, not just because we're still stoned but because we're also lazy and we don't give a shit. Besides, lights are pretty year round, and if you buy the kind that look like little jalapenos, you get a pass for the other 11 months – especially if you own a Mexican restaurant. So, what we lack in chilliness we make up for in artsyness, and if we seem misty-eyed about the holidays, it's only because we just squirted on some eye drops so we could go take a toasted twirl under the Zilker Christmas tree. Hey, some holiday traditions are hard to shake, especially when they involve breathless spinning. That may explain why Whole Foods' rooftop ice skating rink is back again for a second year. Of course, it might also just be ruthless greed whoring capitalism, but whatever the case, it's nice to be able to lace up and test your triple lux, even if it's 85 and balmy. Hey, if you can't live in a winter wonderland, buy one! One caution: If you're going to mack at the skating rink, don't try to act all cool. The only thing more hilarious than busting your ass on a public skating rink is being pissed off about it.

Lovers Lane free!



CREATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

women SEEKING men

DA VIDA LOCA
hey there boys, I am new to Austin. Love life and having a good time. I enjoy meeting new people and finding new places to check out! **Saphire**, 35, 📷, **#119910**

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE
WANTED: Adventurous, outdoorsman. I'm female, 5'5", 115 lbs, 32 yrs old, blonde hair, blue eyes, fit, active. Love to hike, kayak, camp, travel, read, paint, cook. Can you keep up? **led9208**, 32, 📷, **#119895**

TXBORN TXRAISED
looking for fun!!! Someone who knows how to have a good time, watching movies or partyin it up. Someone who knows what they want. Someone not out to bullshit!! **eellis_star**, 20, 📷, **#119894**

DOWN-TO-EARTH MIDWESTERN
I'm a loveable dork looking for an honest, stable, good-hearted person to treat me right. I won't play games- dating should not be a competitive sport. **littlehottie**, 24, 📷, **#119831**

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
Philisophical-BMX-Bodhisattva w/heart of a lionness,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,Workaholic+Cross-word puzzle GURU. **Linux_Bot**, 21, ☎, 📷, **#119787**

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**

WHATEVER
I like... movies-Alamo; Cooking/Eating out-Thai, Indian; Live music; Shooting pool; Kicking ass during said game of pool; Yoga; Reading; Dailyshow, Colbert; Hanging out with friends (and my friends are gems.). **veruca**, 39, 📷, **#119692**

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. **surgngnl**, 29, 📷, **#119687**

BOLLOCKS
(I'm going to try a new format) compassionate caring loyal humorous "smiley" laid-back open minded curious well traveled young at heart playful. **becknurserocks**, 38, 📷, **#119675**

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**

DECENT GUY WANTED
Exceptional SWF seeks Unattached Decent Man for friendship/ltr 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**

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**

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

CUTE CREATIVE CHICK
Looking for someone who shares my likes: [all things cute] [bedtime stories] [boxer shorts] [caffeine] [cartoons] [daydreaming] [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**

SERIOUSLY CRAZY....
Looking for a unique man that will appreciate my strong will without trying to quelch my passion-if you are a crazy, secure, worldy MAN -I can't wait to meet you. **Kali**, 34, 📷, **#119518**

SAY ANYTHING...
Looking for a sweet, honest, dependable, functional, witty, compassionate fellow. I love laughing, traveling, cuddling, bookstores, farmer's markets, alamo drafthouse, barton springs... just wish for partner in crime. **atxgirl**, 36, 📷, **#119476**

men SEEKING women

CHECK IT OUT
I currently am in the home business opportunities industry, with the rest of my time I relax. If u wanna know more shoot me an e-mail here. **kilgorekyle**, 22, 📷, **#119902**

JAZZZZZZZZ...
Do you like Michael Jackson? Aside the pedaphelia of course, that's no bueno... If you dig MJ you're alright with me... Everything else we'll just have to leave to chance. **stereomc**, 31, 📷, **#119873**

I'M FREE
I'm a fit HM going through a divorce as we speak. My wife hated me, but she loved my patience, the extended foreplay, and my attention to detail. **johngirl**, 42, 📷, **#119853**

JUST MOVED HERE
I'm an open-minded, honest, funny, crazy mutha-f*%&er. People say I'm intelligent, creative and have excellent people skills. I don't know if that's true, but that's what those crazy bastards say. **irishinaustin**, 28, 📷, **#119851**

LOVING OUTGOING MAN
I am a nice guy who works for a living. I like spending time with others. I hope to meet a nice woman who likes hanging around and being happy. **sunnyafternoon**, 36, 📷, **#119847**

FUN AND FUN
I'm new to town/singlehood and love it. Seeking friend with benefits, but friend first. I'm educated but not always smart, can laugh at myself and create laughter from thin air. **Monkeyfun**, 30, ☎, 📷, **#119816**

FUN GUY LOOKING
Just ASk and i will tell. **shaun1021**, 27, ☎, 📷, **#119725**

POOR TWISTED ME
Big very fit male seeks neurotic,self absorbed beauty queen/princess currently in some sort of therepy.OOPs, man, old habits. I meant I want the opposite of that. **kingnothing**, 41, ☎, 📷, **#119748**

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**

GOOD TIMES
above average 40s rocker always into sumthing,always a good time in the sheets. **handydan**, 40, 📷, **#119765**

SKINNY WHITE BOY
I enjoy taking my time. I enjoy riding my scooter, going to coffeeshops, poetry, and going to art museums. I'm always down for a glass of wine, a good movie. **twomblyj**, 25, 📷, **#119750**

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**

ATHLETIC PROFESSIONAL EASYGOING
SHM, 30, Professional, Responsible, Self-Employed After hours - Trail running at Walnut Creek/Barton, Scootering around downtown, enjoys music, art, books/newpaper, 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,figrued Id let someone find me. Ima 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**

DIVORCED NEEDING FRIENDS
Hi. Recently divorced and am looking to make new friends. I could really use friends that enjoyed benifits. A hopeless romantic that loves to shop. Ask to learn more. **tdbear89**, 40, 📷, **#119525**

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 similiar interests, apply within. **austex2k5**, 28, ☎, 📷, **#119509**

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**

ADVENTUROUS, OUTGOING, PROFESSIONAL
Freespirited,easygoing, and laid back, I'm interested in meeting a woman who enjoys spontinaity, outdoor life, and animals. You are soft tomboyish type, emotionally and financially free. hight/weight proportionate. Lets cocktail. **119662**, 40, 📷, **#119662**

LOOKING FOR ??
I am a simple and honest women. Looking for friends and a lover to hang out with. **Blondi**, 44, 📷, **#119598**

SPUNKY GIRL, BICURIOUS
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! **axswhpwr0o6x**, 20, ☎, 📷, **#119228**

SMART IS SEXY
Me: soft fem, free spirit, love animals, music, photography, travel, no red meat, wine and much more. You: fem to soft butch, fit and most of the above but more. **maybeelwill**, 35, 📷, **#119110**

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**

ASSERTIVE, SPORTY FEMININE
Busy,professional,female looking for the same.Go with the flow but stand your her ground as well.Friends are good,friends with beni's are better. Wittyness is key.Must be sexualy confident.Lets play,shall we? **Mindspank629**, 39, 📷, **#118416**

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. **ohboiohboi**, 20, ☎, 📷, **#117646**

LESBIAN MILK COMMERCIAL
Charming, witty, boi-ish type seeks lovely, intellegent woman for fun and frolic. I'm struck dumb by the power and glory of a beautiful femme. You: positive, progressive and psychotropic free. **Sparksnsmoke**, 39, 📷, **#117493**

men SEEKING men

HIDDEN JEWEL
Gregarious, intellectual, professional, world traveller that loves a flare for life and living. Honest, sincere and loyal with a touch of class. **Fede**, 41, 📷, **#119762**

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**

HANDSOME,EMPLOYED,SANE
I'm new to Austin and I like the outdoors best, naked is better...Hippie Hollow is my favorite place,but like private pools also. Love to fish,camp,backpack...Like masculine men,adventurous,faithful,good looking and uninhibited. **jessmonster**, 42, 📷, **#117696**

SHOW STOPPER
I'm a young adult. I'M a freshman at ACC planning on transfering 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**, 25, 📷, **#118487**

SMALLVILLE GUY
Can you be a real friend first and then if it's right, let it become more? Prefer someone spiritual who will help me grow stronger in that area as well. **Levi8135**, 42, ☎, 📷, **#118430**

SLIGHTLY SCHIZO ARTIST
buddhist lost on the path to nirvana. a mess of a man.9yrs celibate and ready to come out of my cave. more fun than you can shake a stick at. **riotchild**, 41, ☎, 📷, **#118067**

DOG LOVER
I'm a sincere, warm-hearted, animal rights guy who would like to be the vegan meat in a Matt Damon and Joaquin Phoenix sandwich. **doglover**, 40, ☎, 📷, **#116160**

Kilgorekyle

CHECK IT OUT

I moved to Texas in September '05 from boring Alabama and 5 days ago I moved into my twin's and my apt. right across from Lake Travis! I am currently setting up a Smoothie King franchise in Austin with my bro and old friend. I also research, setup, market, etc. other business opportunities on the internet with the rest of my time. If u wanna know more shoot me an e-mail here.

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JUST friends

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**

NEW TO AUSTIN.
Not your average chick. My friendship dream would be complete if I could find a nice gay man for a friend and a great woman for a friend with benifits. **funnyface**, 35, , **#119871**

NOT LOVESICK
Seeking a fit female for fitness partner. All sports, activities are acceptable to me, whether gym based or outdoor only. Yes, I'm that cool. Sound good? Send a message! **Chango**, 28, , **#119867**

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**

WITH GOD-GIVEN
I'm a potato-peelin', free-wheelin', poetry dealin', fish-reelin', identity concealin', cashmere feelin', dude. **thenazz**, 22, , **#119661**

messages

CAROLYN HOPE YOU get letter we luv u CC1 merry xmas

KATIE IS SORRY she forgets things. here is a message.

WHO LET THE Poodles out? Fif' woofing for you, Toell'! If not you: Who? Woof!!!

I LOVE YOU, Vicki...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEAN. I love you much, my little mad scientist. J

DOES ANYONE KNOW JOHN C. COOK and how to contact him, old bandmate

HEY RICK WANNA box?

NASTY HABIT, I really do like that shirt. 6 weeks

GAMBLER, IRONIC YOU of all people cheat on your husband

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?

LOOKING 4 AUSTINBIDNEZMAN in Austin Tx. My Handle has something to do with the animal family.—hint hint.

JMS - THINGS will get better soon baby and I'm not going anywhere.

AKYRA: YOUR FAMILY loves you. Please call your parents.

VE CAN DANCE if ve vant to. Could or dark or cold and dark. If ve vant to, ve dance.

GAMBLER YOU TALK about everyone else and you get caught cheating. Serves you!

U DONT KNOW AKING, U dont know me! Very dangerous game 2 play.

IT'S DARK OUT now but ve still dance, if ve vant too.

HOPE YOUR HAPPY from the bottom of my heart I will always Love you. Love Dylan

JDS: THE OWL looked up to the stars above, And sang to a small guitar, "O lovely Pussy, O Pussy, my love, What a beautiful Pussy you are, You are, You are! What a beautiful Pussy you are!" ~X

THIS IS FOR Ariels of the sea waiting for the ship to set sail Love Dylan

JENNA M. GONZALES – Please open your eyes, and see how much I truly love you.

a Shot in the Dark

OLIVIA? @ JO'S
You- Hard at work with the most gorgeous smile . Me- ate dinner, came back to introduce myself. I got nervous, tongue-tied, and forgot to get your number. **When: Monday, December 4. Where: Jo's on 2nd. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901281**

CATHERINE @ ARTORAMA
we discussed resin, shellac, and the home depot. i talked too much but didn't say the thing that i was really thinking. i've been looking for someone like you. coffee? **When: Tuesday, December 5. Where: jerry's artorama. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901280**

QUIZNO'S-WILLIAM CANNON
We talked while In line. I picked up some carrot cake, you said Central Market had the best. Still thinking about your lovely smile! Should have asked your name, number! **When: Tuesday, December 5. Where: Quizno's-William Cannon. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #901279**

ORLANDO IN TIGHTS
Displaced Bard in velvet cyber leotards espousing poetry and love songs to no one in particular; or perhaps someone in particular. Will you arrive someday? **When: Wednesday, November 22. Where: hitting the road. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901278**

BEAUTIFUL SMILE KATZ'S
you:girl in green shirt w/ a beautiful smile you kept looking back and smiling at me,wished i had said hello. where:2am at katzs deli.me: girl with a blonde hawk,black shirt. **When: Saturday, December 2. Where: katzs. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #901277**

LET'S DANCE AGAIN
You: great dancer, lovely and elegant in your black dress. Me: black glasses, blue shirt, jeans. Thought you had a wedding ring, so didn't get your number. Was I wrong? **When: Saturday, December 2. Where: Speakeasy. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #901276**

STAR TATTOED FOREARMS
Nov 04: You star tattoos on both forearms, large tattoo on left leg, random encounter via chatting. You lived on Ave H at that time, white truck. Find me again! **When: Thursday, November 25, 2004. Where: House on Ave H. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901275**

VALERO GAS STATION
i saw you at valero gas station on mcneil and 183 on dec2nd i was wearing a santa claus hat that said naughty we had quick words fireworkpoppers thestoresold joinme4adrinksometime **When: Saturday, December 2. Where: valero gas station. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901274**

WOMAN AT BIGLOTS
saw you at big lots at mcneil and 183 on dec. 2nd i was wearing a orange and blue alburn jacket you had blonde hair how bout a drink sometime **When: Saturday, December 2. Where: big lots. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901273**

STARBUCKS NEWPAPER GAL
We keep running into each other on Sundays at Starbucks on Bee Caves and 360. I hope that your migraine is better. Coffee, happy hour or lunch sometime? **When: Sunday, December 3. Where: Starbucks Bee Cave & 360. You: Woman. Me: Man. ☎ #901272**

BLACK MARY JANES
you gave me my shoes back at Austin Shoe Hospital on Windsor. asked about my dreads. i have tiny feet. you have greasy hair. **When: Friday, October 27. Where: Austin Shoe Hospital. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901271**

LANA AT ANTONES
You were carrying violin case. I gave you a red rose because I was so enchanted by you. Would love to get to know you over lunch! **When: Friday, December 1. Where: Antones. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901270**

BOY IN PICTURE
You: in a picture I found at a toy store taken last year at Christmas. Me: fairly new and enchanted by boy in wings at a baby piano. **When: Thursday, December 15, 2005. Where: toy store. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901262**

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**

BIRTHMARK ON NECK
You= curly haired girl with birthmark left side of neck, the #1 bus on DEC 1st in the afternoon. ME=Tall handsome guy with green jacket, think you are gorgeous **When: Friday, December 1. Where: number 1 bus. You: Woman. Me: Man. #901268**

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**

SPEDARALIES UNITE!
You-wearing small black glasses and curling your top lip when you talked. Me- cowgirl boots. You made me laugh so hard it hurts. Love your kind heart and warm couch. **When: Thursday, November 30. Where: West Lynn. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #901267**

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE WAITER
Friday, Dec 1, late show Brady Sinus. You: Scottish cap; kept us "hydrated". We had lingering eye contact, but never spoke. Me: blonde/black haired girl at end of row. Drinks?? **When: Friday, December 1. Where: Alamo Drafthouse Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. ☎ #901269**

TACOS AT POLVOS
you eating tacos (flour) with group of older men. i wanted to figure it out. tpj? me with aunt at next table. trying to read your tattoo. left forearm, cursive. **When: Saturday, November 25. Where: polvo's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901266**

COMMON INTEREST?
3 weeks ago Me:Black sweater, I advised you to get a chocolate cake shot. You:bought me a drink. Were you calling my name at 4 am? Want to be? **When: Friday, November 3. Where: Common Interest. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901265**

PATRICK BLUEGRASS NOVEMBER
Met @ bonfire you said we had karma you were right. Me black vest. No phone reception. Missed Tim O'Brian, bought the cd. Now what? :) **When: Saturday, November 11. Where: Bluegrass Benefit in Fischer TX. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901264**

CUTE BOY AIRPORT
Cutie with apple pc flying from San Jose to Austin on 11/9 and Austin to San Jose on 11/15. Me tall blonde on the same flights. Flying again soon? **When: Thursday, November 9. Where: Austin and San Jose Airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #901263**

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 18. 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**

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**

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**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for December 8 - December 14

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Does anyone have to go to the bathroom, get a drink, or take some Advil? Are there any nagging little concerns that need attending to? I urge you to take care of these or any other matters of personal comfort before we plunge into this assembling-jigsaw-puzzles-while-riding-on-a-rollercoaster kind of week, this swimming-the-backstroke-through-the-churning-waters-of-the-tunnel-of-love-while-wearing-a-medieval-knight's-helmet-and-your-sexiest-underwear kind of week, this everyone-for-himself-but-we're-all-in-this-together kind of week.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): A Detroit woman became so crushed by despair that she decided to kill herself. Ethel Farbinger's husband and mother had died within the span of a month, and she felt she couldn't go on. Retreating to a bathroom with the intention of plunging a knife into her heart, she was diverted from her plan by a vision shimmering in the toilet bowl. There in the water she saw an image of Saint Padre Pio, who spoke to her. "Ending it all will cause more problems than it will solve," he said. "Let God's love help you through this ordeal." Farbinger's suicidal urges instantly departed, and she returned to her life with a renewed sense of purpose. I don't believe you're in anywhere near as bad a shape as she was, Capricorn, but I suspect there will be at least one similarity between her story and yours: You'll find redemption where once there was crap.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): One of my relatives who was born under the sign of Aquarius once locked herself in her art studio for six months and painted 20 giant canvases all with the same theme: hurricanes extinguishing forest fires. Then she went through a phase when she specialized in painting punk angels with tattered wings swooping down to give birthday cakes and balloons to bums in junkyards. After that, she emerged fully into the world again and lived her life in a way that resembled the paintings she'd been doing. She acted like a metaphorical hurricane as she put out metaphorical forest fires, and she went around helping the underprivileged while styling herself in the persona of a punk angel. She's your role model for the coming weeks, Aquarius. It will be a great time to translate your eccentric dreams and private fantasies into practical actions.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): If you're a man, your penis just might grow bigger in the coming weeks. If you're a woman, your ability to experience profound and poetic emotions will deepen. No matter what gender you are, your capacity for orgasmic pleasure could increase. And this is just a fraction of the advances that are potentially in the offing for your tribe. Buoyant cosmic energies are surging within you, enhancing everything related to your joy and vitality and confidence. It's as if your animal intelligence is getting a boost from a divine form of lust; as if you're tapping into a source of high-octane energy that originates in God's libido.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): In the ancient Hebrew text known as the Second Book of Enoch, the author describes his trip through the 10 heavens and a meeting with God. He's surprised to find that hell is here, located in the northern regions of the third heaven. Why is this relevant to you? Because I believe it might help you understand an apparent anomaly that will soon appear. While you'll be having expansive adventures in circumstances that resemble paradise, there'll also be a diabolical area nestled right in the midst of the beauty. It won't be a big deal or terrible annoyance as long as you recognize it early and plot a course around it.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): "Connections are made slowly; sometimes they grow underground," writes Marge Piercy in her book *Circles in the Water*. "You cannot tell always by looking what is happening. More than half a tree is spread out in the soil under your feet." Piercy advises us to use this strategy in our own lives. "Penetrate quietly as the earthworm. Spread like the squash plant that overruns the garden. Gnaw in the dark and use the sun to make sugar. Keep tangling and interweaving and taking more in, a thicket and bramble wilderness to the outside, but to us interconnected with burrows and lairs." It so happens, Taurus, that this is the perfect astrological oracle for you, beginning now and throughout 2007.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): It's Adopt-a-Gemini Week. That means it would be a favorable time for you to divorce your real parents and hook up with some new, better ones. If you like your original mother and father OK but still want some additional nurturing, think about looking for a mentor. Strike up a dialogue with a potential sugar daddy or sugar mama. See if you can track down your very own spin doctor, grant-writer, or stuntperson. In short, my lovable and cuddly friend, ask the universe to send you guardian angels who understand you at least as well as you understand yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Writing in *Whole Earth*, Dr. Andrew Weil says, "Any level of biological organization that we examine, from DNA up to the most complex body systems, shows the capacity for self-diagnosis, for removal of damaged structure, and for regeneration of new structure." I urge you to keep that idea close to the front of your mind in the coming week, Cancerian. Contrary to what authorities in many fields would lead you to believe, you have a lot of innate power to figure out exactly how to fix your own problems, both the health-related kind and any others.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Never before in the history of the English language have the words "wildfire" and "devotion" appeared side by side. And yet here they are now, together at last, conspiring to convey a subtly spectacular meaning to you. It's time, my dear Leo, for you to practice wildfire devotion: to be both earthy and vehement, to blend incendiary style with deeply rooted commitment, to be as flamingly relentless as a wildfire in your staunch devotion to your future's most potent dream.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): I can't believe I'm saying this, but doing lots of housework in the coming days could give you a big lift. At least for now, organizing the clutter and cleaning up a hundred little messes in your home could directly or indirectly lead to improved health, interesting developments in your sex life, and upgrades in your relationship to future work possibilities. It might even free up psychic energy that has been stuck, help you rediscover an important thing you thought you'd lost, and remind you to take better care of a crucial connection you've been taking for granted.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): This would be a good time for you to drink cups of coffee that are half decaffeinated and half caffeinated. And to become more curious and proactive about every one of your love-hate relationships. And to say yes and no in the same breath, and practice patting your head while rubbing your stomach, and embrace your contradictions with big-hearted inclusiveness. I'll even go so far as to suggest that you may be able to sit very comfortably on the fence as you have your cake and eat it too.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): If you will ever in your life acquire the means to buy a 12,000-square-foot mansion, a private jet and yacht, your own personal manager, and an ecological organization devoted to saving endangered species in far-flung parts of the world, it will be in 2007. I'm not saying this will definitely happen; I just want you to know that the astrological omens regarding your cash flow will be particularly perky in the coming months. But even if you don't get the chance to find out if extravagant wealth and luxury will corrupt your beautiful soul, I bet you will at least get richer quicker. This week will bring a juicy clue that will show you just what I'm talking about. Pay close attention.

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