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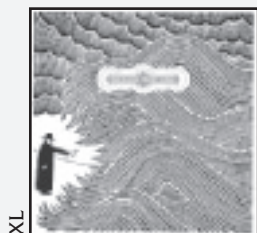
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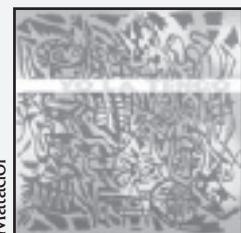
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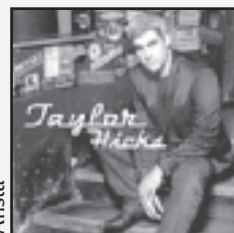
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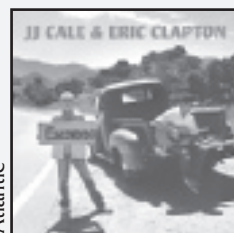
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Tiffany Jackson

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Thinking Small

When Wal-Mart skates through the development process at Northcross, is it any wonder surrounding neighbors and indie businesses feel betrayed?
BY NICK BARBARO

I recently had extensive dental surgery and am currently out of commission. The following is by Chronicle Publisher Nick Barbaro.

It is a letter responding to a City Council staff member's comments at a party. (Publisher's note: Said staffer was very stand-up in responding; we've since made up.) I asked Barbaro if we could run it because I feel it articulates a lot of citizens' and business-owners' problems with the city and with developments like the one proposed for Northcross. We also believe that if we are going to criticize others, we want to make our own practices clear and public.

Names have been omitted because they are in so many ways beside the point.

— Louis Black, editor, *The Austin Chronicle*

Dear _____,

I don't think we've ever met, but a mutual friend called to tell me that you were at a party the other night, speculating negatively about our labor policies at the *Chronicle* — specifically, questioning whether, in fact, there's any real difference between us and Wal-Mart when it comes to pay issues.

So I'm sending you this, partly because I don't like it that you're gossiping around town about our imagined lousy labor practices without having any facts, and, more than that, because I think your skepticism reflects an important, fundamental misconception at City Hall about the value of small and independent businesses to this city.

I work with a lot of small businesses (and their employees), and, by and large, I think we're excellent employers and good corporate citizens. And I think we all feel that — as is demonstrated most recently in the Northcross case that touched off your speculation — we don't get the same respect at City Hall or, when needed, *the same access to city staff* as our big-name, national competitors do.

But anyway, on to the employment stats:

The *Chronicle* is not a huge, or hugely profitable, business, and frankly, I wish we could pay everyone more than we do. But we do what we can, and providing a humane workplace and taking care of our employees is one of our primary business goals. I hope you'll find the stats below satisfactory, and

I think you'll find they compare pretty well to Wal-Mart's.

But I'm not presenting them because I think we're so great — actually, I'd guess we're pretty much standard, providing what an employer ought to be expected to provide as a living wage and the kind of decent jobs that your typical small business provides Austin citizens.

So when a — let's be honest here — brain-dead redevelopment plan for an ailing mall gets a clean ride through the development process and every favorable consideration in circumventing such inconveniences as neighborhood plans, design guidelines, and impact studies, is it any wonder that surrounding neighbors and small and indie businesses feel betrayed?

This is not the place to go into everything I think has been wrong with the Northcross process. I'm sure we'll each be doing our own smell test on that one over the next weeks. Speaking as a small-business man, I resent that my city government appears to be doing personal favors to give competitive advantage to a company that is *not* a good corporate citizen.

Because there are differences in corporate policy. And they do make a difference. I resent, for instance, that my, and my employees', health-insurance premiums have to subsidize the health-care costs of Wal-Mart's uninsured and underinsured employees. City Hall can't do anything about that, but it could do a lot more than it has done to make Wal-Mart at least play by the same rules as the indie businesses it preys on.

Nick Barbaro
 Publisher
The Austin Chronicle

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What About Doing Whatever You Want To?

Dear William MacNaughton,

Re: Bands Without Bass Players? Dec. 8 ["Postmarks"]: Are you the fat dude in need of a shave? Or just a self-declared nonexpert who dares to define the "foundation of music"? I like the bass as much as the next jackass, and the fact that we have chosen to not include it in our kickass band has nothing to do with hating the "solid sound" that you claim can only be provided by the bass.

As far as the "foundation of music," what about rhythm and harmony and doing whatever you want to, including not having a bass player? I don't know how you came up with these rules, but if everyone followed them, we'd all be playing "Rock Around the Clock," and this would be a hole of a live music capital.

I was surprised to read that you are a drummer; usually, the people who suggest we add a bass player are bassists. Even then, the comment is preceded with something like, "Man, y'all are awesome!" I think you, as a musician, should be more open-minded to different forms of music and remember that we're in it for ourselves and those who like us, not dudes with nothing better to do than tell other people how to make music.

Thanks for getting our name in "Postmarks,"

Hilah Johnson, expert of music

The Hot as Shits

Icons or Wish List?

Editor,

Was the "Icon or Eyesore" ["The People Have Spoken," News, Dec. 8] an article on Austin icons or a wish list by Austin developers of the next places they plan to demolish and pave over with luxury condominiums? You know how the mayor and the City Council like to keep those developers happy.

Patrick Krishock

Against Super Box Stores

Dear community,

Thank you to *The Austin Chronicle* for running two stories ["Developing Stories," "Beside the Point," News, Dec. 8] about the recent groundswell by Austin neighbors opposed to sly corporate plans to force a massive, uninvited, and unwelcome Wal-Mart in the midst of our communities. Friends, if Wal-Mart and those willing to look the other way (especially those in power) as the megamonster advances have their way, it won't only be the surrounding neighborhoods whose quality of life and property values will suffer. We all will lose. To say that the proposed supersized Wal-Mart threatens the character and culture of our city is no hyperbole.

I've seen the results of superstore invasion in small-town Texas up close and personal. In comes the big, gray super box, and in less than a blink, the little Czech bakeries and groceries are gone; the real taquerias and florists, disappeared; even the locally owned hardware, shoe repair, and feed stores shut down. Village green spaces become miles of parking lot.

Austin is different, right? We value our environment, our music and arts, our homegrown restaurants, our bookstores and unique shops. Or is that nostalgic image someone else's Austin? Everywhere I travel, people say to me, "Oh, Austin is really cool. You're so lucky to live in Austin." I don't think anyone imagines Wal-Mart in Austin city limits.

Is it possible for mere people to stop the spread of such forces of mass community destruction? I guess I always thought that's what Austin's about. Wal-Mart, stay out.

Katherine Durham Oldmixon

[Editor's note: For the record, there are six Wal-Mart outlets in or very near Austin city limits.]

Jim Heffley Will Be Missed

Dear Editor,

Your excellent tribute to the late Jim Heffley ["To Your Health," Dec. 8], my mentor and friend of 30 years, perfectly described his knowledge and compassion, which transformed my life and that of so many others.

All of Dr. Heffley's readers and clients will be happy to know that his wife, Betty, will edit and publish the collection of his 300 "To Your Health" columns in a book to come out in late 2007. At this sad time, we can all look forward to this book soon.

Sue Rickels

Omelettry an Icon!

Dear Editor,

I was shocked when I read the debate of whether or not the Omelettry is an icon or an eyesore ["The People Have Spoken," News, Dec. 8]. I couldn't believe that anyone would consider the joint an eyesore! I'm 88 years old. I live in the Midwest and travel to Austin frequently to see my granddaughters, Abby and Maddie. The

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very first thing I do each time I'm in town is hit the Omelettry for some French toast. Not only is the food top-notch, but the feel of the place is very cool. Believe me, I may be old, but I still know cool. The Omelettry is definitely an icon.

Wilson Saunders

Waterloo, Iowa

Actually There Are Three Independent Business Groups

Dear Editor,

In a sidebar last week titled "Choose Austin First" ["Ho-Ho-Homegrown Holidays," News, Dec. 8], your author wrote, "Oddly enough, Austin has two different indie-biz groups," referring to the Austin Independent Business Alliance and Choose Austin First. I'd like to correct that and add Austin Unique to the list. Unlike AIBA, Austin Unique does not have the financial backing of the creepiest corporate land baron in Austin – Stratus Properties (formerly Freepoint-McMoRan).

As you know, Stratus Properties is the company that sold land to Advanced Micro Devices on Southwest Parkway, where AMD employees will soon bring approximately 2.2 million car

continued on p.12

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UPDATED DAILY



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trips over the aquifer every year (a modest estimate, based on AMD's own assumption that their 2,550 employees will create approximately 9,370 daily car trips collectively and then multiplied by 240 work days).

Stratus Properties owns thousands of acres over the contributing and recharge zones of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer, including the 650 acres upstream from Barton Creek and Sycamore Creek that are slated for massive residential and commercial development, including a golf course.

Stratus Properties is the majority owner of the Downtown development of the W Hotel, luxury condos, the new Children's Museum, and the new *Austin City Limits* studio that will be right next door to City Hall. Bellhops in bow ties will open car doors for business executives staying at the W. Beloved musicians will grace the ACL stage there. Parents will make regular treks with their kids to the museum. Stratus Properties will own a veritable hub of Austin cultural, residential, and commercial life.

Jim Bob Moffett and Freeport McMoRan, the company Austin citizens ran out of City Hall in 1990, have successfully morphed into Stratus Properties, proprietor of "local" culture. Meanwhile, their developments in the vast watershed that feeds the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer will virtually seal the fate of Barton Springs. Will their Downtown development cast a shadow on our City Hall? Will we all get out from behind our computers and take it back?

Susanne Mason

Forever Grateful to Heffley

Dear Editor,

I am so saddened to hear of the passing of James Heffley, Ph.D. ["To Your Health," Dec. 8]. Jim was a gentle giant among us.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2006
AN EXTREMELY SUBJECTIVE AND ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE YEAR IN REVIEW
PART ONE: ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH

JAN. 6: U.S. GENERALS PREDICT THAT VIOLENCE IN IRAQ WILL SOON DECREASE.
AND EVERYONE WILL GET A PONY!
THEY ARE VERY WRONG.

JAN. 8: KNIGHT-RIDDER REPORTS THAT BUSH HAS ISSUED 500 "SIGNING STATEMENTS" SINCE TAKING OFFICE.
HEH, HEH! SURE, I SIGNED THE BILLS--
--BUT I HAD MY FINGERS CROSSED!

FEB. 12: DICK CHENEY SHOOTS GUY IN FACE.
OOPS.
FEB. 17: GUY APOLOGIZES FOR GETTING SHOT.
I'M VERY SORRY TO BE ANY TROUBLE!

MARCH 23: "HELL IN A HANDBASKET" RELEASED TO THE OVERWHELMING MEDIA ACCLAIM IT SO RICHLY DESERVES--
HELL IN HANDBASKET
--IN SOME ALTERNATE UNIVERSE SOMEWHERE.

APRIL 1: NEOCON DANIEL PIPES DECLARES THE IRAQ WAR A SUCCESS.
"WE GOT RID OF SADDAM HUSSEIN. BEYOND THAT IS ICING!"
HE INEXPLICABLY FORGETS TO SAY "APRIL FOOLS!"

APRIL 8: ADMINISTRATION SAID TO BE CONSIDERING USE OF NUKES ON IRAN.
ANAL SPHINCTERS OF WORLD POPULATION CLENCH IN UNISON.

APRIL 18: BUSH SUMS UP THE TOTALITY OF HIS ARROGANCE AND STUPIDITY IN THREE SIMPLE WORDS.
"I'M THE DECIDER!"

APRIL 26: TONY SNOW LEAVES FOX NEWS, BECOMES WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY.
PRESIDENT BUSH IS JUST AND WISE!
FEW VIEWERS NOTICE THE TRANSITION.

MAY 5: PORTER GOSS RESIGNS CIA AMIDST ALLEGATIONS OF HOOKER PARTIES THROWN BY DUKE CUNNINGHAM ASSOCIATE.
AT THE WATERGATE, NO LESS!
MAINSTREAM MEDIA YAWNS.

MAY 12: USA TODAY REPORTS ON MASSIVE NSA DATABASE OF AMERICANS' PHONE CALLS.
BIG DEAL! THE INNOCENT HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE!
EXCEPT ENERGY TASK FORCE RECORDS!

MAY 18: WE LEARN THAT RAMPAGING MARINES SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN HADITHA. CONSERVATIVES ARE OUTRAGED--
--AT THE MEDIA FOR REPORTING THE STORY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

What a dear, dear man. What a loss to us all. How many lives he changed.

I will forever be grateful for Jim's tender heart and great mind. For his willingness to quietly speak the truth to closed minds in positions of power. The world is only now beginning, in some areas, to catch

up with his brilliance. In some areas (example: his support of Ed Snapp, LPT, and his developmental ideas) science is still a long way from catching up, to the detriment of untold numbers.

I was a client of Jim's from 1974, early in his nutritional-counseling practice. I had chronic

fatigue syndrome, and both my children had serious learning and behavioral problems. Before there were any books on the subject, Jim guided me in trying various approaches to finding out and dealing with causes of our problems -- both nutritional and developmental. My children and I made miraculous recoveries from all our problems thanks to Jim's open-minded searching. Jim used methods that the vast majority of medical doctors still don't know about.

Smaller minds called Jim a quack and persecuted him for his intellectual adventurousness. I am so grateful that he endured long enough to have been largely vindicated. My children are both grown now with children of their own, and rather than being the basket cases that they were when they were young, they both live lives that serve humanity, thanks to Jim.

Thanks be to God for the gift of Jim Heffley, and thanks be to the *Chronicle* for keeping his legacy alive through his column.

Sincerely,

Carol Hawkins (used to be Hawkins-Ryder)

Is There No End?

Dear Editor,

I just have to ask: Do we really need another Wal-Mart? Or another Home Depot or Target or Lowe's or any other massive store? Don't we have enough? I was out and about all over town this weekend and took a good look around, and really, I think we're covered. Is there no end to this?

Rebecca Knappe

Men Can't Be Nymphomaniacs

Dear Editor,

In the Dec. 8 *Chronicle*, in his review [Film Listings] of *National Lampoon's Van Wilder: The Rise of Taj*, Marc Savlov referred to a "quartet of

continued on p.14

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brainiac, hooligan, nymphomaniacal gameboys (and one girl)."

A man cannot be a nymphomaniac, as the term refers to a woman with an extreme sex drive. A man in such a condition is a "satyr." I think the term Savlov was looking for was "satirical," not to be confused with "satirical."

James Bankston

Chinese Sweatshops Evil

Dear Editor,

Most of Wal-Mart's goods are made in China. I don't think people really understand how ungodly evil Chinese sweatshop production is.

It isn't just a matter of low wages. The folks who work in sweatshops have been driven from their homes in the country, their farms taken by local communist party bosses for personal gain. Either that or they're officially nonexistent people, off the books from the Chinese one-child policy.

They're driven into the cities, but because of the Chinese residency system, they have next to no rights we assume as automatic. They can't own property. They can't hold formal jobs



(only back-alley sweatshop work and informal construction jobs). They aren't even allowed to rent housing for the most part, living in informal tenements, on rooftops, on the street. They're referred to as a "floating population" and current estimates of their numbers match or exceed the total labor force of the United States.

These aren't just crappy jobs, this is outright abuse: land-grabbing from farmers, taking away the basic rights of citizenship from millions of people, forcing them into horrible working conditions. They're functionally slaves of the Chinese govern-

ment's development policy and American retailers content to sell their own nation's workforce down the river as long as there's loot to be had.

Wal-Mart makes its gold from this. We should drive them out of the community and drive them out of America. At the very least, we shouldn't kowtow to their ambitions for expansion in Austin ["Developing Stories," News, Dec. 8].

Donald Jackson

Who Is to Blame?

Dear Editor:

Re: The Bush administration blaming the Iraqis for the continued violence in this country: Blame the Iraqis? The Bush administration occupied Iraq under false pretenses, put Iraq in chaos, destroyed its infrastructure, and embedded fear into the souls of its citizens. He gave the terrorists a "safe haven" to continue their "dastardly deeds." Now you tell me ... who is to blame?

Jinny Lee
Melrose, Fla.

Almost Always Wrong but Never in Doubt

Dear Editor,

Louis Black's Dec. 8 "Page Two" offers a rare glimmer of hope to the survival of a free humanity. This delicate whisper comes from Mr. Black's conscious recognition that he finds "the Constitution's ideas about government, given the reality of humans, about as brilliant as seems possible." Exactly, but his realization is relevant only if the American people comprehend and accept the moral responsibility of this historical fact.

But here's the existential rub. Fifty years of irrational moral complacency has led a great number of Americans into a neo-leftist utopian box canyon of abject ideological denial of "the reality of humans." Soft material existence has falsely shielded us from the certainty that tyranny always lurks and that freedom can't long exist without constant vigilance. History is replete with this truth. The supreme irony is that the founders' original brilliance - designing the exceptional American democratic republic based on individual freedom

restrained by moral rectitude - was through a direct understanding of "the reality of humans." Sadly, we have lost this historical insight. But if we don't wake up, we are doomed to repeat history ending in tyranny and enslavement.

Today's mortal threat is Islamist fascism - simply recall Sept. 11, 2001. Its leaders and their millions of servile devotees strive to commit genocide, annihilate Western civilization, and enslave all in 10th century Sharia Islam. And only America stands in their way. This reality requires us to clearly understand our global responsibility to consciously and overtly assist in this great cause to save American constitutional liberty. Neo-conservative or neo-leftist, this is now our fight. For if we are defeated, ideology will simply not matter. As previous Americans defeated German Nazism, Japanese imperialism, and Soviet communism, we must likewise defeat Islamist fascist tyranny. Otherwise humanity will soon be condemned to genocide and bondage.

Vance McDonald

McDonald's Moral Compass Just Spins

Dear Editor,

So Vance McDonald thinks it is a fact that most of this country's problems are caused by "clueless Democrats/liberals/progressives" ["Postmarks" online, Dec. 3]. Wow, you would think that conservatives hadn't been in charge of the Congress for the last eight years and of the Congress and the presidency for the last six years. What in the heck were they doing all that time, Vance? Were they trying to reduce our dependence on foreign oil? Nope! That would do a whole lot more to reduce/eliminate Muslim extremists than a war that only converts more to their way of thinking. Instead of this, the administration used Muslim extremists as an excuse to fatten their wallets through government contracts and further the cause of their fanaticism. Iraq is a Muslim terrorist's wet dream. Eisenhower warned us about the dangers of the military-industrial complex, and it is now on full display for all to see. And you, brother, have fallen for it hook, line, and sinker. For my own part, I think we are all much more in danger in the long run from Christian extremists in the U.S. than from the Muslims.

As for other major problems with this country, the last eight years have only shown an increase in the federal deficit, the number of people without health insurance, the decline of our schools, an increasing poverty rate, a turning away from true science toward superstition and myth, etc. It seems to me all of these were made worse by the conservative contingent. I guess whether you think these are problems or not depends on which way your moral compass is pointing.

Steve Coon
Overland Park, Kan.

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Conflict of Interest

Facing corporate tyranny, we're all 'interested parties'

BY MICHAEL KING

Wal-Mart has indeed attained a scale that puts it in a category all its own, and there's no question that it is leading a race to the bottom. But others are running that race too. ... It would be more accurate to view Wal-Mart not as a bad apple, but as the crowning achievement of an economic and political system that has greatly enlarged the power of global corporations and trampled core American values – namely small business, community, local democracy and work.

– Stacy Mitchell, author of *Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses*

By the time most of you read this, the common public sentiment on Wal-Mart's proposed invasion of the near-north side will have been heard loud and clear at City Council today (Thursday), as it has been reverberating through the neighboring streets for the past few weeks. A couple of council members, most prominently Brewster McCracken, have been making stentorian noises that they're going to do something to stop the Bentonville Behemoth, but at this writing it's very unclear what that something might be. City staff – in the person of Assistant City Manager Laura Huffman, pinch-hitting for her recused boss Toby Futrell – supplied a memo last week (see "Beside the Point," p.18) indicating that while the notice of the development given to the neighborhoods on how to become an "interested party", the city's lapse would be insufficient to derail the applicant's (developer Lincoln Property Co.) site plan and Wal-Mart's 219,000-square-foot Supercenter. Some 3,500 instant petition signatures from the immediate Northcross neighbors notwithstanding, Austin's supposedly too-public process – regularly excoriated by the developers and their editorial mouthpieces at the *Statesman* – seems to have once again missed the boat, or at least the site plan.

The result is that several thousand citizens directly affected by one corporate property owner's greed and indifference have no recourse but to shout imprecations at elected officials, while the city staff shrugs timorously and declares, "There's nothing we can do." That should hardly be the last word, and the Northcross neighbors are to be roundly applauded for refusing to accept it. If a Dallas developer and a transnational juggernaut can impose a project this massive and disruptive in the midst of several established, residential neighborhoods, without so much as a public-hearing process to fully address its implications and consequences, then what good is a city government? Perhaps we should send the sales-tax receipts directly to Dallas or Bentonville and eliminate the middlemen?

continued on p.18

KOOP Radio (91.7FM) is homeless no more. After two fires at the station's original address at Fifth and San Jacinto – the first did enormous damage to the studios, and the second, just weeks later, completely destroyed it – and some figurative couch-surfing at the KMFA studios, the all-volunteer community station finally broadcast from its new digs at 3823 Airport on Saturday. Signing KOOP onto the air at 9am was Thomas Durnin – the same deejay who did the station's very first sign-on back in 1994. Here, he holds a brick from the original studios while fellow programmer Nelin Hudani looks on.

JOHN ANDERSON



HEADLINES

- ▶ Forget "Must-See TV"; today's best TV viewing may be on the city's Channel 6, during what could be a lengthy citizens communication period at the City Council meeting – three council members added the **Wal-Mart/Northcross Mall** controversy to the agenda, so expect fireworks aplenty. See "Point Austin," "Beside the Point," and p.20.
- ▶ **Ramon Hernandez**, whose beating by Austin police was taped on patrol-car video cameras last year, has filed a civil rights lawsuit against APD and the officers involved. More on this next week.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ The **Housing Authority of the City of Austin** is trying to ease concerns about plans to demolish 144 units of public housing at **Thurmond Heights** on Lamar. At two hearings this week on HACA's five-year strategic plan, CEO Jim Hargrove tackled the issue head on, saying it was true that HACA was looking at Thurmond Heights as a site for possible redevelopment – and that would likely involve the demolition of existing aging apartment units – but that no affordable housing would be lost in the process. HACA is reviewing all its properties for redevelopment, searching for possible new revenue sources. One option is to tear down Thurmond Heights, rebuild 300 moderate-priced apartments, and then either lease or sell off parcels on the frontage road of Lamar to commercial developers. To do that, though, will require an extensive study, the release of the property deed from HUD, and a plan to replace the affordable housing, either on-site, in other parts of the city, or through vouchers. Hargrove urged attendees at this week's public hearings not to panic, saying he won't forget the interests of Austin's lowest-income residents in upcoming decision-making. – Kimberly Reeves
- ▶ Planning has begun, once again, on **Republic Square Park**. A rather ambitious plan, designed by TBG Partners with a large water wall element by sculptor Jesús Morales, stalled a couple of years ago when funding to the Texas Commission on the Arts, the project's bene-

factor, was cut. A new task force began meeting last week; this time the facilitator is provided by the General Services Administration, which has taken an interest in the landscaping around the new federal courthouse, which will open onto Republic Square. Funding for the park remains a bit sketchy, but TBG Partners remains the lead architect on the project. – K.R.

- ▶ In other city-planning news, the Planning Commission declined to support zoning for a **point tower on West Seventh Street** Tuesday night. The 32-story tower, planned by CLB Partners on land owned by Mike McGinnis at Seventh and Rio Grande, was broadly supported by Downtown boosters but nixed by a couple of neighboring business owners and the Austin Woman's Club, which is located on San Antonio Street. The 400-foot-tall point-tower concept allowed CLB to put in two stories of underground parking and preserve 616 Ranch, which sits on the property. At the final vote, Planning Commission agreed to a less intense zoning that would allow a height of 120 feet. One analysis of the vote was that the staff recommendation and the commissioners clearly split over where high-density towers should begin and end Downtown. Should tall towers be allowed north of Sixth Street, especially in an area of historic homes? Or is Seventh, in this case, acceptable? Council will have the final say, probably at the end of January. – K.R.
- ▶ Like an early Christmas gift, holiday **property-tax bills** have been delivered to many area homes. Tax collector-assessor Nelda Wells Spears estimates that 235,000 already have hit local mailboxes. The due date for Travis County – whether it's you or your escrow company paying – is Jan. 31. But those who want a federal deduction for this year must get their taxes paid by Dec. 30, since Dec. 31 is a Sunday. Tax bills can be found online at www.traviscountytx.org, requested by mail, or by calling 854-9473. Call that same number during business hours to get help with a tax bill. You can pay in person, by mail, online, or by telephone. – K.R.
- ▶ **Tamara Hoover**, the former Austin High art teacher who was forced out of her job after appearing in nude art photos online, will soon be back in the classroom. According to her MySpace blog, she'll be teaching two

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Make no mistake, this is not going to be over on Thursday. Whether or not the council votes to rescind the site plan, we will continue the fight. This Wal-Mart is not going in our neighborhood."

– **Jason Meeker** of Responsible Growth for Northcross

The Ghost of Christmas Future

We don't yet know what effect an aroused citizenry will have on the Lincoln/Wal-Mart plan for Northcross. But we certainly know, alas, what will happen if the opposition movement fails, and the Wal-Mart faux-"new urban" Supercenter is duly installed in one of Austin's most stable neighborhoods. I asked Stacy Mitchell, senior researcher at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance and the author of *Big-Box Swindle*, what the neighbors might expect.

"The most immediate effects over the first couple of years," she said, "are things like traffic, noise, trash, police calls, and physical quality of life. A store that size, in 24-hour operation, generates at least 10,000 vehicle trips a day. There will be several tractor-trailer deliveries every day, and Wal-Mart prefers that they occur in low-traffic hours in the middle of the night – so they idle loudly in the parking lot at 3am, under high-intensity lights. That's in addition to traffic generated on neighborhood streets.

"But the long-term effects are economic. The enormous store is based on a business model of single, weekly shopping trips in automobiles and on cannibalizing nearby stores, even other nearby big boxes. Nearby grocery stores

If a developer and a transnational juggernaut can impose a project this massive and disruptive in the midst of several established, residential neighborhoods, without so much as a public hearing to address its implications and consequences, then what good is a city government?

are usually the first to succumb, and if they're anchor stores in other shopping districts, additional stores follow. That inevitably means job losses – the best study we have over time, from UC-Irvine, concluded that for every Wal-Mart Supercenter built in California, there was a net loss of 180 jobs." Moreover, the retail jobs provided by Wal-Mart are low-paying, part-time, and generally requiring social-service subsidies of all kinds – a calculated corporate imposition of private business costs on the public at large.

That means that the repeated assurances from Wal-Mart spokesmen that the store will generate traffic for neighboring businesses are inherently untrue – the Wal-Mart business model requires the exact opposite. A further consequence is that most money spent in chain stores – 83 cents of every dollar – exits the community, while roughly 45 cents of every dollar spent in a locally owned store is recirculated in the local economy, generating local economic activity and therefore more jobs.

And it also firmly contradicts city official and chamber of commerce presumptions that any kind of economic development is by definition good – if we lose jobs, money, and neighborhoods by the transaction, Austinites will effectively be subsidizing Lincoln Property Co. and Wal-Mart for the benefit of the corporations and their stockholders. "To satisfy Wall Street investors," Mitchell said, "Wal-Mart must add eight percent of floor space internationally every year – that's now roughly 65 million square feet a year. That's why they keep expanding, in this market-saturation model, until they begin cannibalizing their own nearby stores, close those, and move on."

Under these circumstances, every single Austin citizen is *by definition* an "interested party" in the Northcross fight, and one-site zoning procedures designed to address neighborhood liquor stores or dental offices are simply not adequate to the task at hand. At a minimum, the ex post

facto outcry over Northcross will likely result in the passage of a big-box ordinance – too late to help the near north-side neighborhoods, which, if Wal-Mart gets its way, will be hollowed out like a Halloween pumpkin. In a few years, what's left of these instant suburbanites will be able to shop at either Wal-Mart or Lowe's – or else drive to the Arboretum. Adding a few cosmetic "urban design" elements to the Supercenter facade will do nothing to stop that devolution. How can that outcome possibly provide for the greater good of Austin and its citizens?

Welcome to Pottersville

A couple of readers have pointed out to me the curious coincidence of City Manager Toby Futrell's conflict-of-interest declaration to me, last January, over the Bill Moriarty affair – Moriarty having been forced out of directing the city's Clean Water Program because of, as Futrell put it, the *appearance* of a conflict of interest with his partner Diane Hyatt, a program subcontractor ("Point Austin," Jan. 25). "To me," the city manager said at the time, "that raises a judgment issue, that raises a conflict-of-interest issue, and that raises a realm-of-influence issue. ... These are high-level principles with a whole host of ramifications." Futrell pontificated thusly within a few days of filing her own conflict-of-interest disclosure over her husband's employment as an HVAC service manager for Wal-Mart – and within a few days of Lincoln's filing of the site plan for Northcross. None of which was publicly known until *Chronicle* writers Wells Dunbar and Katherine Gregor reported it last week, after which Futrell abruptly recused herself of any further Wal-Mart dealings – a considerable while after the Northcross horse had left the big-box barn.

In the days since, city officials have repeatedly denied dragging their feet on the big-box ordinance over the summer, even as the Northcross project was very quietly wending its way through the approval process – only to be sprung on the neighborhoods when it was "too late" to do anything about it and "too soon" for the big-box ordinance to have any effect. At a minimum – to coin a phrase – these curious coincidences raise judgment issues, raise conflict-of-interest issues, and raise realm-of-influence issues. These are – to cite the city manager – high-level principles with a whole host of ramifications.

I frankly don't know whether there were any direct conflicts of interest or personal interventions affecting the big-box ordinance process or the Northcross zoning process. But these were nonetheless entirely too opaque for adequate, let alone good, government. Readers can certainly draw their own conclusions. But it seems patently true that the city still much too often treats undifferentiated "economic development" – regardless of its actual consequences on the community at large – as an unquestionable good. And it also appears true that city officials, elected and appointed, heavily influenced by a notoriously craven legal department, inevitably quail at the prospect of defending well-established city priorities against the financial and legal intimidation of major property owners, especially absentee corporations. I might even say I fully understand their trepidation. But it's no fun to watch, nor certainly to be subject to.

Despite years of intense public engagement, city officials still seem not to fully understand that Austinites take local community, local democracy, local business, and the value of labor very seriously. We expect our elected officials to defend those values against the bullying expectations and demands of big money, big property, and deep-pocketed investors determined to siphon away community wealth, economic independence, and political and cultural autonomy. I do believe that if the council shows some spine on these issues, citizens will stand behind them, and together we can begin to face down the corporate bully boys. No matter how much they like to loudly insist otherwise, their interests are in direct and mortal conflict with our own. ■

BESIDE THE POINT Neighborhoods Stolen; Big-Box Door to Close?

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Today (Thursday) City Council wraps up its holiday shopping, plopping the hottest present of the season under its crowded Christmas tree: Item 82, the **Northcross/Wal-Mart controversy**, a late agenda addition from Brewster McCracken, Jennifer Kim, and Sheryl Cole. Signs council would undertake what McCracken calls a "warts-and-all" accounting of the supercenter plans, distinct from the proposed **big-box ordinance** (also up today), brewed over the weekend, as neighbors petitioned ferociously and McCracken told KVUE-TV, "We do have grounds – in fact, a legal responsibility – to stop this site plan."

McCracken's declaration followed a Friday memo issued by Assistant City Manager **Laura Huffman** (acting in **Toby Futrell's** recused capacity), reviewing the process that approved the Wal-Mart. In McCracken's eyes, Huffman's memo spelled out one "pretty significant" problem with the legal notice requirements to neighbors: Info regarding how they could become an "interested party in an administrative decision process" was not distributed to neighbors. In fact, for whatever reasons, says the memo, "for at least 10 years, the City's notice, including the Northcross Mall notice, has not included this information." Despite the decade lapse, McCracken noted the irony of "the very thing [behind the controversy] – the lack of public notice," perhaps being the balky wheel on Wal-Mart's express shopping cart.

That's an economy-sized *if*. Returning to the lack of noticing, Huffman's memo continues: "Could this be used to revoke or deny the site plan?" The answer? "No. A deficiency in the notice is not a deficiency in the application submitted and does not affect the validity of the director's decision." Still, the extra information "interested parties" are privy to – "extension requests, phasing decisions, approval of the site plan," and more – reads like a shopping list of items neighbors say they were left clueless about and which, had they been known at the time, could have impacted the site plan, or at least brought neighborhood pressure down earlier. (McCracken said Huffman had earlier suggested that the lack of specific notice would be enough to revoke the site plan approval – but her formal memo indicates otherwise. Do we detect the pusillanimous odor of the legal department?)

"You have a requirement in legal proceedings to notice," McCracken said. "We're just saying these notice requirements weren't followed." Whether council finds sufficient legal footing to check Wal-Mart and Lincoln Properties out of Northcross, or at least roll them back to the drawing board, remains to be seen. But should they decide to take action, the agenda posting language is broad enough. "What if we learn something Thursday and decide to give direction?" McCracken continued. "Otherwise, we'd have to sit and wait a month [until council's next meeting in January], and by then Northcross is torn down. ... We have to be ready to take action."

And then there's the big-box ordinance itself, which would require expanded notice and conditional use permitting for stores larger than 100,000 square feet. (Does that mean Wal-Mart, at 217,000, needs two clearances? Nope, already approved. It skirts the ordinance.) With angry **Responsible Growth for Northcross** members descending on City Hall at noon, potentially by the hundreds, the ordinance's passage – not too little, but apparently too late – seems a fait accompli. Which makes widespread speculation that city staff intentionally stalled its approval process all the more delicious. Left to run its course earlier this year, before the Mark of the Bentonville Beast was branded on Burnet and Anderson, it wasn't the current cause célèbre: Potentially too middling to development foes, and too much to developers, it didn't generate much heat beyond a core group of Liveable Citizens.

Now, with six pissed-off neighborhood groups on the city's hands, it's a quite different story.

It may seem otherwise, but there's more to running a city than scar-ing off Old Man Walton. In council's last meeting of the year, there's much to be considered, including: Item 41 creates a **bond oversight committee** to guard the funds approved in last month's election, and Item 43 spends \$1,415,000 of those dollars for an **Eastside park** at Oak Springs Drive. Item XX sends Great Streets funds to the Ballet Austin site. And rounding things out are a 2pm briefing on the city's **homeless services**, proclamations declaring **Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos Day**, and bidding farewell to the **Cadeau** gift shop. As one shop leaves ... does another bulldoze the neighborhood? ■

continuing-education courses this spring at **Austin Community College:** "Urban Art," which is for students interested in the art movement that includes street art and skate art, and a mixed-media art class, which will include three-dimensional works. — *Michael May*

▶ In other education news, AISD is urging parents to take advantage of the **free tutoring** available under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The tutoring, known as Supplemental Educational Services, is only available for certain students — those who are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch and who go to a Title 1 school that has been deemed "in need of improvement" by NCLB for two years or more. In Austin, these schools are Dobie and Porter middle schools and Johnston, Lanier, Travis, and Reagan high schools. According to AISD, less than 2% of eligible students are receiving tutoring, which is provided before or after school or on weekends. Parents and students can get more info from their principals and guidance counselors or by visiting www.austinisnd.org. — *M.M.*

Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos**, D-Austin, bid farewell to his 20-year tenure as chair of CAMPO's Transportation Policy Board on Monday night. He warned against the bashing of the board's members in his final speech, saying that some of the more scurrilous accusations were far from true. "When you call people names and make baseless accusations about their character, people stop listening to you," he said. "We're all in this together. We all have to pay tolls." Barrientos is not alone in leaving. Four other board members — Frankie Limmer, Jim Powers, Terry Keel, and Karen Sonleitner — all served their last meeting. — *K.R.*

▶ On a related note, friends, family, and complete strangers are invited to a big, **public farewell party** Friday for Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos**. Empty pockets aren't a problem, but bring cash if you want food and drink. Barrientos, who represented Austin in both the House and Senate for three decades, is retiring at the end of the year. Tejano music — the senator's favorite — is on tap, with Little Joe y la Familia and Ruben Ramos providing it. Festivities begin with a 5:30pm reception at the Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd. Music kicks off at 8:30pm; last dance 11:30pm. — *Amy Smith*

▶ Those who have comments on the region's toll road plans — or questions about the recent mobility study of toll roads — can attend a meeting Thursday at the Round Rock Main Library, 216 E. Main, in Round Rock. It runs from 4 to 9pm, with two identical two-hour information sessions on the region's upcoming three-year **Transportation Improvement Program**. (Written comments on the plan will be taken by mail, fax, or e-mail until Jan. 26.) The toll roads either will or will not be part of that plan when CAMPO's Transportation Policy Board votes in February. Given the expected attendance, CAMPO has moved its January and February meetings to the Commons Center, UT's J.J. Pickle Research Campus, 10100 Burnet Rd. The LBJ Library Auditorium at UT, typically used for CAMPO's larger gatherings, is under renovation. — *K.R.*

In anticipation that City Council will enact an ordinance to ban **dog chaining or tethering** in January, Chain Free Austin, the volunteer group that proposed such a measure in August, has launched a fencing assistance fund drive to help low-income families buy fence materials. The proposed ban — born out of USDA and vet-backed claims that chaining is cruel to dogs and dangerous for passersby (especially children) — is being reviewed by city staff, will go before the Animal Advisory Commission Dec. 19, and should appear on City Council's agenda by early 2007. Many folks may choose to bring their dog inside and exercise it as needed, if the ban passes, according to Chain Free, but if outdoor confinement is the only option, residents could choose a fenced enclosure with shelter. Dorinda Pulliam, director of the Town Lake Animal Shelter, who is reviewing the ordinance for the city, explained how a few kinks involving minimum enclosure size are being worked out to ensure that yardless people aren't forced to give up pets. Outdoor kenneling and indoor crating are OK, Pulliam said, as long as the dog gets out when its owner gets home. Find more, see www.chainfreeaustin.org. — *Daniel Mottola*

▶ **Austin Yellow Bike Project's Open House and Bicycle Drive** is Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 5pm. Formed in 1997 after branching off from the local version of national group Bikes Not Bombs, the all-volunteer YBP hopes to acquaint the community with its main shop, at 2013 E. 51st, where the famous yellow bikes are assembled from salvage parts before being released for free throughout Austin and — more importantly — where the group's fully stocked bike-repair workshop is open to the public for free six nights a week. On a solemn note, though, the open house is also a networking opportunity for YBP's future, since the 51st Street shop, a former Austin Fire Department warehouse donated by the city, will be demolished in late 2007 to make room for one of the Mueller redevelopment's new roads. Bicycle and parts donations will be accepted at the event. For more, see www.austinyellowbike.org. — *D.M.*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ Voters in **Congressional District 23** added yet another nail in Tom DeLay's coffin on Tuesday — Democrat **Ciro Rodríguez** won the run-off in the special election for that seat, ousting incumbent **Henry Bonilla** with 54% of the vote. The win was sweet revenge for Rodríguez, who represented CD 28 from 1997 to 2005 but got pushed out of office by DeLay's 2003 re-districting scheme. DeLay, the disgraced former House majority leader, redrew CD 23's boundaries in 2003 specifically to protect Bonilla, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled this summer that the move violated the voting rights of Hispanics in Southwest Texas, redrew the boundaries again and ordered a special election. Rodríguez suddenly found that he was a resident of the San Antonio-to-El Paso CD 23 and entered the race, giving him a chance not only to head back

to Washington but also to stick it to both of the men who pushed him out in the first place. This brings the Dem total in the House to 233. — *Lee Nichols*

▶ In a news conference on Capitol Hill Tuesday, Rep. George Miller, the incoming chair of the Committee on Education and Workforce, promised a swift reauthorization of the federal **No Child Left Behind** Act, dashing any hopes that Democrats would be tossing out President George W. Bush's high-profile school-accountability system. NCLB was modeled on, and frequently has conflicted with, Texas' own school-accountability system. Miller also promised that Dems would cut the interest rate on college loans in half to make college affordable for middle-class students. — *K.R.*

▶ Just when you think **Rick Perry** is really trying hard to change his polarizing ways, he appoints a controversial gay-baiting preacher to his 2007 Texas Inaugural Committee. Aren't inaugurations supposed to be festive? Not with a buzz kill like **Dwight McKissic** on the team. The Arlington minister joins a who's who of country-club Republicans on the committee, chaired by Houston socialite Mica Mosbacher and co-chaired by UT System Board Chair James Huffines and Dallas banker Jody Grant. McKissic, Perry's pick, is always a big hit at right-wing hate rallies, but you have to wonder what Perry was thinking when he tapped the angry rev to help plan the Jan. 16 event around the theme "Texas: Imagine the Possibilities." With McKissic on board, we imagine anything is possible. The last time Perry and the preacher shared a stage together, McKissic created an ugly uproar by suggesting that gays and gamblers were to blame for Katrina's deadly destruction in New Orleans. Afterward, a Perry spokesman said the governor didn't agree with the sentiment but that he can't go around muzzling every idiot with whom he shares a stage. No, he just appoints him to his inauguration committee. — *A.S.*

▶ In other gubernatorial personnel news, Perry has promoted Press Secretary **Kathy Walt** to special assistant for communications, while **Robert Black** — Perry's officious spokesman during this year's election rout — advances to chief talker for the governor's office and speechwriter **Ted Royer** will become deputy press secretary. In her new job, Walt will help direct the Governor's Competitive Council, the latest of Perry's economic development initiatives. The new council, still in its formation stages, will combine the wisdom of private industries and the education communities in an effort to fatten Texas' economic opportunities. And just think what it might do for Perry's political career as a potential VP nominee. To be sure, Walt will have her work cut out for her. Her new duties will also require her to cajole state agencies into doing their part to bang the drum in support of Perry's public-policy initiatives, no matter how costly or half-baked some of them might be. In other staff changes, **Luis Saenz**, the strategic brains behind Perry's re-election campaign, will start the new year as a lobbyist, the *Statesman* reports. — *A.S.*

▶ Two-thirds of Texans oppose the construction of new **proposed coal-fired power plants**, with 47% strongly opposing, while an overwhelming 81% reject Gov. Perry's executive order to fast-track the plants' permits, according to a survey of 600 randomly selected Texans released Dec. 6 by the Environmental Integrity Project. The survey, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, found that only 22% of Republicans favored Perry's fast-tracking tactics. While 82% voiced concern about the health risks associated with the plants, 47% said they're "not aware at all" of Gov. Perry's fast-track orders. And 74% would prefer to see major conservation efforts undertaken to offset a significant portion of the electricity that's required from the new coal plants, according to the study. "Texans do not want to see the state short-change the deliberate review that should take place to determine what would be very serious environmental and health downsides of these needlessly dirty power sources," said EIP counsel Ilan Levin. — *D.M.*

▶ On a related note, if you still haven't seen **An Inconvenient Truth**, former VP Al Gore's documentary on the global-warming crisis, there will be numerous watching parties nationwide on Saturday, Dec. 16, sponsored by AlGore.com and MoveOn.org, including several here in Austin. To find one near you, go to www.moveon.org/event/events/index.html?action_id=69, and enter your ZIP code. — *L.N.*

▶ The number of **death sentences handed down in state courts** is down 65% over the last 10 years — from 40 in 1996 to only 15 in 2005 — in keeping with a nationwide decline that saw 125 death sentences handed down last year from an average of about 300 a decade ago, according to the Texas Office of Court Administration. Notably, the statewide decline included a significant drop in Harris Co. — the country's leader in handing out, and carrying out, death as punishment — where 16 death sentences were handed out in 1996, and just three were delivered last year. The reduction there comes as no surprise to the folks at the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, which suspects problems with the Houston PD crime lab, combined with the serious questions about wrongful conviction and execution, may have impacted even seemingly death-happy Houston. — *Jordan Smith*

▶ The official city of Taylor Web site describes the Williamson County town as a "vibrant, growing community of about 15,000 residents poised for retail, commercial, and residential growth." It just so happens that one of its fastest-growing residential facilities is the **T. Don Hutto Residential Facility**, owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America, a for-profit private prison company. The jail is the second in the nation to imprison — or, in the preferred vernacular when referring to noncitizen prisoners, detain — entire families until they are granted asylum, secure a bond for their release, or are deported. A new group, Texans United for Families, has organized an open vigil to attract public attention to what is becoming one of Texas' best-kept secrets. They'll gather in Austin at 9:45am on Saturday at the ACLU office, 1210 Rosewood, to form a caravan to the facility. — *Diana Welch*



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Mart Growth

Will the city stand up for its neighborhoods and urban vision?

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Who would the city rather get sued by – its citizens and neighborhood associations, or Wal-Mart? That’s shaping up as the unpleasant choice for City Council in the heated battle over Lincoln Property Co.’s plans to bring a gargantuan Wal-Mart Supercenter to the site of Northcross Mall. The surrounding neighborhoods, collectively organized as Responsible Growth for Northcross (RG4N), have asked council to revoke the project’s entire site plan; council members say they would love nothing better, as Lincoln Property’s Seventies-style mall redevelopment scheme is wholly out of

DEVELOPING STORIES

sync with the city’s new-era urban planning efforts. But city managers and city legal seem terrified of getting slapped with a lawsuit by the billions-deep retail behemoth; they’ve sternly warned council that it has no legal grounds to revoke the site plan – approved Aug. 8 through an administrative process that allowed for no city input or public hearing.

The neighborhoods’ objections focus on what they see as the inappropriate, and insufficiently planned, scale of the project. (For more, see last week’s “Developing Stories.”) The proposed Wal-Mart would become the largest single store in Travis Co. at more than 217,000 square feet, larger than Cabela’s superstore in Buda; and it would be the anchor of a project that, overall, would up Northcross’ retail space from 375,000 square feet to more than 415,000. Increased noise and light pollution and tractor-trailer traffic are all serious concerns of neighboring residents. So is gridlocked traffic; the developer’s own estimates show that their redeveloped Northcross would triple traffic, from 8,000 to 25,000 car trips a day. That could so clog Anderson Lane that drivers would spill over to residential streets like Shoal Creek Boulevard. The Wal-Mart “doesn’t belong in a neighborhood; it belongs on a major highway,” said RG4N spokesman Jason Meeker. “And if it comes to the middle of our neighborhood, it de facto will turn Anderson Lane into a major highway.”

While they don’t talk about it much directly, dislike for Wal-Mart’s avaricious corporate policies clearly has also colored the neighborhoods’ NIMBY sentiments. Some e-mails blasted out by residents have fanned fears of crime, with comments suggesting that the kind of people who shop at Wal-Mart don’t belong in their neighborhood. But Meeker said, “We have a proclamation on our Web site that we will not support racist or prejudicial arguments of any kind. The leadership of the group has been adamant about that. That is not what this argument is about.”

The tensions rising have included friction between city management and City Council.

City Manager Toby Futrell recently recused herself from any direct decision-making about the site (after being questioned by the *Chronicle* about a conflicts disclosure statement showing that her husband works for Wal-Mart). Futrell punted to Assistant City Manager Laura Huffman, who oversees all of the relevant city departments. They’ve taken the passive position that their powers are limited to ensuring code compliance, so there’s no way they could positively affect a private developer’s plans. But few who understand the tremendous power and development-community relationships in the city manager’s office fully buy that argument.

Among those irritated by city management’s public assertions that there’s “nothing the city can do” is Council Member Brewster McCracken. “It’s a very unfortunate attitude,” he said. “It’s not how we do it Downtown.” McCracken has been particularly critical of Lincoln Property’s scheme, which willfully ignores the progressive urban-planning intentions he shepherded in as city policy in May of 2005, officially adopted as the city’s new Design Standards and Mixed-Use ordinance in August. “Just because something complies [with zoning code], that doesn’t mean it’s not a bad idea, from an infrastructure or urban-planning perspective,” McCracken pointed out. Conveying a sense of civic betrayal, he noted that Wal-Mart agent Richard Suttle sat on the task force that crafted the new design standards – which he then turned around and helped his client to outrun.

“Just because something complies [with zoning code], that doesn’t mean it’s not a bad idea, from an infrastructure or urban planning perspective.”

– Brewster McCracken

As for the excuse proffered by Futrell and Huffman that they knew nothing about the site plan, McCracken said, “Management should have a process to find out about projects with a heavy public responsibility.” He questioned why they do not receive weekly briefings, for example, from staff knowledgeable about private-developer plans for key sites like Northcross Mall.

Said Mayor Will Wynn through a staffer, “We obviously have a serious gap in our system when retailers of this magnitude can go through the process, follow all the rules, and citizens and our boards and commissions never get an opportunity for formal public input.”

Meanwhile, RG4N and other community members have scrambled over the past week



If anyone wonders what kind of reception Wal-Mart will receive in the Northcross Mall location, drive around Crestview, Allandale, and other surrounding neighborhoods, where these signs are sprouting up like weeds.

to find a fatal flaw – something, anything – in the site plan and its approval process that could provide council with solid legal grounds to revoke it. In a Dec. 11 letter to the mayor and council, RG4N cited a number of such flaws. One possible angle was that the existing “GR” zoning does not allow a plant nursery; yet the site plan shows a 5,000-square-foot garden center. (Assistant city attorney Martha Terry said that as an “accessory use” it would be permitted.) Most compelling is that the city failed to properly notify surrounding property owners of how to become an “interested party” in opposition to the site plan application. Without that status, they were unable to intervene. Both Mayor Wynn and McCracken were quoted on television news over the weekend, say RG4N advocates, stating that they believed the city’s improper notification provided sufficient legal grounds to revoke the site plan. But on Tuesday, Huffman stated unequivocally in an interview with the *Chronicle*, attended by city legal staff, that the city could not revoke a site plan due to its own error.

City officials simultaneously backed off their assertions. The reason was hinted at by Huffman; a memo she sent Dec. 8 states about the required “interested party” notification, “For at least 10 years, the city’s notice, including the Northcross Mall notice, has not included this information.” So, she said in an interview, “It would be hard to pull one site out.” That is, if the city allowed its notice error to be grounds for rescinding the site plan at Northcross, it would open a decade-deep can of worms that could call into question every project approved in the past 10 years.

“Justice isn’t being served by them taking that stance,” said Brigid Shea, a former City Council member who is on the board of RG4N and Liveable City, a nonprofit focused on urban quality-of-life issues. “They should be siding with the citizens, and it feels like they’re not. It seems like they’re willing to sell us out.”

This week, RG4N focused its prodigious energies on getting the Northcross project on the council’s Dec. 14 agenda – before the council takes a nearly one-month break.

According to RG4N’s Meeker, the group heard late Friday that the council had decided not to consider the matter this week, citing fears of getting sued. Neighborhood residents were so outraged – particularly given Lincoln Property’s announced plans to start demolishing Northcross before council would even reconvene – that they mobilized over the weekend to collect an impressive 3,500-plus signatures (a rate of about 300/hour) on a petition demanding that council consider the matter this week. On Monday they delivered the petition to City Hall, with multiple TV news cameras rolling; Council Members McCracken, Jennifer Kim, and Sheryl Cole responded by getting a staff presentation on Northcross placed on Thursday’s agenda. That could result in a council direction to the city manager to ... do something.

(On Wednesday morning, Council Member Mike Martinez announced that he had negotiated an agreement with Wal-Mart for a self-imposed 60-day project moratorium; Lincoln Property attorney Steve Drenner participated in the meeting, and it appeared at press time that the developer would join the moratorium.)

McCracken pointed out a strange limit to the council’s powers: they’ve been told they have no authority to revoke the site plan unless the city gets sued by someone over it. “It’s unfortunate we have to force our constituents to sue us in order to act in their interests,” he said with obvious frustration. “But unless we get sued, we don’t have authority.” As he sees it, doing what’s safe from a legal perspective is different from doing what’s right. “Part of our job is to provide leadership. If we see something going on that’s wrong, the public rightfully expects us to do something about it.”

“We could go to court – but it’s a long, expensive process,” noted Kim. “And then we have to worry about the legislature, which has not been kind to the city doing anything to limit property rights.” Cole was even less enthusiastic about acting to put the city in legal jeopardy, though she sympathized with the neighborhoods’ concerns.

Like everyone interviewed, Kim hopes that a dialogue with the developer and tenant can get

"Why aren't [city officials] standing up for us, instead of for Wal-Mart? ... I want them to stand with their constituents."

— Brigid Shea

them to voluntarily change course: "Everything can still be undone." Kim said she'd hop a flight to Bentonville, Ark., if it would help to work things out at Wal-Mart headquarters. "If Lincoln, as well as Wal-Mart, wants to have a future in Austin, it's in their best interests to work with us," Kim asserted. "I think it's in their financial best interests, in their business interests." Making a huge enemy of the city at this point isn't smart, she implied: "They're going to need something at some point." Reportedly, Lincoln Property has purchased as many as 10 shopping centers around Austin in the past year.

Preparing for four-way negotiations, the attorneys are suiting up. Lincoln Property has hired Drenner; he, like Suttle, has strong ties to city management, but reportedly a better track record of supporting community goals by seeking "win-win" solutions concurrent with his client's interests. RG4N is represented by Doug Young and Brad Rockwell, land-use attorneys with Scanlan, Buckle & Young. In addition,

said Shea, RG4N has "a whole team of 12 to 15 attorneys who are volunteering on our experts committee." But Shea urged council and the city to stand tough and act in the public interest, rather than force Austinites to go broke suing them. "Why aren't they standing up for us, instead of for Wal-Mart?" said Shea. "I want them to stand with their constituents."

Indeed, the mayor and sitting council members (except Kim) were voted in by the neighborhoods now pleading for support and won those neighborhoods by large margins. According to political consultant Mike Blizzard, "All of the precincts in that area — which covers Rosedale, Allandale, Brentwood, and Crestview — are very high-turnout precincts; it's one of the biggest voting blocs in the city. Nine times out of 10, when you win these precincts in a city election, you've won the election." While he doubted that this one issue would drive voting decisions in future council races, Blizzard said, "In a close election it might make a difference."

Said RG4N's Meeker: "Make no mistake, this is not going to be over on Thursday. Whether or not the council votes to rescind the site plan, we will continue the fight. This Wal-Mart is not going in our neighborhood."

"No one has properly gauged the civil outrage within our neighborhoods," Meeker said. "It is proportional to the size of that building. This isn't some fashionable Wal-Mart protest. There will be protests. There will be civil disobedience. There will be bodies in front of bulldozers. People are so angry about it, they're speaking with fire in their eyes." ■

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Homelessness: The big picture

When nighttime temperatures dipped into the 20s a couple of weeks back, a handful of local churches opened up their doors to the homeless. As usual, the **Austin Resource Center for the Homeless**’ 175 beds were all taken; next door, the **Salvation Army**’s 100 slots reserved for homeless males were filled as well. Anywhere between 50 and 70 people typically spill into the church shelters when they open on nights the temperature falls to 32 degrees, said **Carol Swicker**, program director with **Front Steps**, formerly the Capital Area Homeless Alliance.

According to an analysis of the local homeless situation released last month by the **Community Action Network**, a public-private partnership between local organizations, government offices, businesses, and individuals with a focus on health and well-being issues in Austin and Travis County, the shelter-seeking crowd made up only a fraction of Austin’s homeless population. Among the highlights of **“Facts and Questions About Homelessness,”** an update of CAN’s 2001 “Homelessness Assessment Report” and its 2002 Homelessness FAQ (see www.caction.org/reports.htm), are these disconcerting statistics, paraphrased directly from the analysis:

- Over a 12-month period, there were more than 6,200 homeless people in the Austin area.
- From Sept. 12, 2005, to Sept. 12, 2006, 6,242 unique individuals received services from Austin-area homeless service providers (Homeless Management Information System).
- On any given day, there are about 4,000 homeless individuals, 1,900 of them Downtown (Homeless Count 2004).
- More than 1,500 children are affected by homelessness in AISD. In this school year, AISD Project Help served 1,556 homeless students. (See p.80 for more on Project Help.)
- The high cost of living contributes to homelessness. Austin has the highest housing costs for an urban area in Texas (Texas A&M Real Estate Center Report 2005).
- Low wages contribute to homelessness. Of the top 10 occupational categories in the Austin area, nearly 30% of jobs have a median wage under \$10 an hour (WorkSource).

“The primary reasons that people become and remain homeless are poverty and lack of resources” – specifically, a lack of affordable housing – said **Rick Rivera**, chair of Austin’s **Homeless Task Force**, one of CAN’s several planning arms. Unfortunately, Austin has plenty of the former and a scarcity of the latter. According to U.S. census figures, 15.7% of Travis Co. residents live below the federal poverty line – \$19,350 for a family of four. Considering that federal poverty line numbers tend to be conservative estimates, the 15.7% figure only hints at the extent of poverty here. (For more, see “Beyond the Poverty Line,” Jan. 20, 2006.)

Unless you’ve been living on another planet, you’re already aware that affordable housing is hard to come by in the Austin area, where, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment is \$836. According to **Lisa Garcia**, vice president of assisted housing for the **Housing Authority**

of the **City of Austin**, about 5,900 families are on the local waiting list for Section 8 vouchers and 4,680 are on the list for public housing.

Despite the gloomy stats, however, Austin was one of a select number of local governments across the country recognized in a report released Oct. 31 by the **National Alliance to End Homelessness** for its efforts to work with its homeless population. (For more, see “A New Vision: What Is in Community Plans to End Homelessness?,” www.naeh.org/content/article/detail/1397.) However, without a combination of good affordable-housing programs and significant homelessness-prevention plans in place, well-intended community efforts to make a dent in



The 175-bed Austin Resource Center for the Homeless holds a nightly bed lottery. Managers say the center is able to accommodate everyone on most nights, but the recent cold weather has resulted in extra-long lines, and there are plans to increase the capacity to 200 the next time the temperature dips to freezing. These people are waiting in the alley behind the center for the lottery to begin.

the local homeless population won’t make a lasting difference, said **Nan P. Roman**, president of the **National Alliance to End Homelessness**. “You can’t cherry-pick a few pieces and think that they are going to work,” said Roman. Simply focusing on rapid rehousing without prevention programs won’t work, for example, because “as soon as you empty out the shelter ... the beds are just going to fill up again,” she said.

Austin’s **Ending Chronic Homelessness Task Force**, also affiliated with CAN, has focused on rehousing through collaborations with housing nonprofits like **Caritas of Austin** and **Foundation Communities**, noted Rivera, but overall homelessness-prevention efforts – such as making child care more affordable, raising the minimum wage, and offering accessible substance-abuse programs, for example – haven’t been as strong, he said, because the funding simply isn’t there. Considering, Rivera added, that 15% to 20% of the Austin-area homeless population is classified as chronically homeless – continuously without a home for at least a year or temporarily homeless at least four times over a three-year period, according to a HUD definition cited in CAN’s FAQ – and that the chronically homeless consume about 50% of all services used locally by homeless people, putting money into prevention efforts at all levels – local, state, and federal – makes sound economic sense. “It’s a matter of time and resources.” And if governments don’t invest more in these types of programs, “we’re going to continue to have our community experience this,” he said. – Cheryl Smith



The holiday spirit came to the Mueller redevelopment this weekend when Council Member Lee Leffingwell threw the switch on a display adorning what used to be the flight control tower of the old airport. Brian Dolezal of Catellus, the project’s master developer, was also on hand for the ceremony.

The Pre-K Push

Some have dubbed the upcoming state legislative session the “higher education session” for its anticipated shove toward tighter funding and greater accountability for the state’s colleges and universities, but a more modest push also is under way on the other end of the spectrum to expand **early childhood education**.

Sen. **Judith Zaffirini**, D-Laredo, will be carrying the water for the **Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition** this session with the filing of **Senate Bill 50**, a shell bill intended to expand prekindergarten opportunities, increase child care reimbursement rates, and improve support and training for early childhood professionals.

Libby Doggett, executive director of Washington, DC-based **Pre-K Now** and wife of Sen. Lloyd Doggett, visited a number of early childhood operations recently to praise local efforts to expand early childhood opportunities, including the opening this year of the **Lucy Reed campus, AISD**’s first prekindergarten center. Doggett says a number of factors have worked together to raise the profile of early education.

“We know, from the new discoveries in brain research, that these years – from birth to 4 years old – are such an important time of growth and development in a person’s life. We knew this was an important time, but we underestimated how critical this time was to overcoming learning gaps,” Doggett said. “The other factor that

is propelling pre-K to the forefront is **No Child Left Behind**. Those children who come into kindergarten behind their peers are not as likely to do well on state tests and fall behind their peers forever. You can make a tremendous difference if you catch these children early.”

Doggett has particular concerns about the children of **middle-income families**. High-income families can afford tuition-based pre-school programs. Low-income families qualify for state-subsidized efforts. It’s the children in the middle, Doggett said, who typically end up neglected. She notes that test scores show a larger learning gap between children of upper- and middle-income families than between children of middle- and lower-income families.

Doggett supports a number of legislative initiatives: smaller student-to-teacher ratios in prekindergarten classes; better coordination between public and private prekindergarten efforts; and, ultimately, full-day prekindergarten for all children in the state.

Jose Del Valle, executive director of the **Austin Project**, said he is heartened by the opening of Lucy Reed and the rise in stature of groups such as Pre-K Now, but admits he suffers from a serious case of philanthropy envy. “You look at something like high school redesign, and it seems like there’s a ton of money for that from places like the Gates Foundation,” Del Valle said. “Early childhood development is such a cost-effective strategy, I can’t help but wish for more money to address some of these early barriers to learning.” – Kimberly Reeves

APD’s Muñoz Reinstated

Austin Police Department Cpl. **Richard Muñoz**, who was fired in May for a host of administrative policy violations – including charges that he lied and used excessive force in connection with the alleged choking of a 15-year-old – was reinstated, and his punishment reduced to a three-day suspension, by an independent arbitrator to whom he’d appealed his termination. At issue was Muñoz’s handling of a **family disturbance call** at a North Austin trailer park on Nov. 11, 2005. During the call, Muñoz briefly handcuffed two juveniles – a 15-year-old and a 12-year-old who he mistakenly thought were violating city ordinance for not being in school. He released the two after realizing it was actually a school holiday, but in the course of investigating the initial complaint, Muñoz used his thumb and first finger on the 15-year-old’s jaw to turn the teen’s face toward him.

According to arbitrator **AlmaLee Guttschall**, not only was there insufficient proof to sustain the most serious charges against Muñoz, but she also concluded that **Internal Affairs** investigators failed to include in their final report relevant evidence that might call into question the validity of the complaint about Muñoz’s behavior. Guttschall concluded that Muñoz’s chain-of-command, including then-Chief **Stan Knee**, apparently relied on mere portions of the entire case file in order to sustain the allegations against Muñoz and, ultimately, to hand him an indefinite suspension – the civil-service equivalent of a firing. “The members of [Muñoz’s chain of command] ... were not fully aware of the facts,” she wrote. “They may have been less likely to perceive the positive aspects of the encounter because of the inflammatory nature of ‘choking’ a ‘child,’ rather than the handling of an upset and angry mother and her angry and upset teenager.” – Jordan Smith



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NISSAN MURANO	43.4 / 36.1 IN.	40.7 / 39.7 IN.	38.70 FT
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The Arts District Dance

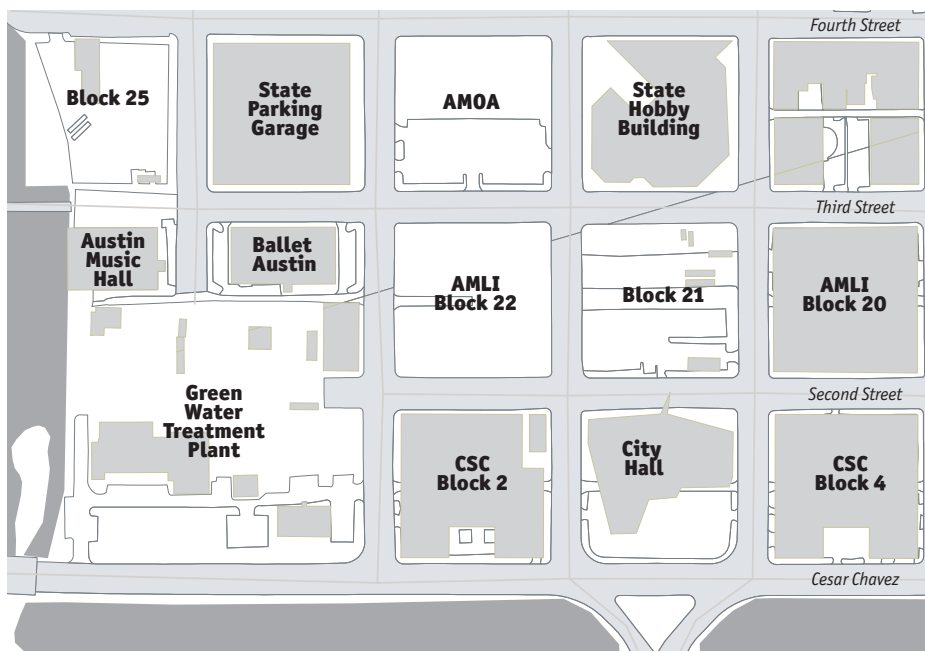
Council's vote this week on funds for streetscapes for **Ballet Austin** is a little bit about depleting the city's annual **Great Streets** fund and a whole lot about creating a **performing arts district** in an area of Downtown once known as Mexico.

Ballet Austin has owned the **former Aus-Tex Printing building**, across the street from the Austin Music Hall, since the bottom of the real estate market in 2002. After laying low for a number of years – fundraising for a major performing arts venue at the Long Center took center stage – Ballet Austin is finally ready to turn the temporary digs for its offices and academy on West Third Street into a permanent home with a fairly modest renovation plan of the existing building.

Given the cachet of one of Austin's major art organizations moving Downtown, the city is more than willing to help, offering to pick up the majority of costs on the required Great Streets program that would widen the sidewalks and add streetscapes to the site. Under the proposed agreement, Ballet Austin would put up \$165,000 toward Great Streets, with the city putting another \$453,000 into the project. Ballet Austin would pick up any cost overruns. The funds will come out of the city's existing Great Streets budget, which is culled from downtown parking meter revenues.

For many within the city, this is a coup. The mark of most major downtowns is venues or homes for the city's opera, symphony, theatre, and dance company. This puts that process in motion and provides a good neighbor for what could be the city's future main **library** on the **Green Water Treatment Plant site**. In this case, the **Austin Museum of Art**, **Austin Children's Museum**, **Austin Music Hall**, and **Austin City Limits** ultimately will be within walking distance, creating a nice cocoon of art and art-friendly venues Downtown.

And for those who support the west end of Downtown, the deal is especially attractive. At last week's Downtown Commission meeting, **Bruce Willenzik**, who runs the



Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, described how difficult it was to connect the Austin Music Hall on the west end of Third Street to the rest of Downtown, mainly due to the lack of sidewalks and streetscapes to create a continuous pedestrian-oriented footpath down Third. To the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar – and any other event at the Music Hall – a rejuvenated Ballet Austin is going to be a far better neighbor than another faceless, windowless state parking garage.

The funding process for the Ballet Austin project, however, has not been without its hiccups. Ballet Austin is not exactly a Great Streets project. If it had been, Ballet Austin would have seen no more than \$100,000 from the city to underwrite it.

have been presented in the last week to both the Downtown and Design commissions, both of which agreed to endorse the project after some discussion.

The city also is offering other incentives for the arts nonprofit, such as waiving the fiscal posting on the public improvements, and charging only \$1 for the annual license fee for those building elements that are built in the city right-of-way. In return, Ballet Austin agrees to complete its renovation in three years and remain in its location for at least 20 years, possibly making more substantial renovations at some time in the future, Executive Director **Cookie Ruiz** told the Downtown Commission at its recent meeting.

– Kimberly Reeves

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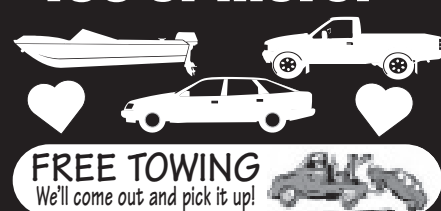
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Claus & Effect

The holiday how-to guide for the perpetually perplexed
BY KATE X MESSER, MEREDITH BARNHILL, STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER, MATT PATIN, MEGHAN RUTH SPEAKERMAN

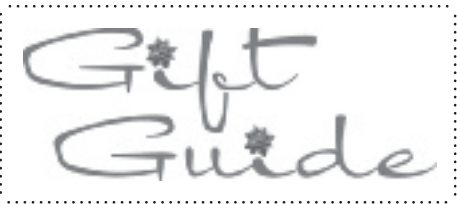
Oh hell, it's the holidays. It's the rare curmudgeon among us who does not participate in the annual fete of gifting – *whether they are good at it or not*. Count yourself among the fortunate if you have never experienced the soul-crushing, “Uhhhh, what was it you needed again?” followed by the frantic, last-minute shoving of said object, elegantly unwrapped, into your sad little hands. You know that saying “It's the thought that counts”? Well, that saying has not been beaten to death just to make cheapskates feel better. For real. Spend a few minutes thinking about the person you wish to impress and check these handy hints to help with holiday gifting challenges and hopefully avoid permanent damage to your loved one's tender psyche during this most wonderful time of the year.

– Kate X Messer

HOW TO BUY A DIAMOND

As Leonardo DiCaprio's *Blood Diamond* looms on the holiday hit list, are Austinites concerned about so-called “blood” or “conflict” diamonds? Jim Kruger, the owner of Texas-based Kruger's Diamond Jewelers in Barton Creek Square Mall, says that it doesn't come up much at his store. “The industry dealt with the issue five or six years ago and came up with industry standards for ‘certified nonconflict’ diamonds.” Since 2003, 68 governments adopted the Kimberly Process to control the import and export of rough (precut, prepolished) diamonds.

Most folks who have set foot in a jewelry store or have any experience with diamonds know the basic “four C's” of what to look for when buying: cut, color, clarity, and carat. But Wendy Nolin, general manager of Ben Bridge Jewelers at Barton Creek Square, says the most important factor is the cut. “Mother Nature controls the color and clarity,” she notes. “But the sparkle is unleashed by the quality of the cut. In the end, the letters and numbers don't matter as much as what the



gem looks like.” For that reason, Nolin recommends not buying from a catalog or the Internet but shopping for jewelry in person. “You can't see the beauty of a diamond through a plasma screen. Ultimately, the diamond must look good to you.”

Once you begin to narrow down your choices, be sure to ask to see the gems under a Gemscope or microscope. Close up, you'll see the distinctions that make each diamond unique – what appear to be cracks or small fissures, “inclusions” or “feathers,” as they are called. These are the normal birthmarks in diamonds. As you look through the scope, note these differences, then compare how the diamonds appear to the naked eye. Price differences between rocks will begin to make sense.

Look for white brilliance. If there is a cast of yellow or brown, you should be paying much less. While the color affects the price, so does the type of cut. According to Nolin, “A more intricately cut stone means that more of the rough diamond was scrapped in the process; this accounts for the premium you pay. It all really comes down to taste. Buy the most beautiful you can afford, even if it's not the largest.”

Ben Bridge Jewelers has an upgrade policy for jewels purchased from them that allows customers to exchange a jewel for its original retail rate and apply that amount to a new gem that's at least twice the value of the original. So that \$895 diamond purchased in 2004 will hold its value, and the entire amount can be applied to that larger \$2,000 gem in the more fashionable setting.

Kruger adds that a clear idea of a budget will drive all the other factors of the decision. “If it's possible, shop together with your loved one beforehand to get an idea of what shapes and styles appeal.

“Guys never think about what matters most,” Kruger laughs. “To come up with a drop-dead romantic way to present the gift. You know the minute she gets it, no matter what it is, she is going to call her best girlfriend or mother or sister and tell that story forever.”

HOW TO BUY HIGH-END JEWELRY AT THE LAST MINUTE

Every jeweler knows that guy: Last-Minute Christmas Eve Guy. Invariably, it is a guy (or the occasional, rare affluent bull dyke in the doghouse). Wendy Nolin's first advice for LMCE Guy is, “Don't be one.” But if you must, at least make your experience (and the sales clerk's) a tad less frustrating:

- Have an idea about what you want before you walk in. Don't come in at 4pm and say, “I'm just looking.”
- Don't expect to find the season's most fashionable items. But fret not. That can work in your favor. You can limit your search to the classics: diamond solitaire pendants, pearls,

diamond or pearl earrings. And use the same guidelines as in the “How to Buy a Diamond” guide: It's better to go for prettier and smaller than big and ugly.

- If you're buying for an older woman (especially a relative: mom, grandmother, aunt), go for heirloom-type pieces like lockets.

Ben Bridge, Barton Creek Square, 329-9066, www.benbridge.com.

Kruger's, Barton Creek Square, 327-6660, www.krugersdiamonds.com.

HOW TO SEND AUSTIN

Austin, oh, Austin. We're so in love with ourselves, how can we not spread this joy to those not fortunate enough to call this home? Three items in particular, this year, are perfect ways to send love from Austin.

The **Still Naked 2007** calendar, with 100% of the proceeds going to the Austin Children of Musicians, Artists and Writers Fund, features 100% buck-nekkid musicians – like Patrice Pike and the South Austin Jug Band (huh huh, we said “jug”). Another calendar captures another sort of Austin beauty: **Austin Calendar 2007**, featuring more than 200 Austin events and a dozen gorgeous pics of classic Austin landmarks. Each calendar is only \$12. The king of Austin gifts in 2006, however, is **Leslie: The Queen of Austin** magnet set. Much like the ubiquitous David and Venus magnet paper-doll series, this iconic figure of the Austin streets also comes with his own wardrobe: an orange-and-white cheerleader's uniform, a smart little leopard number, and even an armadillo on a leash. The creator, Wet Salon owner Jimmy Haddox, says the sets are “moving like crazy” and that he's doing his best just to keep up with the demand. “It's the Cabbage Patch Kid of 2006,” he laughs. Sales have been so brisk, Leslie's already opened a bank account and procured a new shed.

The Queen of Austin magnet set. Much like the ubiquitous David and Venus magnet paper-doll series, this iconic figure of the Austin streets also comes with his own wardrobe: an orange-and-white cheerleader's uniform, a smart little leopard number, and even an armadillo on a leash. The creator, Wet Salon owner Jimmy Haddox, says the sets are “moving like crazy” and that he's doing his best just to keep up with the demand. “It's the Cabbage Patch Kid of 2006,” he laughs. Sales have been so brisk, Leslie's already opened a bank account and procured a new shed.

The *Still Naked 2007* calendar available at Farm to Market, Waterloo Records, Pink Salon, MonkeyWrench, Forbidden Fruit, Jo's Coffee, and at www.souppeddler.com.

Keep Austin Beautiful's *Austin Calendar 2007* available at Blue Genie Art Bazaar, Congress Avenue Card & Gift Shop, Happiness, BookWoman, and at www.keepaustinbeautiful.org.

Leslie: The Queen of Austin magnet set available at Wet Salon, Flipnotics, Oat Willie's, and BookPeople.

HOW TO BUY A DIGITAL CAMERA

Before deciding on a digital camera as a gift, ask some key questions: What size prints will be desired? What types of photos will be

taken? The size of pictures translates into how many megapixels you need, while the types of photos, such as landscapes or portraits, will determine the type of lens, features, and size of the camera. Say mom likes taking family snapshots and won't need anything above an 8-by-10. Four or five megapixels should do the trick. For your landscape hobbyist, a bigger camera means better zoom; look for optical zoom not digital zoom. Wide angle will help take bigger and better landscape pictures. For socialites or kids, smaller cameras with bigger LCD screens offer the capacity to snap and easily display photos directly from the camera. Local Precision Camera & Video stocks more than 100 models of cameras from \$150 to \$8,000. The store offers a digital class where staff members work with new and returning customers, as well as a camera repair center.

Precision Camera & Video, 3810 N. Lamar, 467-7676, www.precision-camera.com.

HOW TO BUY FOR HOMOPHOBIC IN-LAWS OR FAMILY MEMBERS

Queers and the holidays don't always mix nicely. Neither do highly flammable conifers and hot bulbs on electrical wires, but somehow we make it work. If you are a big queer, or even a trembling closet case, be brave and proud, and consider the following when bringing your “special friend” home for the holidays.

First, be sure to send the parents a festive, rainbow-bedazzled holiday card from Lobo, and customize it with a collage of pictures from your last vacation to Fire Island. Marking them “wish you were here” is a nice touch, and if you're tech-savvy, include a DVD slide show of the both of you in your Borat thongs.

'Tis the season for giving, and a charitable donation to the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is probably the most constructive gentle nudge. You can even donate in your parents' honor from the organization's Web site, and PFLAG will happily send them a card recognizing their contribution.

No holiday dinner with the fam is complete without music. Consider bringing RuPaul's *Ho Ho Ho* Christmas album and putting it on as the family sits down to break bread together. Then just sit back and watch as this holiday night becomes the most memorable and perhaps least silent of them all.

Your sister's ex-linebacker husband has a Ford Expedition that could use a little sassing up? Slap a “Would Jesus be a homophobe?” sticker from CafePress on the bumper, and smile and wave as they head back to Vidor.

Lobo, 3204 Guadalupe Ste. A, 454-5406, www.myspace.com/lobo_austin_tx.

PFLAG, www.pflag-austin.org.
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Wendy Nolin, manager, Ben Bridge Jeweler, Barton Creek Square

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Holiday Wish Lists 2006

Give ‘til it helps: Part 1

Dear Austin,
Before we get too wrapped up in all the holiday folderol, tripping the trails – and neighborhoods – of lights fantastic, schlucking down nog, and scarfin’ down the figgy-p, let’s take a moment to peruse these annual wish lists from local public-service groups. Not everyone, we are reminded, is blessed with a case of affluenza.

We invited local nonprofits to ask for all the things they need to be able to serve our community with the impact they have. Lists are still coming in as we go to press. As always, we have edited these lists as space dictates, and we encourage you to call your intended benefactee(s) for the details on what specifics kinds/brands/sizes of things they need. Here’s a big hint: They always need your cash and love (i.e., volunteer hours).

So have at it, Austin. Go share our bounty, and show them all how much we appreciate their place in our community and the good they do all year long.

Part 2 runs next week in print, and the overflow and any last-minute Suzies will appear online.
– *Kate X Messer; list compiled by X, Meghan Ruth Speakerman, and Richard Whittaker*

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

BANNING "HUNGER"

The U.S. Agriculture Department has exciting news for you: Hunger no longer exists in America!

Are they saying that the shame of hunger in our nation of plenty has at long last been eliminated? No. Only the word "hunger" has been eliminated. There are still 35 million Americans – 12% of us – who are so poor they couldn't put food on their tables at times last year, with 11 million reporting going hungry. Now, however, thanks to the Bush administration's relentless program of liberal cleansing, these Americans will not officially be categorized as hungry. Instead, they are henceforth to be referred to as "very low food security" Americans.

It seems that "hunger" is a powerful word that displeases right-wing ideologues. So, the Bushites told a committee of statisticians to come up with a scientific euphemism to sugarcoat the reality that so many of our people struggle daily to feed their families. Thus, the actual condition of hunger is, in the graceful words of Bush's newspeak bureaucrats, "a potential consequence of food insecurity that, because of prolonged, involuntary lack of food, results in discomfort, illness, weakness, or pain that goes beyond the usual uneasy sensation."

Also, Bush's committee helpfully subdivided the food-deprived. Now, there are those people who merely suffer "low food security" (they aren't sure where their next meal is coming from). Then there are those with "very low food security" (they're sure they won't have a next meal). According to the newspeak word-smiths, you only get "very low" status if you experience "multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake."

In other words, you are the hungriest of the hungry. But don't call yourself that, because using such plain words might stir public empathy and lead to demands for stronger national action to eliminate "low food security" in America.

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If you think such extravagance is insane, you're obviously not a studly Congress critter. These free spenders have just voted to buy more F-22 Raptor fighter jets, a stealth plane that flies so high, so fast that it's called "the Maserati of the skies." Price tag: a third-of-a-billion dollars per plane.

The F-22 is grossly over budget and plagued with so many technical flaws that the 74 already produced cannot be used in combat. This year, for example, it was discovered that a pilot could not get the cockpit open and had to be rescued with chain saws. Also, the F-22 was designed two decades ago to fight the Soviet Air Force – which no longer exists. In fact, the U.S. already has such unquestioned air superiority that there is zero need for this new Maserati, and even the Bush White House opposes lavishing more money on it!

Yet, spurred by a pack of Lockheed Martin lobbyists, Congress has thrown another \$38 billion of our money at this thrill machine. To add fiscal insanity to total irresponsibility, our lawmakers also eliminated the annual congressional review of whether the F-22 boondoggle should continue, so now it has a life of its own.

This is \$38 billion that's being taken from our country's education, health care, and pension needs. It's all about priorities. To help set them straight, contact Sensible Priorities: 212/243-3416.



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Legendary “Humanzee” Oliver, his friends, and the bitter fight over animal welfare at a Texas refuge

BY JORDAN SMITH

Once upon a time, everyone knew Oliver. The exact date and place of his birth aren’t certain – records suggest he was born in 1962, somewhere in the Congo – but by the time he was about 10 years old, he’d become an international celebrity. Stories about those years, especially in the mid- to late Seventies, paint Oliver as a jet-setter – flying around the world, making a string of television appearances, most memorably on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and extensively on Japan’s Nippon TV. There were credulous stories about his favorite pastimes: watching TV while smoking a cigar and drinking sherry, or making, serving, and drinking coffee.

Oliver is a chimpanzee – perhaps the most storied of all the Old World simians to achieve celebrity status. As for so many celebs, it was Oliver’s appearance that transformed his life, setting him on a course that would, inevitably, bring on his subsequent downfall. More so than his primate brethren, Oliver appeared – and still does (his legend remains fodder for any number of Web sites) – almost human. His head is smaller and less hairy than that of a typical chimp, his nose smaller and more defined, his ears more pointed. Most dramatically, Oliver walks upright, like a man – knees locked, powerful shoulders straight and broad, arms swinging at his sides – instead of hunched forward and using his hands and arms, like most chimps. It was his bipedal walk, combined with Oliver’s other humanoid features, that earned him the dubious honor of being dubbed the “Humanzee” – promoted as the “Missing Link” between man and ape.

He was brought to the U.S. by animal trainers Frank and Janet Burger, who ran a chimp, dog, pony, and pig show that was once a regular feature on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and at Radio City Music Hall. Janet Burger told the *San Antonio Express-News* in 1996. But in 1976, when Oliver had reached sexual maturity and became difficult to handle, the Burgers sold him to New York lawyer Michael Miller. Miller began promoting Oliver as a possible chimp-human “hybrid,” taking him to Japan and exhibiting him on TV and stage. Before long, Oliver was sold again – and again – to a string of West Coast animal trainers, who variously exhibited him as a freak.

Oliver’s celebrity soon ran its course. In 1989, he was sold, one last time, to the infamous research-animal broker Buckshire Corp. of Pennsylvania, where he languished for seven years in a small metal cage, receiving little human or animal interaction. There were dozens of chimps housed at Buckshire, spending years in tiny cages or leased out for dangerous research projects. In 1995, an undercover investigation



JANA BIRCHUM

“He used to fly in a 747, smoke cigars, and drink sherry. This is *not* what he is used to.”
– Court appointed receiver Lee Theisen-Watt

by the animal rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals produced a surreptitiously recorded video showing some 40 cruelly housed chimps at Buckshire. Under pressure, Buckshire eventually agreed to retire a dozen chimps who became known as the Buckshire 12. At the time, retiring research

animals, and especially chimpanzees, was uncommon, and there were (and remain) few options for housing and caring for chimps or other primates. Chimps are humans’ closest biological relatives; they’re strong, social, highly intelligent, and in captivity can live nearly 60 years. But providing adequate care is complex and expensive.

It appeared that Oliver and his Buckshire brethren had finally received a reprieve when Wallace Swett, founder of Primarily Primates Inc., the now nearly 30-year-old

northwest Bexar Co. animal sanctuary, contacted Buckshire to say that the Leon Springs refuge would be willing to provide permanent retirement for the Buckshire 12. In 1996, the chimps were transported to Texas, and Oliver, then in his 30s, walked upright from his transport cage into a larger enclosure at PPI. “He’s been dragged around and exploited for over 20

years, but this is his final retirement,” Swett told the *Express-News*, calling Oliver a “national treasure.” “He’ll never go into research or on exhibit again.”

“Neglectful Treatment”

And that was that, or so it appeared – at least publicly – until this year, when troubling allegations that PPI was guilty of animal cruelty

exploded into the media, and then into court. In a petition for a temporary restraining order – seeking the ouster of PPI’s current management, including Swett and newly appointed director Stephen Tello, and the appointment of a temporary receiver, wildlife rehabilitator Lee Theisen-Watt, to take over running the sanctuary – Texas Assistant Attorney General Ted Ross, of the agency’s Charitable Trusts Section, argued that the nonprofit PPI has long mismanaged its



Oliver in his heyday



Oliver's current home

JANA BIRCHUM

donated funds, to the detriment of its large population of primates and other animals. As a result, the state charged, PPI's animals have been living in conditions so substandard that they amount to severe animal cruelty. "PPI confines ... animals ... in substandard caging, and under conditions which are inherently unsafe and which constitute inappropriate, neglectful treatment," Ross wrote in the Oct. 13 complaint, adding that the refuge has failed to provide even "adequate veterinary care." In fact,

equivalent of hard dog biscuits – had little protection from the elements, lived mostly on bare concrete slabs, and been denied any real "enrichment": toys, climbing structures, or other elements to engage their minds.

In an affidavit, Jorge Ortega, vice president of shelter services at the Houston SPCA, recalls visiting PPI in August, where he immediately became concerned about Oliver's living conditions, which he called "cruel." "His enclosure is filthy, too small," and without "meaningful enrichment materials to occupy him" except "an old cardboard paper towel roll," Ortega wrote. The enclosure "has no bowl or bucket for food. Instead, food was thrown onto the dirt floor

of the outdoor cage, allowing [it] to become soiled with dirt and excrement. This is unacceptable by any standard."

The allegations led many animal welfare advocates to conclude that the once-famed PPI – the place Swett promised would be a refuge for long abused and abandoned primates like Oliver – had degenerated into a dismal place of confinement, with conditions similar to those in places like Buckshire. In short, the AG alleges that over at least the last decade, PPI has turned into a sanctuary that merely hoards animals – in the manner of a "cat lady" or a puppy mill – a place where the primates have, in fact, become primarily forgotten.

continued on p.36

What a Difference a Year Makes

For more on the history of Primarily Primates, see "A Better Place" by Cindy Widner, Aug. 5, 2005, in a *Chronicle* issue ("The Damn Dirty Ape Issue") devoted to various primate-related subjects. For a Web gallery of additional PPI photos, see austinchronicle.com.

PPI has never had an on-staff vet – a factor, the state charged, that contributed to the 2004 death of retired Air Force research chimp Betty, who had delivered a stillborn chimp that fall and soon after was put down (with three shotgun rounds to the head) after languishing for several days in her enclosure, lying in her own excrement, swarmed by fire ants.

The state charges that PPI was chronically understaffed, leading to deplorably filthy conditions – raw sewage collecting in a "cesspool" near several chimp enclosures, and the animals dwelling in cages and sleeping in "night boxes" infested with cockroaches. They'd also been denied an adequate diet, the AG contends, subsisting mainly on Monkey Chow – the



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Good Intentions

The current legal battle began last year, with the news that Ohio State University would be retiring nine primates – seven chimps and two capuchin monkeys – to PPI. The OSU chimps were part of the longest running cognitive research study of its kind, under the direction of psychology professor Sally Boysen (herself the focus of yet another animal melodrama with legal repercussions), for which funding had finally dried up. According to court documents, OSU officials originally sought to retire the primates to the newly constructed Chimp Haven in Louisiana, the first federally funded sanctuary for research chimps. But in mid-2005, when OSU was ready to close Boysen's lab and move the chimps, Chimp Haven was not yet ready to accept the group, and OSU turned to PPI. A November 2005 site visit gave PPI a clean bill of health – in a letter to OSU officials, veterinarian Thomas Butler (also a member of the Chimp Haven board of directors) wrote that based on his observations, PPI chimps appeared “both physically and behaviorally healthy.” Butler concluded that PPI would need to build larger enclosures for the OSU chimps, but in the interim could provide “adequate temporary housing.” So plans were made to send the animals to PPI in early 2006 and to provide PPI with nearly \$250,000 for permanent enclosures.

PETA attorney Leana Stormont, who was involved in exposing the allegedly dismal living conditions at PPI, says this was not good news, coming as it did on the heels of Air Force chimp Betty's tragic death. In fact, after a PPI volunteer contacted PETA with “a real laundry list of complaints” about PPI, PETA became so concerned about allegedly deteriorating conditions, Stormont said, that the organization hired a professional videographer in August 2005 to make an official record of life at PPI.

How PETA got access to the normally private sanctuary is unclear; PPI supporters say a disgruntled employee arranged the visit without alerting PPI management, and Tello says the visit was staged to show PPI in the worst pos-



Wildlife rehabilitator Lee Theisen-Watt was appointed by the court in October to take over running the sanctuary.

sible light. Nonetheless, after seeing the video – of animals in barren enclosures and filthy night boxes – Stormont said PETA was even more troubled: “Then we heard about the OSU chimps, [and] we immediately contacted [the university],” she recalled. “I told them what we'd found [at PPI] and pleaded with them not to send them there.” Nevertheless, the OSU chimps arrived at PPI on March 2 of this year, and the same day, one died. According to a necropsy, 16-year-old Kermit died of a heart attack, “probably directly related” to a pre-existing heart condition, a veterinary patholo-

gist concluded, but Stormont blames PPI. The sanctuary wasn't prepared to receive the chimps, she said, which meant Kermit had to be sedated in order to move him into an enclosure. “Eyewitness reports say [Kermit's] head fell forward, and we believe his airway was compromised and that contributed to his death,” she said. A month later, a second OSU chimp, 19-year-old Bobby, was found dead in his enclosure, also apparently from complications related to a pre-existing heart condition.

Tello and longtime PPI supporter Priscilla Feral, founder of the animal advocacy group

Friends of Animals, which is footing PPI's legal bills, argue that the chimp deaths, while lamentable, are not PPI's fault. Indeed, it seems likely that stress connected to the long-distance move could at least be a factor in the chimps' deaths. But PETA immediately sought to file a lawsuit on behalf of the remaining OSU primates – named individually as plaintiffs – in Bexar Co. district court. Judge Michael Peden appointed a fact-finder, veterinarian Todd Bowsher, to assess the situation at PPI. In his June 15 report, Bowsher noted that the OSU chimps “appear in good health,” but was concerned “with the facility and how it may affect the [OSU] chimps in the long run.” Bowsher's concerns included many of the same complaints detailed in the AG's suit – including that the inside holding areas were “dark” and “very small,” that in one the “bars, walls, door frames, etc. [were] covered in roaches,” and that an “open cesspool proved that a large amount of fecal material made it to the ground water.” One OSU chimp was housed alone in a bare concrete enclosure without heat, air conditioning, or outdoor access. “It is my opinion, and mine alone,” Bowsher concluded, “that ... [PPI] cannot completely meet the health and psychological needs” of the OSU chimps. Bowsher's assessment was the last the Bexar Co. court would hear on the matter. In August, Peden dismissed the case, ruling that the chimps did not have standing to file suit. By then, Stormont said, there were at least two more “seriously sick” OSU chimps. “What we were most afraid of,” she said, was that more chimps would die. The OSU chimps, she said, “desperately needed to be moved.”

PETA's complaints about the OSU chimps prompted the AG to file its suit, in an Austin probate court. In October Austin Judge Guy Herman agreed to wrest control of the sanctuary from Swett, Tello, and the PPI board of directors, and to appoint Theisen-Watt, who has been tasked with facility remediation.

Herman's ruling sparked a conflagration of personal attacks and counterattacks in the small but volatile world of animal advocates. Those who defend PPI charge that the court-

The attorney general alleges that over at least the last decade, Primarily Primates has turned into a sanctuary that merely hoards animals – a place where the primates have, in fact, become primarily forgotten.

YEAR END

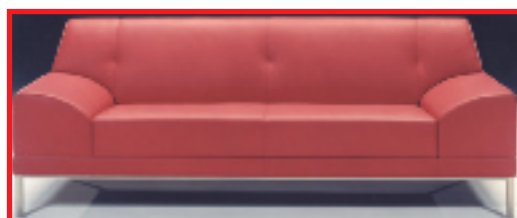
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ordered takeover is simply an attempt by foes of Swett – namely PETA, with whom Swett has feuded for years – to seize control of the entire population of exotic primates and other animals, and of PPI's prime 75-acre parcel of Texas Hill Country. Theisen-Watt and others in the sanctuary, zoo, animal-rights, and animal-law community, respond that PPI, once considered a model sanctuary, hasn't kept up with evolving standards of animal care, especially those required for the highly intelligent primates, and has simply taken in many more animals that it can adequately house. "The facility is overwhelmed by the sheer number of animals," Theisen-Watt testified in court. "It is the classic 'cat lady' syndrome – [caretakers] become overwhelmed by good intentions to the detriment of the animals in [their] care. [It is] just a good intention gone very, very bad."

The current situation doesn't surprise Lynn Cuny, founder and director of the Kendalia, Texas, sanctuary, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation. Cuny first heard of problems at PPI as early as 1992, when several PPI employees reported serious concerns about the welfare of the animals. The primate enclosures reportedly weren't well maintained, she said, so it was nearly impossible to tend to individual animals or do any hands-on cage cleaning. She was also told that the animals were housed in enclosures with bare concrete slabs, bereft of materials used to build nests or to keep warm, and that the night boxes weren't cleaned, producing accumulations of excrement prone to insect and rodent infestation. "The first complaints ... via volunteers, started coming in around 1992, [but] they were never heeded by the large animal protection [organizations]," Cuny recently recalled. "I remember it very clearly, and I encouraged the people making the complaints to go forward and to get someone with legal authority involved." But no one ever did get involved, she said. "They went to various existing national organizations and I know they went to the [AG]," but nothing was done.

Cuny said she'd hear similar complaints "on and off," yet "I don't think anyone [got] involved in trying to clean up the place." Cuny said she tried on several occasions to talk to Swett about helping out – bringing in produce, for example, to supplement the primates' diet, but her efforts were rebuffed. After a while she just gave up. Stormont says PETA also had been aware of complaints since 1992, when

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they first heard from “former employees, volunteers, and donors” that animals were suffering at PPI. “I remember one letter talking about a monkey with such severe self-mutilation that his leg was just hanging there by a few tendons,” she recalled. PETA sent letters to the PPI board of directors, without response.

Indeed, it appears that no one – not the state, not PETA, not Jane Goodall (who visited the facility in recent years) nor her foundation, among others – did anything. Why the allegations went unpursued isn’t clear, and there are likely several reasons. But perhaps the most significant is the overall miserable state of animal-welfare law. Laws governing animal welfare are few, and those on the books are rife with loopholes and enforcement problems. There are, for example, no state or federal laws that ban the personal ownership of exotic or wild animals, nor are there any laws – with the exception of the federal Animal Welfare Act – providing strict parameters for animal treatment, or any workable enforcement scheme to ensure that captive animals live in safe, humane conditions. The provisions of the AWA are mostly conceptual, with compliance mostly voluntary.

Given the considerable challenges, before this crisis no one really pushed to ensure that the animals at PPI – a total of nearly 500 primates (including chimps, hundreds of monkeys, several baboons, and an orangutan) and several hundred other animals (an African lion and other big cats, fowl, rodents, horses, and dogs, among others) – weren’t being abused or neglected. Many animal welfare advocates now express relief that the AG’s office has finally intervened and that PPI is in receivership.

Yet it’s hard to know whom or what to believe since, even in the face of years of complaints, nothing had previously been done. If the current actions against PPI aren’t personal, or political, and things were truly so bad and so

Famous PPI Inmates

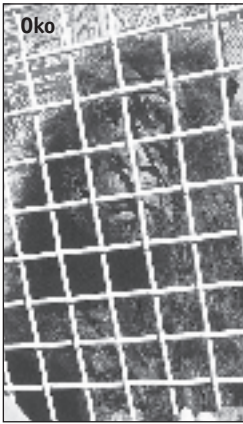
Among the hundreds of simians who have called Primarily Primates home are a handful of celebrities:

Okko and Willie: The chimpanzees starred with Matthew Broderick in *Project X*

Punkin: The now-deceased orangutan was star of short-lived Hanna-Barbera TV show *Going Bananas*

Oliver: One of the Buckshire 12 lab chimps, he was a star of stage and screen, once touted as the “Humanzee,” and the “Missing Link” between man and ape. He walks upright and has a smaller head, and more defined nose and ears, features relatively more humanoid than most chimpanzees.

Air Force chimps: All descendants of the first chimps in space, Enos and Ham, were sent to Primarily Primates upon retirement.



After Theisen-Watt relocated a group of dogs to Houston, PPI’s staff and volunteers demolished the cramped and dark kennel. The area will now be used as a kitchen and laundry room.

wrong at PPI, asks Feral, why wouldn’t someone have done something before now – or, at least, have offered to help? “If you care about the animals, why wouldn’t you want [to do] that?”

Animal People

The human world of animal rights and animal welfare is extremely small and ingrown. Everyone involved, it seems – those running sanctuaries, lawyers who bring animal-welfare cases, zoo curators, lab animal caretakers and veterinarians, animal-rights activists – knows everyone else, and has a firm opinion about everyone else’s business.

That includes Primarily Primates founder Wally Swett. “Wally is a great guy – for those people who know him, you can absolutely respect ... how innately brilliant he is with primates,” says Tello, who met Swett shortly before going to work at PPI in 1986, first as a volunteer, later as a caretaker, fundraiser, and curator, before being tapped this summer to replace Swett as the sanctuary’s leader. But while “he’s great with primates,” Tello says, Swett “has no social skills with people.” In recent years Swett’s manners have gotten worse, say Tello and Feral, and his involvement with the sanctuary has waned because of deepening alcoholism. “He was really devoted to the task of running a sanctuary,” says Feral. “Wally is no longer helpful because of his substance-abuse problem.” Swett denies he’s an alcoholic. (Swett has been banned from the sanctuary since Theisen-Watt took over in October, and through PPI’s San Antonio lawyer Eric Turton, declined to be interviewed for this story.)

Yet Tello and Feral say that for nearly 30 years Swett devoted himself to saving discarded animals, and was one of the bravest pioneers in the effort to provide shelter and relief for primates abused for research, discarded as pets, or grown too intractable for entertainment. Tello sees in Swett the cumulative effect of sacrificing his life to the cause. “I see what happens when you work for 30 years, 24/7, for little money and with no retirement,” says Tello. “He’s given everything ... and the stress of decisions and the responsibilities ... in and of itself, takes a toll.”

It wasn’t always such a burden. Back in 1978, Swett and two friends decided to open a sanctuary, driving from New England to Texas with monkeys and other animals they’d rescued from disillusioned pet owners. They eventually landed outside San Antonio, in a rolling expanse of beautiful Hill Country; through dogged fundraising, 10 acres eventually became 75, and the monkeys were joined by nearly 800 other animals. Swett’s nonprofit PPI was the first private sanctuary in the country to accept chimpanzees used in lab research. It had been widely presumed that research chimps could not be rehabilitated sufficiently to cope in a natural setting or among social groups akin to those they would form in the wild. Swett, it seemed, proved the doubters wrong.

Over time, PPI became a go-to facility for researchers wanting to retire their animals or animal welfare groups looking to place rescued animals, particularly primates. They accepted refugees from the NYU School of Medicine-affiliated Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates lab. Okko, the chimp

“I see what happens when you work for 30 years, 24/7, for little money and with no retirement. He’s given everything ... and the stress of decisions and the responsibilities ... in and of itself, takes a toll.”

– Stephen Tello on PPI founder Wallace Swett

who starred alongside Matthew Broderick in the movie *Project X*, and Punkin, the orangutan featured in the short-lived Hanna-Barbera show *Going Bananas*, found a permanent home at PPI. Thirty Air Force chimps, once part of the long-running research into the effects of space travel on humans, made it to PPI, and, of course, the Buckshire 12 were also given refuge – including their most famous member, Oliver.

Swett’s PPI was also on the very short list of sites identified by federal lawmakers looking to retire the 17 monkeys who’d had nerves in their limbs severed for research at the Institute of Behavioral Research in Silver Spring, Md.

Exposing the horrors of the Silver Spring monkey experiment established PETA’s activist reputation, after evidence of mistreatment collected by cofounder Alex Pacheco in 1981 ended in a police-led nighttime raid on the facility where the monkeys were housed in filthy conditions; the IBR researcher, Dr. Edward Taub, was eventually charged and convicted of animal cruelty. (The convictions were later overturned.) According to Tello and Feral, at that time PPI had a good relationship with PETA – good enough that PETA actually placed several rescued monkeys at Swett’s sanctuary. Tello says PETA even touted PPI as a “model” facility.

While specifics about the deteriorating relationship between PPI and PETA are hard to confirm, Tello and Feral suggest Swett’s failure to reflexively defer to PETA’s priorities led to a deepening rift. Tello says Swett agreed to take in several PETA-rescued monkeys in exchange for financial support – specifically, for PETA’s promise to help set up and fund an on-site medical and rehab clinic for the primates. PETA “was doing a ton of publicity” to tout the rescuing of the monkeys in question, Tello said, “and eventually we said, ‘Can you help us with the clinic now?’ And they weren’t going to donate any money.” Swett was angered and let PETA know it, Tello said – and that was the end of amicable relations between the two groups.

Stormont says she isn’t privy to the details of any past dealings with PPI, but that if PETA sent animals there it would’ve been long ago. “My understanding is that if that ever happened it would’ve been at a time when a lot of people had the belief that [PPI] was a good sanctuary.”

Those days, she says, are long gone.

Just Say No?

For Tello, the dismissal of the OSU chimp lawsuit was a relief because he believes all the allegations were trumped up or misleading – for example, he said, the chimp housed alone was overaggressive, a fact OSU failed to mention in the chimp profiles provided to PPI. He calls the lawsuit nothing more than a “desperate” and “last-minute” attempt by the “OSU

care staff” and by professor Boysen, who wanted “to keep the chimps at OSU” and not have them retired at all.

Tello and Feral thought the controversy was over and Tello could return to running the sanctuary; Tello says he was in the process of making physical improvements to the enclosures, and Feral says FOA was “in the process of a merger with PPI, so that they could get the ongoing financial support and the administrative support that they needed.” Tello thought things were going well until Oct. 13, when the AG’s office filed suit, Tello and Swett were ousted, and Theisen-Watt was appointed receiver.

continued on p.40



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As it stands now, PPI and its animals are in legal limbo. Theisen-Watt will remain receiver at least until January (when PPI’s attorneys hope for a favorable response from the 3rd Court of Appeals), though it’s more likely that she’ll remain at the sanctuary until later in the year, when the suit against PPI goes to trial. On Oct. 20, Herman granted a second emergency request, allowing Theisen-Watt to move animals away from PPI or, if necessary, to euthanize any sickly animals. That enraged PPI supporters, including Feral and Tello, who claimed in an open letter to FOA supporters that the PPI takeover was orchestrated by PETA, which “plans to kill [PPI’s] animals rather than providing for their long term care.”

The suspicion is not necessarily outrageous, in light of past statements made by PETA officials describing euthanasia as often preferable to life in a cage, and more recent actions by PETA-identified activists. Last year, two organization employees were indicted on 31 animal cruelty charges related to acquiring dogs and cats at no-kill facilities in North Carolina, by telling employees they would find homes for the animals, which they instead euthanized and dumped. At PPI, Feral charged, PETA has similar intentions: PETA “wants to liquidate the place and send the animals to animal heaven.”

That’s preposterous, says Stormont, noting that in this instance PETA has joined forces with many groups it typically wouldn’t even talk to, like zoos and animal research labs. “This is a pretty broad coalition of people” who have come together to try to help PPI’s animals, she said. “For PETA to be sitting next to [these partners in court shows] you don’t have to be into animal rights to know it is wrong to deprive animals of care, health, diet, and proper social interaction.” (And, notably, Theisen-Watt is not a PETA member.) In November, Tello and Feral were held in contempt of court for using the PPI donor list, which was supposed to be turned over to Theisen-Watt, to send out letters imploring donors to stop making direct contributions to PPI – instead, the pair asked donors to send money to Friends of Animals. (Herman has ordered Tello and Feral to turn over both the donor list and whatever money was raised through the illegal solicitation.)

“The facility is overwhelmed by the sheer number of animals. It is the classic ‘cat lady’ syndrome: [caretakers] become overwhelmed by good intentions to the detriment of the animals in [their] care.” – Court appointed receiver Lee Theisen-Watt

PPI supporters have even referred to Theisen-Watt as “Lethal Lee.” Such attacks are not unusual, says San Francisco attorney Bruce Wagman, a prominent animal welfare attorney. Wagman is familiar with the history of PPI and says it’s clear to him that “what’s gone on [at PPI] is a hoarding situation,” he says. “No question, hands down.” Indeed, the current situation at PPI may have most directly been caused by Swett’s inability turn away any animals in need of shelter. “I understand the desire to keep animals, I understand that very well and it’s very difficult [to say,] ‘No, I’m sorry, we can’t take [the animal],” says Lynn Cuny. “[But] any time I hear of any nonprofit organization who is constantly accepting new clients ... and I know we are all confined by



JANA BIRCHUM

More than 70 chimps live at Primarily Primates in Bexar County.

our [budgets], and you see someone out there constantly saying, ‘yes,’ [then I know] they’re either being put down when they come in, sold out the back door, or are being stockpiled.”

At PPI, it’s hard to avoid the conclusion that animals were in fact being stockpiled. By the time Theisen-Watt took over, PPI had just two caregivers for more than 70 chimps; the industry standard, she says, is typically 1-to-5 or, at most, 1-to-8. Inevitably, caregivers just can’t keep up. “[You] can only do so much in a day no matter how hard or fast you work,” says Lorraine Smith, curator of mammals at the North Carolina Zoo, one of the experts Stormont asked to review primate care at PPI. With such a small staff, it isn’t surprising that the PPI animals were just subsisting. Theisen-Watt was visibly distressed as she testified in court about conditions at PPI while holding up pictures of several night enclosures – close-ups of rotting wood and degraded concrete, littered with excrement and roach egg casings. Tello argues – as have PPI’s attorneys – that the pictures might’ve been doctored by PETA to make things look worse than

they really are. Wagman says that argument is “offensive,” but not uncommon in hoarding cases. “The key fact of a hoarder is that they have more animals than they can take care of,” but continue to deny responsibility for substandard conditions or care. That’s “the classic hoarder psyche,” he said.

Theisen-Watt testified that in her judgment, Swett was nonchalant when she questioned him about Oliver’s living conditions and suggested the chimp be moved to a different space. “I said, [Oliver’s living] conditions are deplorable, to which [Swett] responded, ‘But he’s used to it.’ I think I used the words, ‘[It’s a] horrible and disgusting place where [Oliver] lives,’” she told the court. “And Swett responded, ‘but it’s ... what he knows.’”

Best Interest

It’s a bright and cold December morning, nearly two months after Theisen-Watt took over running PPI – a job for which she’s accepted no pay, even though, by court order, she could get \$50 an hour. So far, she says, things are coming along and conditions are improving. There’s now a full-time vet on the premises, and today Theisen-Watt is working on several emergency grant requests, seeking about \$20,000 to implement a “big plan” to connect, through a series of tunnels, many of the smaller corn crib cages that house monkeys, an effort that will open up the living space and provide more opportunities for enrichment. She and her newly augmented staff and a bevy of volunteers have already done a monumental amount of work. The primate cages are filled with hay and toys, and the chimps have been given blankets for warmth; they’re getting fresh produce every day (some donated by Whole Foods); and state environmentalists have been called in to make recommendations on mitigating the sewage problem. “We are trying to make changes and we are, and it’s amazing because, day-to-day, the demands are so hard.”

In all, Theisen-Watt says, walking past a cage of spider monkeys and macaques and toward a larger enclosure of chimps, she and the staff are trying to “undo years” of neglect. “Other sanctuaries have left PPI in the dust, so we’re cleaning that up.” Pointing at a chimp enclosure, Theisen-Watt describes the cage itself as a perfect example of PPI mismanagement; the chimps were caged without a means of allowing caregiver access to clean or to provide medical attention. “Poor management has painted these chimps into a corner,” she says. “These animals have been locked in here and nobody has been in or out for years.”

Theisen-Watt continues the tour, stopping in front of a small and short metal enclosure, not much larger than a closet, connected to a small, dark night box. There is hay on the ground now, and a couple of toys; this, she says, is where Oliver has lived for most of the time he’s been at PPI. Looking at the small

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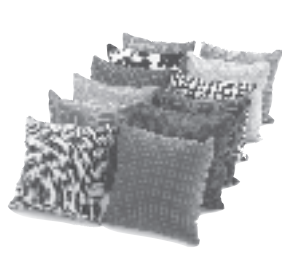
The Primarily Primates refuge remains in need of financial and in-kind donations that will improve the lives of the animals. For specific needs and more information on donations, see www.primarilyprimates.org/donate.htm. For a donation wish list, see www.primarilyprimates.org/wishlist.htm.

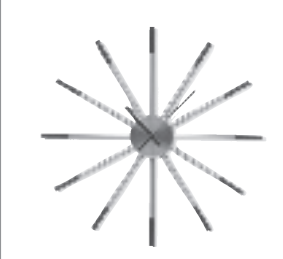
space, Theisen-Watt’s eyes light up, fiery, and she recalls with disbelief Swett’s excuse for keeping Oliver isolated in the cramped, barren space. “He used to fly in a 747, smoke cigars, and drink sherry,” she says, her voice rising. “This is *not* what he is used to.” Walking inside Oliver’s night box, where he’s resting, wrapped in a pink-and-white blanket that has become his favorite, Theisen-Watt strokes his shoulder and says she hopes Oliver will soon be moved to a larger enclosure, along with pair of female chimps, an elderly mother, and her daughter. For now, though, it’s only a plan; with nearly 500 animals, PPI is still too crowded.

Although Theisen-Watt has relocated more than 250 animals – a group of domestic animals to the Houston SPCA, which agreed to find them homes; several elderly monkeys to Cuny’s sanctuary; and a pair of baboons to a sanctuary outside Dallas – her ability to effectively manage the population at PPI has been hindered by a stay granted PPI by the 3rd Court, which, as of Nov. 3, precludes Theisen-Watt from finding permanent homes for any animals without first giving former PPI management a chance to challenge any transfer. Theisen-Watt can arrange for temporary relocations, but cost and complexity of care is so great that sanctuary or zoo operators hesitate to accept temporary placements. Nonetheless, last month Chimp Haven agreed to take the seven remaining OSU chimps to Louisiana, if only temporarily. The day the chimps were moved, all hell broke loose. Tello showed up, and Swett emerged from his house, reportedly brandishing a rifle; he did not want any animals to leave, witnesses said. Calm was eventually restored, and Swett was warned by police but not cited. He vowed to have the chimps returned to PPI.

Theisen-Watt remains focused. The chimps “are so patient, so forgiving,” she says. And with a little help, she hopes that patience – the kind that Oliver, the “national treasure” has exhibited for nearly 44 years, as he’s been shuttled between owners, kept in a cage and forgotten – will ultimately be repaid. Theisen-Watt says that the ideal outcome would be to thin the PPI population and to keep the sanctuary open as a refuge for its older inhabitants and those who won’t find homes in other places. Frankly, says Theisen-Watt, there just aren’t that many places for these animals to go – and that’s unlikely to change, so long as the law allows for the nearly unfettered private ownership of wild and exotic animals. For the sake of the animals, she says, PPI must be rehabilitated. “One would hope” that will happen, she says, “because it’s in the best interest of the animals.” ■

The appeal of the temporary receivership by Primarily Primates (and Friends of Animals) is before the 3rd Court of Appeals, and pending that ruling, the trial concerning the permanent status of the refuge will be heard by Austin Judge Guy Herman early next year.







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ROB NASH: Bedford Falls, by way of Television City

One of Austin's favorite, if somewhat prodigal, sons is about to leave town again. Rob Nash, he of the one-man, multi-character dysfunctional trilogies and coming-of-age quadrilogies, is moving to Los Angeles at the beginning of the year. Before he goes, however, he has a parting Christmas gift for us: another of his coup de comedies, this one a sugar-plum vision of the boob-tube holiday special that never was, *It's a Wonderful Life, 70s Christmas Special, Starring the Fonz*.



Austin Chronicle: When are you leaving?

Rob Nash: I go in February. I'll be 40 in March. I moved back to Austin from New York in 2002 to work for a few weeks and then decided not to go back. I came here to kind of pull it back together and rehabilitate. I still haven't given up on TV and film, and the place to go for that is L.A.

AC: But it's a snake pit, Rob!

RN: No shit!

AC: Do you have work out there now?

RN: No, but I have contacts, and I have pulled the strings back together again. I ain't ready to quit yet.

AC: What's your plan once you get out there?

RN: Couch it for a while. Take some meetings. I still have a little steam left from *Holy Cross Sucks!* off-Broadway a year ago. It's pilot season, so hopefully I'll go out for a few auditions there. Things are ready to move forward in that direction. I've been taking acting classes from Van Brooks here in town. I hope I get better and better as I get older and older.



AC: You've written something new. It's another long title.

RN: I sell most of my tickets off the titles.

AC: How did you come up with this title?

RN: I knew I wanted to do another Christmas classic, but how do you let people know it's going to be Seventies sitcom stars? You say: Seventies Christmas special! And then I thought, well, hell, if it's starring the Fonz, he's probably the biggest sitcom star from the Seventies. It's the Capra classic, but it's a lot campier; it's sillier. When you have characters take over, you gotta get in their classic lines, like "Kiss my grits" and "Up your nose with a rubber hose."

AC: How many different characters are you doing in this one?

RN: Forty-one.

AC: Forty-one! That's not the record, though, is it?

RN: Ah, it might be, because when we did *Holy Cross Sucks!* – we might have gotten it to 42 for *Holy Cross Sucks!*, and then we started cutting like crazy, and it was down to 26 again.

AC: Who are we going to see in this one?

RN: Well, 10, 12 of those are one-liners. Geraldo has a line. Dwayne, Roger, and Mama from *What's Happening!!* have a line. We only refer to Rerun, Dee, and Shirley; we don't hear from 'em. Bert and Ernie play Bert and Ernie. They're a cab driver and a cop.

AC: Who's playing the leads?

RN: Fonzie is George Bailey – of course, they go by their sitcom name. Charo is Mary Bailey, which I think was a brilliant casting move. You never can get too much Charo. Mork is Clarence the Angel. And the other two angels are Mr. Rourke and Tattoo. Archie Bunker is Mr. Potter.

AC: Of course! Of course! That's perfect.

RN: Yeah, yeah.

AC: That couldn't be more perfect.

– Barry Pineo

It's a Wonderful Life, 70s Christmas Special, Starring the Fonz runs through Dec. 31, Thursday-Sunday, 8pm (no show Dec. 24), at the Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. For more information, call 478-LAVA, or visit www.vortexrep.org.



EDMOND BULLDOGS: MTV sends comedy troupe into overdrive

Mitch Baker and David Bewley, two mad geniuses known collectively as the Edmond Bulldogs, are back in town to take the Hideout to outer space. The former Austinites, who do for sketch comedy what Aldous Huxley did for doors, have been fomenting their dementia-scented brand of humor and polishing their surrealist stagin' boots in L.A. for the past year or so. Now they're going to be featured on MTVOverdrive.com's the Stew, and this advent has driven them back to the River City to perform a brand-new show for two nights only, by way of whipping local supporters into a frenzy that actual bulldogs reach only when their mouths are dripping foam and there's a large body of water nearby. Or when they're in outer space, and their blood's literally boiling due to the pressure differential of – have you seen these Bulldogs?

Baker and Bewley, the lone sketch duo bobbing amid a sea of national improv artists, were the surprise hit of Austin's recent Out of Bounds Comedy Festival. Surprise, did we say? Well, not exactly: The preshow buzz had been quite loud, like having a large, drunk *Apis mellifera* trapped inside the middle ear canal, but the SRO audience was surprised at how even the word-of-mouth hype was overshadowed by the Edmond Bulldogs' actual performance.

How to describe what they do, aside from suggesting that if the ghost of Salvador Dali possessed the younger Jim Carrey and made him tend bar in the basement of David Lynch's brain, then a Bulldog-equivalent level of weirdness might be achieved? Yes, but it probably still wouldn't be as funny.

The 'Dogs will be abetted in their fresh shenanigans this weekend by Shannon McCormick and Jeremy "Bearded" Lamb and will intermittently share the stage with improv specialists Available Cupholders. To further spice the live show's strange and kinetic meat, local filmmaker Rene Pinnell will be screening clips from *Meet the Bulldogs*, the MTV-pilot-turned-Overdrive-series. Recommended? You bet.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

The Edmond Bulldogs perform Saturday, Dec. 16, 10:30pm, and Sunday, Dec. 17, 6pm, at the Hideout, 617 Congress. For more information, call 924-5820, or visit www.myspace.com/EdmondBulldogs.

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS: Week 6

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 6: Hands On

Thursday, Dec. 21, 4pm, at the Zilker Christmas tree in Zilker Park. Admission: free.

CULTURE FLASH!

- Congratulations to **Conspirare** on its first Grammy nomination. *Requiem – We Are So Lightly Here*, the second CD from Austin's professional company of voices and director Craig Hella Johnson, was nominated in the category of Choral Performance. It's a well-deserved honor for this double-disc recording, which features major requiems by Herbert Howells and Ildebrando Pizzetti, as well as musical gems by Eliza Gilkyson, Donald Grantham, Eric Whitacre, Bradley Ellingboe, and Stephen Paulus. Back in April, we wrote that the CD "offers the ear – and the soul – a balm for the turmoil within, comfort for that part of us that feels lost."

- **Tapestry Dance Company** will bring back its recent production, *The Souls of Our Feet*, in March at UT's McCullough Theatre. This is terrific news, as this tribute to rhythm tap masterpieces, as presented in November, was not only one of the most outstanding dance productions of 2006 and deserving of a larger audience, but it showed this already vibrant company working at a whole new level, re-creating classic routines by "Bojangles" Robinson, "Honi" Coles, Buck and Bubbles, Fayard Nicholas, and Gene Kelley with a new confidence and style that evoked the spirit and class of old. The icing on the cake: Tapestry has been chosen for the National Endowment for the Arts/American Masterpieces: Dance 2007-2008 touring roster and awarded \$25,000 to support a tour of the production. The NEA has also

awarded Tapestry \$10,000 to support its annual Soul to Sole Festival to be held May 30-June 3, 2007.

- Soon to be spicing up the western edge of the new Mueller redevelopment: sunflowers, emphasis on the *sun*. These blooms will actually be solar collectors 16 feet high and 14 feet across but shaped like giant flora. Designed by **Mags Harries** and **Lajos Héder** of Cambridge, Mass., *SunFlowers* is the winner in Catellus Development Group's competition for public art to go on the I-35 frontage road. The city's Art in Public Places program helped facilitate the selection process, which included review of 37 proposals by visual arts and design professionals, along with public commentary collected at City Hall and Clementine's Coffee House and over the Internet. The sculptures, which will offer shade to pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to collecting energy, will be installed in late spring of 2007.

– Robert Faïres



AGAINST THE DAY

by Thomas Pynchon
Penguin, 1,085 pp., \$35

“Then I saw that I was mistaking confusion for depth.”
And now – 731 pages in – is when the notion that Thomas Pynchon is messing with you starts to jell, only to remain gelatinous for the duration of *Against the Day*. Big surprise, right? Pynchon splitting his time going over your head and keeping you on your toes.

Thankfully, a strong foundation of trusty tropes helps with the experience. Divergent sexual practices, paranoia (to wit: my horoscope this week name-drops Pynchon), entropy, conspiracy, and science as religion all figure into the equation.

This time around, Pynchon seems to be exploding his themes into three dimensions. Two-dimensional map-space blasts – via airship/undersand vessel – into the third D of the sky/underground; *Hamlet* is transposed onto three brothers traveling separate, long roads to revenge for their father’s murder; and two-person relationships lack the luster of the love triangle. But it is the elusive yet inescapable fourth dimension – time – that makes some of the prose read like grad-level math textbooks and the plotlines less susceptible to the grounding influence of an irrefutable past.

While the future is full of possibility, the passing of time limits these possibilities until one option remains: the present. For symmetry’s sake, Pynchon views the past in similar terms, as an “unloosening of fate.” The further in the past an event lies, the greater the possibilities or interpretations – “History is written by the victors,” and all that. It’s no coincidence that Pynchon sets his novel during a time out of memory’s reach for the vast majority alive today (the turn of last century). What then, besides other books, is going to tell you he’s wrong?

And it is Pynchon’s deftness with the tools of historical fiction that drives his last few novels, punctuating impossibilities with note-perfect accuracies only to shade them both with tantalizing plausibilities. Events like the highly implausible and mysterious – but factual – Tunguska Event of 1908, which left the Russian countryside’s nights nearly as bright as its days for a short time. More shocking but equally real is the theory that an experiment by Nikola Tesla caused the Event. The inclusion of such historical anomalies blurs reality and fantasy until they both seem equally arbitrary and equally real.

Using a similar tack, the juxtaposition of the real and the fantastical forces a recontextualization of what has become banal. One minute we are swimming in a sand sea on the hunt for the mythological land of Shambhala only to find that it’s merely oil prospecting. Suddenly, the image of “great pillars of fire” shooting out of the ground seems more immediate and visceral in this context.

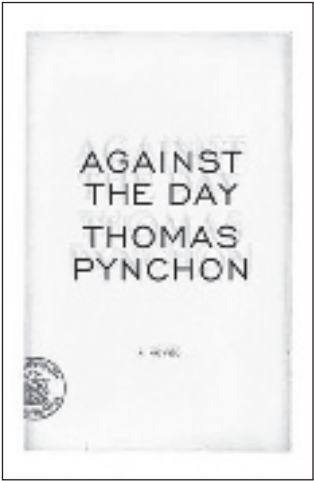
The novel is loosely bookended by Chicago’s World Fair of 1893 and World War I. Both events serve Pynchon’s ends with a smattering of historical fact and some authorial design. The fair – which coincidentally featured Tesla’s newly harnessed electricity, the Congress of Mathematicians, and a Parliament of the World’s Religions – opens *Against the Day*, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ landing in America.

Though the characters travel all over North America, Europe, and Asia, much of the societal commentary seems directed at today’s United States, as our post-9/11 culture finally catches up with the fear and paranoia described decades earlier in *The Crying of Lot 49*. Updating his ideas, Pynchon writes, “As if innocence were some sort of disease, transmitted, as in a stage farce, from one character to another, Lew soon found himself wondering if he had it, and if so who he’d caught it from.” In as much as Pynchon distrusts society, he has faith in individuals. Suffering few fools, he populates *Against the Day* with risk-takers and revolutionaries striving for a future to call their own.

Vendettas, missions, boredom, war, and curiosity all prompt journeys of varying duration and direction. Destinations, on the other hand, rarely live up to expectations – if they’re even discovered. By the last paragraph there is respite as the airship, “Once a vehicle of sky pilgrimage, has transformed into its own destination.”

“Is the book any good?” is the question being avoided here. Avoiding phrases like “Pynchon is Pynchon” only forces other statements of the obvious: Most people who engage the author’s work know what they’re undertaking. *Against the Day* leaves you holding your head laden with the possible futures of both society and the individual: the former, frightening; the latter, uplifting. Pynchon’s writing style – in turn blindingly precise and beautifully oblique, here bearing an emotional weight, as well – demands that you not decide, but think.

– James Renovitch



SLOTH

by Gilbert Hernandez
Vertigo/DC Comics, 128 pp., \$19.99

I LOVE LED ZEPPELIN

by Ellen Forney
Fantagraphics, 111 pp., \$19.95

LAS SOLDADERAS: WOMEN OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

by Elena Poniatowska
Cinco Puntos Press, 95 pp., \$12.95

TV'S GROOVIEST VARIETY SHOWS OF THE '60S AND '70S

by Telly R. Davidson
Cumberland House, 400 pp., \$24.95

It’s hard to think of a metaphor for adolescence more apt than a self-induced coma. Maybe that’s why *Love and Rockets* co-creator Gilbert Hernandez bestows the blessed state on all the main characters in his latest – and first original (not previously published in serial form) – graphic novel, *Sloth*. Set in a vaguely American suburb, it opens with angsty teen Miguel Serra waking from a yearlong coma, undamaged except for his tendency to move exceedingly slowly. At first, *Sloth* seems to follow the typical, if resonantly rendered, adventures of him; his girlfriend, Lita; and best friend, Romeo (both of whom are also his band-mates), as they drum up exurban fun in the form of pursuing the Goatman, an urban legend whose evil power is the ability to change places with his victims. As in his Palomar stories, Hernandez imbues seeming banality with empathetic specificity and magical realism, transcending mere character study and breaking our hearts a bit along the way. Halfway through, Goatman-like, the characters trade places (and a very significant-seeming hat) – or, more accurately, slip into an alternate universe, presenting another possible narrative. The off-kilter circularity, combined with Hernandez’s expressive, simple drawing, creates a world that is somehow self-enclosed and at the same time completely relatable, lovely and a little lonely.

Ellen Forney’s world, no less lovely but more uniformly boisterous, gets a thorough workout in her latest collection, *I Love Led Zeppelin*. Forney’s “panty-dropping comics” are manna for a certain strain of sexually adventurous, post-feminist, Seventies-seasoned free spirit; they’ve been published in a number of alt-mags and weeklies (most notably and regularly Seattle’s *The Stranger*), and they work best as journalistic hybrids. In her how-to series, she interviews experts on subjects underrepresented in the service journalism arena (“How to Smoke Pot and Stay Out of Jail”), with entertaining and informative results. Forney’s a good writer and storyteller, sometimes to the detriment of her comics; in memoirlike pieces (“I Raced My Car at SIR!”), a flurry of words crowds out the drawing. Elsewhere (“Wednesday Morning Yoga,” “Trapeze”), Forney stretches her considerable stylistic talent, and the visual takes precedence, often with more profound results. There’s a weird Nineties-celebrity element running through the collection – Margaret Cho on “How to Be a Fabulous Fag Hag,” illustrated stories from Dan Savage and Kristin Gore, awkward encounters with Tom Waits and Camille Paglia, and an end-page that’s a testament to Seattle’s extra helping of Courtney Love fascination – that can be either irritating or thrilling, depending on how you feel about the Nineties. Regardless, Forney’s tales are sweet and funny ones, told with liberating frankness and dork-positive humanity.

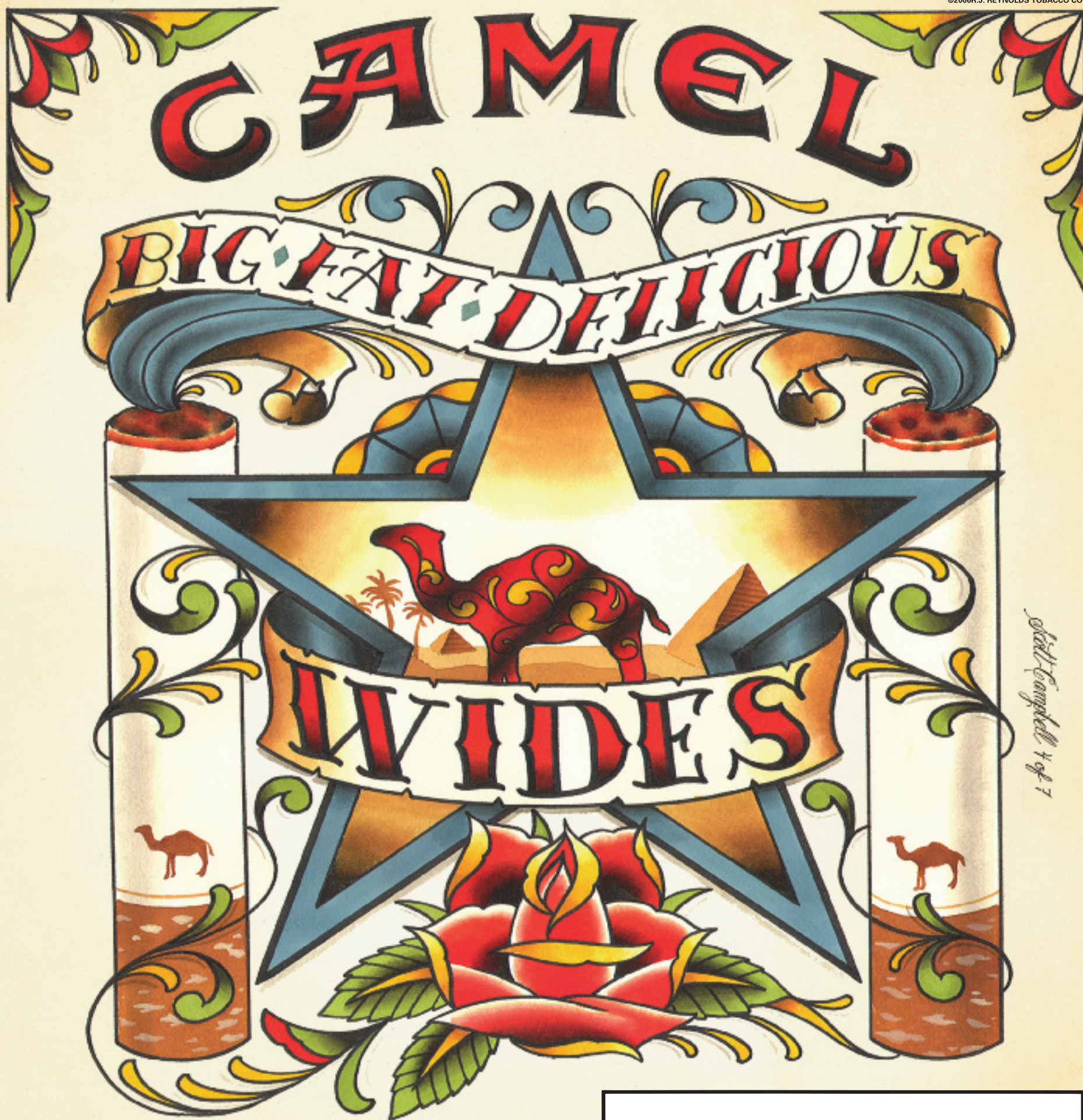


The most arresting thing about Elena Poniatowska’s *Las Soldaderas: Women of the Mexican Revolution* isn’t its portraits of the women who served – sometimes willingly, sometimes not – during those long wars, formidable as they are: bandoliered, petticoated, in the arms of stern-looking men or alone, dressed as men, left behind on train platforms or riding on top of box cars so the horses could have food and shelter below. Rather, it’s the information that almost all photographs of the revolution are from the Casasola Collection, part of the archives of Mexico’s Fototeca Nacional in Pachuca. This is because typographer and sportswriter Agustín Victor Casasola, along with his brother Miguel, set up a vastly acquisitive photographic agency during the war, sending his photographer brother off to the battlefield and buying other photographers’ work (including whole newspapers’ archives) as well. Safe in Mexico City, Agustin frequently scratched off the original photographer’s name and replaced it with his own. Over time, the collection “developed a near monopoly on the iconography of the Mexican Revolution,” according to Poniatowska. Her book, which convincingly argues against Susan Sontag’s claim in *On Photography* that the Spanish Civil War was the first one extensively documented by modern photography, presents only a small portion of the collection’s more than 30,000 images of the revolution, but every one is striking. One wishes the format were bigger, and Agustin’s habit of revisionist authorship frustrates curiosity about details of subject and scene, but the ferocity of *Soldaderas*’ imagery is undeniable.

A revolution of an entirely different sort is the subject of *TV's Grooviest Variety Shows of the '60s and '70s*. The suspiciously named Telly R. Davidson reminds us not only of variety shows’ vast impact on a medium from which they are now almost completely absent but of their lasting imprint on the national psyche, as well. Those who always felt a little weird about their childhood fixation on the Man in Black’s beloved-granddad/dark-lover persona, for example, can rest easy in the knowledge that *The Johnny Cash Show* was “ABC’s most innovative, and, in some ways, most important variety show of the late ’60s.” The reverent tome kicks off with a concise, context-setting account of *The Ed Sullivan Show*’s golden years and anchors its chapters on groundbreaking shows of the succeeding era, covering the considerable ground between *Hee Haw* and *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, through the Carol Burnett and Flip Wilson shows, and offering “Memorable Moments,” “Bloopers and Breakups” and “Where Are They Now” sound bites along the way. Part enthusiastic fan’s notes, part media theory (the book includes a chapter on such “Postmodern Classics” as *Solid Gold*), *TV's Grooviest* always takes its subject seriously, and some of the information is golden (at least for those of us with a hankering to know what happened to Pat Paulsen or that Tommy Smothers starred in a solo show called *Organic Prime-Time Space Ride*). Davidson’s is a brisk, loving, and highly readable book that will suit television connoisseurs; it begs for a companion DVD, but VH1 will do in a pinch.

– Cindy Widner

continued on p.46



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CEN-TEXTS

INTEGRATING THE 40 ACRES: THE 50-YEAR STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

by Dwonna Goldstone
University of Georgia Press,
213 pp., \$29.95

THE TEXAS BOOK: PROFILES, HISTORY, AND REMINISCENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY

edited by Richard A. Holland
University of Texas Press,
256 pp., \$29.95

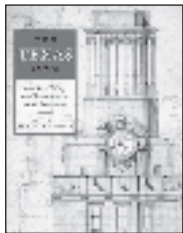
Milestones invariably produce memorials to such, and the University of Texas reached a pair this year: 2006 marked both the 125th anniversary of the legislation creating UT and the 50th year since the Board of Regents voted to admit black undergraduates. Not surprisingly, there are books to accompany both.

The more narrow in scope is Dwonna Goldstone's *Integrating the 40 Acres*, which actually starts with a 1938 attempt by a black Texan to enroll. Aside from one paragraph which threatened to sour me on the whole work, Goldstone's work is an important documentation of African-American life at UT that goes well beyond the myriad retellings of Heman Sweatt's successful Supreme Court fight. Goldstone presents a fascinating theory: that through a narrowly interpreted acquiescence to the *Sweatt* and *Brown v. Board of Education* decisions, the defenders of segregation in those days left a legacy that today sees UT less integrated than other Southern schools that resisted more stubbornly and violently.

UT's strategy, she writes, was to follow the court's order to admit black students to the classroom ... but still remain openly hostile to African-American participation in the other facets of campus life so vital to college experience. The dorms fiercely maintained segregation; Greek organizations kept racially pure memberships; and sports teams took ridiculously long to integrate, capped by the 1969 football team – infamously, the last all-white squad to win the national championship. Central to the social separation, Goldstone claims, was an obsession with keeping black men away from the state's pure white daughters. The effect has lingered: In a state that is 15% black and 30% Mexican-American, those races account for a mere 4% and 7% of its flagship university. Goldstone quotes a black undergrad who said blacks on campus were “desegregated, but not integrated.”

I fully expected *The Texas Book* to be coffee-table fluff, just a propaganda piece for an image-driven institution. I got quite the opposite: This series of essays, divided between profiles of legendary campus individuals, historical pieces, and reminiscences of student life has been an utterly fascinating tour through both the triumphs and the warts of UT's story.

English professor and Texas literature specialist Don Graham offers a clear-eyed and unromanticized reappraisal of the man who almost single-handedly created Graham's



field, J. Frank Dobie; José Limón affectionately recounts the career of Tejano folklorist Américo Paredes, who approached UT with fear but came to regard it as home; editor Dick Holland's story of the feud between university regents and funders G.W. Littlefield and G.W. Brackenridge is as riveting as any history of the Civil War in which their mutual hatred was rooted; and a chapter on UT's first dorm and a personal memoir from World War I-era grad and former state Supreme Court Justice Meade Griffin paint vivid pictures of a school that bears little resemblance to the monster UT has become – even the iconic Tower wasn't built yet. And several chapters, including one on Sweatt, squarely tackle the same shameful period that Goldstone covers in her book.

In short, *The Texas Book* is far more than a pretty decoration for the living rooms of rabid orangebloods. It is absorbing reading for anyone who has a fascination, either loyal, antagonistic, or mixed, with the sprawling empire situated in the heart of our city and state.

– Lee Nichols

THE AUSTIN CALENDAR

AustinFunStuff.com, \$11.97
(10% of proceeds to Keep Austin Beautiful)

It started out as a labor of love, a modest spreadsheet filled with festivals and other can't-miss events that Mike Stefanik kept on his computer, so that whenever planning ahead was necessary – say, when friends were coming into town months down the road – he already knew of a good handful of activities he could count on.

Now, seven years later, that spreadsheet has become the Austin Calendar, which looks and functions like the basic wall variety you find at those mall kiosks, except that it's filled with familiar sights dear to Austinites (the cover, by photographer Merrick Ales, is a classic Pace Bend shot of a cliff jumper in midair), and many of the days are already marked with one or more of the 200-plus events in the works for 2007. Got some friends considering a trip here sometime in June? Well, if they'd enjoy the Texas Greek Festival, they should plan for early in the month; if they'd prefer the Texas Hill Country Railfair, they should put off the trip till late. All of this you can find out with nothing more than the flip of a page. Also convenient is the fact that you'll see right on that page what you'll be missing every time you pencil in your dentist's appointment or your cousin's wedding.

Stefanik for the most part has stuck with the tried and true, so you're guaranteed a packed schedule no matter what. Even better, you can be sure that you've got a scene veteran's stamp of approval on any event included here, with no mincing of words about the drawbacks of going out in Austin (“outrageously hot weather,” “lack of parking,” and “overpriced beer”). Even on his Top 5 list of favorite activities, he doesn't sugarcoat: “SXS.W,” he writes. “Expensive, crowded, often overly-hyped, always overly-hip, yet somehow still worth it.” Most importantly, this well-designed (thanks to Mackenzie Walsh) and thought-out guide really will help you “keep track of it all,” as Stefanik puts it.

– Nora Ankrum

LEAVIN' A TESTIMONY: PORTRAITS FROM RURAL TEXAS

by Patsy Cravens
University of Texas Press,
302 pp., \$34.95

“I wish you could actually hear their voices, so you could better appreciate ... the poetry and melody to be found there,” writes Patsy Cravens in her introduction to *Leavin' a Testimony*, the newest contribution to the Focus on American History Series published by UT Press. She's talking about the voices collected for this oral history project conducted in Colorado County in South Central Texas, where her parents own a farm and where she has spent a great deal of time, basking in the natural and social landscape of the region. Colorado County is an area that escaped “the rapid urbanizing experience of Harris County and Houston ... retaining significant portions of its early character and traditions almost until the end of the 20th century,” writes John B. Boles in the foreword. While some might call it “the sticks,” to Cravens, it is a region buzzing with vitality.

She set out with tape recorder and camera to record the personal histories and images of elders and others in Colorado County, people she thought she knew until she undertook the project. What she learned fascinated, surprised, troubled, and finally delighted her. She presents each of the 89 “stories” as a messenger given the responsibility of delivering a precious object. Precious, indeed, because as interviewee Rosie Lee Hasty says of her family of 10 siblings, “[we're] all gone 'cept three of us. I'm about the last chicken in the yard.” That many of the interviewees are now dead gives the book an even stronger potency. But these are not warm, Norman Rockwellesque tales of a simpler time. Hard work, Jim Crow racism, grinding poverty, and lynchings are told as honestly as tales of loving family life and raucous good times.

The precursor to Cravens' book was a video she produced in 1995 (“Coming Through Hard Times”) featuring some of the individuals included in this volume. Perhaps her background as a filmmaker makes her determined for readers to not only see but also hear her subjects' voices. Her concern is misplaced. All she needed was to let them speak. The music of their voices, turns of phrase, and honest talk about life and death sings throughout. Though well-intentioned, Craven has chosen to insert herself in most of the narratives, presuming readers would not have discovered the obvious on their own. Fortunately, it takes little effort to sift through Cravens' words to get to her much more engaging subjects', and her marvelous black-and-white photos more than make up for the editorial choice. A plainspoken regality shines through most, showing a great respect and affection for her subjects, and what one suspects there was a reciprocal affection for Cravens. The environmental photos are particularly striking, revealing her love for the geography of Colorado County. These, of course, are in the minority, but one hopes a collection of these photographs with Cravens' personal narrative are in the works. As far as oral histories go, *Leavin' a Testimony* is useful, necessary, and welcome, especially when one considers that the alternative is silence.



KASPER HAUSER'S SKY MAUL: HAPPY CRAP YOU CAN BUY FROM A PLANE

St. Martin's Griffin, 128 pp.,
\$14.95 (paper)

We've all been there – colossally bored on a long-distance flight – finished with whatever diversions we've brought, when our fingers reach out to *SkyMail*, the junky onflight catalog. Pointless consumerism, sentimental knickknacks and geegaws, bizarre movie tie-ins, all in a glossy package that invites reality-show-style enthrallment disguised as moral superiority. Is there anything more American? How could anything be more of a parody of itself?

The Kasper Hauser Comedy Group, a quartet of comedians from San Francisco, have managed just that – a satire of one of our stupidest cultural touchstones. With a wicked sense of the absurd and a pitch-perfect ear for both perky ad copy and the voices of desperate loners and weirdos, *Sky Maul: Happy Crap You Can Buy From a Plane* has every twisted item that the real catalog should stock. Where else could you buy a commemorative Black Power fist from the Mexico City Olympics, rendered in white chocolate (the accompanying photo is of a Caucasian's hand)? Or a tube of Christian Over-the-Clothes Massage Lotion? A child's night-light depicting Hitler turning into a werewolf? Even better are the items that open up narratives into the lives of their potential buyers, such as the Divorced Dad “Pancake Time” Trumpet or a taped series of motivational lectures delivered by a gentleman who turns out to be a PCP-addled psychopath.

Like recent compendiums put out by *The Onion*, *Sky Maul* is a social book, destined to be shared and handed around at gatherings. The spot-on layout and design, along with the endlessly inventive products, assure that the book is guaranteed to become a minor comedy classic. It'd also make a perfect holiday gift for your comedic-minded friends – and, fortunately, you don't have to order from a plane to buy a copy.

– Shannon McCormick

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THE VIEW FROM CASTLE ROCK

ALICE MUNRO

Random House

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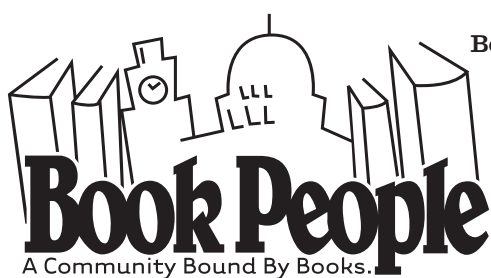
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Radical NY! is co-organized by the Grey Art Gallery at New York University and the Austin Museum of Art and is generously supported by Michael A. Chesser in memory of Virgil Young. ▼ The exhibition *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984*, 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 Freyda 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 Haggart Vaughan Family Foundation; Vinson & Elkins LLP; and Joan Hohl 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.

AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

HEY LA, HEY LA I must have been possessed to let my sister, **Margaret**, talk me into doing karaoke at the **Chronicle Holiday Party**. She's such an instigator. She taunted me with songs by **Abba**, **Diana Ross**, and the **Shangri-Las** before I broke down and consented to sing lead on "My Boyfriend's Back" by the **Angels**. With Margaret and the divine **Barbara Chisholm** kicking ass on the backup vocals, we updated the classic a bit by singing, "My boyfriend's black, and you're gonna be in trouble." They were sublime; I was wretched.

CONGRATS Our very own always-fabulous **FactoryPeople** was named one of **America's 50 Most Influential Stores** by **DNR** (the menswear version of **Women's Wear Daily**). Stop by the SoCo store, and see what holiday treats they have for you.

FASHION PLATES Thank the fashion gods that it's been cold and we could finally dress up. I got a fabulous black cashmere coat last year, and not once was I ever able to wear it here, though I was able to wear it in New York for my **Project Runway** audition. There have been gorgeous clothes to be seen at the holiday parties on men and women (and, well, there were hideous ones, too). Some of the best women's pieces were high-heeled brocade boots that laced up to the knee, jackets of woven fur, sky-high mini-skirts, big tops over skinny pants, and velvet

everything. Outstanding menswear included soft deerskin jackets that begged to be touched, velvet blazers with embroidery, sleek boots, snowy white shirts with plenty of detailing, suede jeans, and wonderful Panama and fedora hats. On the other end of the scale, we endured the same old baseball caps, Christmas-themed sweaters, and ragged jeans.

GIFT CENTRAL Whether they're naughty or nice, **Forbidden Fruit** (512 Neches and 108 E. North Loop) will have something spicy to put in your holiday wassail. Try the Japanese-silk-covered wrist and ankle cuffs and blind-folds, \$18-54. A hidden treasure is the **Texas Highways Gift Shop** (150 E. Riverside), which features the Lone Star coffee mug, made in Texas and hand-painted by **Luling Icehouse Pottery**, \$13.95. For a more exotic approach, the **Arabic Bazaar** (5013 Duval St.) has mosaic boxes inlaid with olive, walnut, rosewood, mother of pearl, and even camel bone, \$10-440. **Terra Toys** (2438 W. Anderson) is for kids and the kid in all of us. For your aspiring musician, try the complete electric guitar and amp set, \$160. **Four Hands** (2090 Woodward) will have hundreds of things to tempt you, but try the white shell lamps from the Philippines, \$175-295. **Turquoise Door** (1208 S. Congress) has gorgeous jewelry in all price ranges, but for the extravagant shopper, see the Ca'win multi-



JOHN CARRICO

FactoryPeople: One of America's 50 Most Influential Stores, according to DNR

strand necklace of red coral with lapis and turquoise, \$5,600. Is it furniture? Or a pet accessory? Find out at **Bark 'n Purr** (4604 Burnet Rd.), and see the **Lotus Cat Tree**, "the coolest cat tree on the planet," available in two sizes and three finishes (birch, oak, mahogany), \$269.99-289.99.

THE PARTY LINE I loathe people who use their cell phones at parties. And now I'm ashamed to say I'm one of them. On several occasions during this ridiculously festive holiday season, I caught myself using my cell phone. Even texting. At a party. I must have been channeling my inner **Paris Hilton** (while keeping my skirt firmly in place). I think it's so pretentious that people think they're sooo busy that they can't just relax and be at the party ... or just be wherever they are. I remember a thousand years ago, in the dawn of the cell-phone era, I was working as a brid-

al consultant with a client at my desk, helping her choose her china, crystal, and flatware. Her cell phone rings, and she answers it. I could hear the caller say, "Hey, Mitzie, what-cha doin'?" Mitzie answers, "Nothin'. How 'bout you?" and proceeds to jabber away about this and that for more than 30 minutes. I wandered away from my desk, and when Mitzie was through, she found me and said, "Sorry, it was an important call." I smiled and said, "Unfortunately our time is up for today. I you'd like to call back on your cell phone and make another appointment, I'll be happy to work with you some more then." And now? Well, I'm afraid I've turned into Mitzie.

OUT OF IT I managed to make a quick getaway to **Fredericksburg** with my mother and her friend **Julie**, who was visiting from Seattle. We had a delicious lunch at the **Fredericksburg Herb Farm** restaurant and spa followed by wonderful spa treatments by a very capable woman named **Vessel** who specializes in reflexology. In addition to the foot work, I had an ear-candling treatment, which removes excess wax from the ears. Yeah, I know, not a pretty subject, but it felt warm and soothing. And the reflexology was incredibly lovely. Vessel can be reached at www.blessyoursoles.com, and info for the Herb Farm is at www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com.

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

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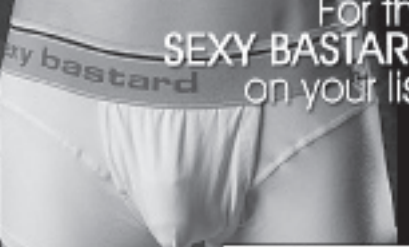
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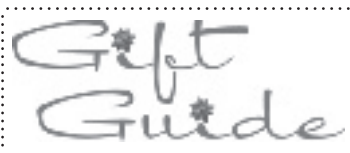
57 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Last-Minute Local Gifts

Whether you're looking for dreidel prizes or stocking stuffers, there are plenty of Austin sweets to fill the bill. **Chef Keem** has added delightful bite-sized **Doodlebugs** candies to his delicious line of hand-made chocolate bars. Look for them at **Farm to Market**, **Royal Blue Grocery**, **Whip In**, **Tom's Taboooley**, **Plum Blossom**, **Pitchforks & Tablespoons**, **Ben White Florist**, and **Peoples Pharmacy** in addition to his stall at the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market**. I have to concur with the folks at *Savueur* magazine on their recent choice of **Lammes Candies'** peppermint taffy as a must-have holiday gift. When my mother was alive, I couldn't go home for Christmas without them. Buy them by the pound or the box at any Lammes location or on the Web at www.lammes.com. Buying **Mary Louise Butter's Brownies** (www.buttersbrownies.com or 800/975-6309) by the dozen is much easier this season with the attractive gift-box assortments featuring her classic holiday flavors. She will even custom pack them with your business logo and ship them to clients as sure-to-be-much-appreciated hol-



JOHN ANDERSON



Chocolates founder **Rick Bristow** has a decadent new product out just in time for Christmas giving. Your favorite chocoholic is bound to swoon over SXUL Chocolate Sauce. Look for it in squeeze bottles at Grape Vine Market. Bristow suggests pairing it with a high quality vodka for SXUL-tinis!

— V.B.W.

WINE OF THE WEEK Sweet Libations

We've had a spate of superb dessert wines and liquors from Austin-area winemakers and distillers this year. One way to make everyone in your family Texas-proud is to show off some of these sweet libations during the holidays.

Paula Angerstein (www.paulatexasorange.com) is an Austinite who values the delicious after-dinner drinks in rural Italy. The standard method there is to take an item you like (in her case either lemon or orange), steep it in high-octane alcohol, then mix it with a simple syrup to bring it to the normal level of about 40% alcohol (80 proof). This works at home, too, using Everclear as the alcohol base. But, most of us won't be able to get as much flavor into our concoctions as Paula. Her two products are Texas Orange and Texas Lemon (both \$25), and she has mastered the process, infusing both drinks with massive amounts of citrusy flavor. My personal favorite is the Texas Lemon, a drink that will remind you of liquefied Cavendish and Harvey's Sour Lemon Drops.

Flat Creek Estate is a winery on the north side of Lake Travis. Owners **Rick** and **Madelyn Nabor** set out to build a world-class winery in Central Texas, and they have achieved their dream. Their dry wines win awards all over the U.S. and deservedly so. But the real head-turner in their portfolio is their 2005 Travis Peak Estate Muscato D'Arancia (\$16). This wine is about as perfect as a dessert wine can be. The aromas are powerful and similar to orange-tinged narcissus; the texture of the wine is rich and dense, and the flavors hit every part of your tongue. This is truly a world-class wine.

Part of the reason for the quality of the Flat Creek wines is the guiding hand of Aussie winemaker **Craig Parker**. Craig also lends a hand at Stone House Vineyard in Spicewood, where they have taken their estate-grown Norton grapes and made a fantastic portlike wine. Named Scheming Beagle (the name is a play on the multihundred-dollar Screaming Eagle wine), Parker lets the grapes over-ripen, then uses a gentle basket press to extract the juice. Their wine carries the aroma of plums, prunes, and dried apricots and carries enough acid to prevent the wine from tasting too sweet. The Norton grape is a tough customer; bad versions can smell like a wet wolf. But Parker has avoided the trap and makes a distinctly Texas wine that is pleasant from start to finish and reasonably priced at \$25.

— Wes Marshall

NEW & NOTEWORTHY NordicWare

Watching contestants create three-dimensional edible works of art during the Food Network Holiday Cake and Gingerbread House challenges last week inspired me to go above and beyond my usual holiday baking rituals. However, seeing as how I am both artistically and architecturally challenged, it was obvious I would need help. The Williams-Sonoma catalog (aka the foodie wish books) arrived just in time to solve my problem. The catalog showcased two new NordicWare baking pans designed exclusively for W-S and only available from them this season. The train pan makes adorable individual train cars, and the snowman pan renders a 12-inch-tall 3-D snowman that will stand on his own. Each pan comes complete with use and care instructions, plus a handy recipe designed to work with the equipment. The friendly, helpful folks in the marketing department at NordicWare were kind enough to send me samples of the pans, and we whipped up the two cakes for last week's annual *Chronicle* holiday bash.

The train cars are absolutely too cute for words. With a little frosting for glue, kids could have a great time decorating the cars with mints, gum drops, licorice-whip train tracks, and chocolate-chip lumps of coal. We found the candies used in our decorations at the Lammes factory store (5330 Airport). The vanilla butter cake recipe makes enough batter for 18 little cakes, although we only baked half that number and arranged six of them atop a sheet cake for a more dramatic presentation. The recipe that comes with the snowman pan is a very good spice cake. Glue the front and back sections together with a flavored buttercream, and spread some of the frosting on a platter to serve as the base. Mr. Snowman will stand up in the frosting, ready for a simple dusting of powdered sugar snow or a more elaborate covering of different colors of frosting and flakes of coconut snow. Either way, he's a tasty charmer.

These two fun new pans are only a couple of the many great ideas from NordicWare, the venerable Minnesota company responsible for that 1970s wonder, the Bundt cake pan. This season's other new pans are a star, a football stadium, and an enchanted cottage (à la "Hansel & Gretel") while last year's specialties were a 3-D castle, a holiday wreath, and a Christmas tree. Look for them in the Chefs and King Arthur Baker's catalogs, as well as at retailers that carry other NordicWare Bundt pans. You might not win a Food Network challenge, but you'll have some fun and impress your kids and holiday guests.

— V.B.W.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON



FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

If there are any two people who have done more to "keep Austin weird" than **Esther's Follies** co-founders **Shannon Sedwick** and **Michael Shelton**, I'd be hard-pressed to name them. The dynamic and talented duo has been creating unique attractions around the city for more than 25 years, though they haven't tried their hands at the restaurant business for quite some time. That's about to change with their newest venture, however. It's undeniable that Shelton has an eye for interesting spaces and a knack for renovating them in an inimitable style. His most recent discovery is a Southeast Austin building which will be home to **Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe** (5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020). The new restaurant will be decorated with large cowgirl portraits done by Austin poster artist/comedian **Kerry Awn** and furnished with custom-painted table tops by **Rene Anguiano**. According to Sedwick, the menu at Patsy's will feature down-home Austin fare and some Tex-Mex favorites. They'll be serving lunch initially and eventually plan to add breakfast and then dinner with some live music. Sedwick and Shelton are interviewing prospective cooks right now and expect their newest production to debut sometime in mid-January. We'll keep you posted... Anyone who doubts that Austin is a happening wine town need only consider the huge explosion in local wine and spirits retailers for confirmation. **Twin Liquors** has been Austin's first family of wine retailers for more than 100 years, and they have recently expanded to 46 retail outlets around Central Texas. TwinLiquors.com is their very informative and user-friendly Web site, offering many distinctive holiday gift ideas, myriad wine sections (pay special attention to the wine verticals), and plenty of drink recipes. The new site makes it possible to visit your favorite Twin Liquors outlet online, and the special store locator feature will come in handy when you need to find the nearest convenient Twin outlet between you and your holiday party destination... Wine and spirits retailer **Grape Vine Market** (7938 Great Northern Blvd., 323-5900) is another homegrown Austin success story; so successful, in fact, that their newest outlet should open in Round Rock this weekend (2400 S. I-35 #160, 512/248-9933). Look for their usual huge selection of wines, beers, and spirits, plus a deli that is stocked with an impressive assortment of imported international gourmet items, fine chocolates, delectable prepared foods, and a selection of unique imported cheeses. The burgeoning Austin market has also attracted a highly respected Houston retailer known for wines, spirits, and gourmet foods. The first local **Spec's Liquors** (5775 Airport, 366-8300) outlet opened near Highland Mall last week. Look for a second location to open in Southwest Austin near Brodie Lane and Highway 290 West sometime in January.

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 \$

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Belgian chocolate truffles, lovingly handmade from the finest ingredients by an experienced chocolatier, make a stunning and memorable gift. Between last Christmas and this Christmas, local confectioner Edis Ferreira has taken her business from fledgling to full-time as Austin has discovered **Edis' Chocolates**. You can find Edis at the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market** every Saturday now, with an entire stand to showcase her creations.

When properly made, chocolate truffles are dark, sensuous, creamy, and so rich in cacao that they border on hallucinogenic. Many large confectionery companies have tried to break in on the luxury chocolate action, but the result is never quite the same. There is something about handmade chocolates that can't be duplicated by machinery. Ferreira painstakingly makes each small batch to ensure perfection, and there are absolutely no other chocolates in Austin as ravishing.

Each opulent golden box contains a mixture of flavors: Dark Chocolate, Blackberry, Grand Marnier, Mexican Vanilla, Espresso, Hazelnut, Framboise, and Coconut. The truffles are available in boxes of two (\$4), half-dozen (\$10), or a dozen (\$20), or you can buy them unboxed for \$1.50 apiece. All are made from the purest Callebaut Belgian chocolate.

Ferreira came to Austin from Brazil 20 years ago and quick-

Local Products With Global Flavors

For the past couple of years, I have been giving events rather than objects to friends and loved ones for birthdays, weddings, and holidays. Last Christmas, for instance, we gave my brother- and sister-in-law a "personalized" visit and tasting at Flat Creek Estate vineyards, followed by dinner at Cafe 909 in Marble Falls. I find this is a lot more meaningful – and much more appreciated. Besides, I love to cook.

So, in this spirit, I offer our readers these suggestions. You can cook the dinner for your friends or loved ones yourself, or give them the specialty items in a basket with instructions, recipes, or tips. If you are not much of a cook, search the companies' Web sites for recipe ideas. Don't forget to include a bottle or two of Texas wine! Search our online archives at **austinchronicle.com** for Wes Marshall's expert suggestions.

For an easy starter with French flair, spread a half teaspoon of **Le Marseillais'** Confiture de Tomates – a delicious sweet-tangy-spicy tomato marmalade – over crackers or French bread slices and top with a slice of **Pure Luck's** Claire de Lune or fresh chèvre cheese. The Confiture de Tomates is available on Le Marseillais' Web site at **www.bistrolelmarseillais.com**, and it can even be delivered to your doorstep. Pure Luck products are also at the **Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Whole Foods, Central Market, Boggys Creek Farm**, or directly from the Web site (**www.purelucktexas.com**). Enjoy with your favorite cocktail or a glass of bubbly.

Add a Mediterranean twist to the salad course using **Saltburst's Savory Pomegranate Glaze** to make a unique sweet-and-sour vinaigrette. Use about a tablespoon of the seasoning, dissolve it in fresh lemon juice or white wine vinegar,

ly found work as a pastry chef. Ten years ago, she began her work with chocolate and started to dream of having her own company. When her husband, Delubio, joined the U.S. Army at the start of the war in Iraq, Ferreira quit her pastry chef job to take sole care of their daughter and concentrate on her dream.

"I love working with chocolate. It makes me happy," Ferreira beams. "I feel like I am bringing happiness and joy into the world, making the world a little bit lovelier."

You can find Ferreira and her chocolate truffles every Saturday until Christmas at the Sunset Valley Farmers Market in the Toney Burger Center parking lot. The market hours are 9am-1pm.

– Kate Thornberry

and add olive oil to taste. Drizzle on greens of your choice; add toasted nuts and some apple slices or fresh pomegranate seeds for texture. You can drizzle the vinaigrette over steamed or grilled veggies, or sprinkle the spice directly over hot veggies or meats to achieve a lovely glaze. Do this to freshly roasted acorn squash, and thank me later. Saltburst's Savory Pomegranate Glaze is available at Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Whole Foods, and on the Web site: **www.spiceburst.com**.

For the main course, go Jamaican! Those of us who lived in Bouldin Creek when 78704 was really just a ZIP code remember Shaggy's restaurant. The neighborhood eatery served the most amazing jerk sauce on chicken wings and grilled pork chops, with spicy seasoned fries and cold draft beers. Thankfully, the Shaggy's family has started bottling their jerk sauce for the world to enjoy. Use it to marinate and grill chicken, pork, or even tofu, and give your entrée a little extra kick! **Shaggy's Original Jerk Marinade** is available year-round at **Cafe Mundi** and at the **Blue Genie Art Bazaar** in December, but you can contact Shaggy's directly to place your order. All the info plus recipes and cooking instructions are at **www.shaggyssaues.com**.

To finish off on a slightly sweet but very interesting note, add a bag of **Cocoa Puro Kakawa Cocoa Beans**. These Venezuelan cocoa beans are roasted then covered in layers of El Rey white, milk, and dark chocolates and rolled in dark cocoa. Think chocolate-covered espresso beans are good? These little nibbles will please even the most demanding chocoholic on your list. Find them at **Whole Foods, Central Market, Austin Farmers' Market**, and other specialty stores, or you can order from **www.cocoapuro.com**.

– Claudia Alarcón



JOHN ANDERSON



JOHN ANDERSON

The Christmas Eve Waffle Dinner

Because we always ate such a light breakfast on Christmas morning, the holiday dining ritual of my childhood included a festive Christmas Eve supper of crisp waffles, thick slabs of crunchy peppered bacon, and steaming mugs of coffee or hot chocolate. This was one of my mother's favorite parties. She loved to share the evening with friends and neighbors and her special "gourmet" touch was a selection of then-exotic Knott's Berry Farm flavored syrups to accompany her signature buttermilk waffles.

For a uniquely Austin spin on re-creating this dinner as a gift idea, start with a gift basket from an Austin original, **Kerbey Lane Cafe**. This includes a bowl with your choice of two of their famous pancake mixes (buttermilk, gingerbread, pumpkin, apple whole wheat), some real maple syrup, a spatula, and a whisk. The Kerbey Lane mixes are available at your favorite KLC location, online at **www.kerbeylanecafe.com**, and most recently, at **Whole Foods Markets**. For a selection of syrups, try **Bee Cave Honey Co.** Cinnamon or Orange whipped honeys, **Hudson's on the Bend** Bourbon Vanilla Praline Sauce, **Fischer & Weiser's** Roasted Raspberry Chipotle Sauce, all available at **Central Market**, or some Rum Apple Butter or Apple Cider Sauce from **Love Creek Orchards** (**www.lovecreekorchards.com**).

For the perfect pork flavor to complement the pancakes and waffles, the best choice is the delectable pure Berkshire pork bacon or sausage from **Peach Creek Farm**, available online at **www.peachcreekfarm.us** or each Saturday morning at the Austin Farmers' Market Downtown. While you're at the market during the holidays, be sure to grab some **Cocoa Puro Hot Chocolate Mix**. Chocolate maven Tom Pedersen (**www.cocoapuro.com**) adds finely ground roasted criollo and trinitario cocoa beans to the granulated mixture, which intensifies the rich, chocolate flavor. Add a selection of huge ceramic mugs and a bag of flavored homemade marshmallows from Central Market or Whole Foods, and the gift of the feast is complete.

– Virginia B. Wood

continued on p.54

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Hey, Puddin'

'Tis the season that we remember Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Christmas pudding so lovingly prepared by Mrs. Cratchit. While traditional plum pudding may be a bit scarce in Central Texas, we're fortunate to be home to the **Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.** (472-0039, www.stickytoffeepuddingcompany.com), whose owner/founder, Tracy Claros, produces what must be the finest English-style puddings this side of the pond.

Everybody loves a local success story, and Claros is a brilliant example of a home baker with a vision, who first created a delicious product made by no one else and then figured out how to successfully produce and sell it. A native of England's Lake District, Claros first arrived in Austin in 1988 to study communications at UT. Armed with a B.A. and M.A., she worked for eight years in England as a speech pathologist, all the while dreaming both of returning to Austin and baking for a living. Sometimes dreams do come true, and 2003 found Claros, along



JOHN ANDERSON

with son James, happily selling her handmade Sticky Toffee Puddings to devoted fans at the downtown Austin Farmers' Market. It wasn't long before the puddings were available at Central Market and Whole Foods and then at independent groceries all over town, as well as at Costco.

Claros describes her Sticky Toffee Pudding as light sponge cake flavored with puréed dates soaked in vanilla and coffee and coated with brown sugar and pecan toffee sauce. Served warm with cream or crème fraîche, it is a rich, moist, elegant, and indescribably scrumptious dessert. This year, Claros has introduced the equally wonderful English Lemon Pudding and Molten Chocolate Baby-Cake and plans to launch Sticky Ginger Pudding in early 2007.

The puddings, made from all-natural ingredients, are sold in individual serving-sized pudding basins that Claros imports from England. They keep well for weeks in the fridge and freeze just beautifully. (I'm such a fan that I keep an emergency supply in the freezer at all times.)

The best news for holiday gift-givers is that you can now purchase and send the Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.'s products online in packages of four, six, or 12, ranging from \$15-45 at the Web site. Also, check there for retail locations where you can buy the puddings directly (\$3.99-4.99, individually). These English puddings are not only for Christmas, but what better time to share the tradi-

tion with those you love? God bless us, every one, y'all.

— MM Pack

Help Them Grow Their Own Herb

What could be better than doing some grunt work for a friend or loved one as a Christmas gift? Something that they might not do for themselves or might postpone indefinitely? You're giving the gift of fresh herbs, edible flowers, and salad greens, mere seconds from the plot to the plate; the gift of big organic flavors within a few steps of their kitchen door, for as long as they choose to maintain the garden.

There are a few requirements you need to keep in mind. An herb garden has to be easily accessible from the kitchen door, or the giftees will have a lame excuse to use it less frequently. It needs full sun for at least half a day and a convenient water source. It requires excellent drainage, so deep soil work is called for; double-digging with a strong garden fork is the best method. Lastly, the time to amend the soil with compost and nutrients is before you plant; it's better mixed into the soil through the root zone, instead of on top of the soil.

A planting plan is called for, regardless of the size. Concern yourself with the mature height and width of the plants you want to install, so the plants don't crowd each other, and so the taller plants don't shade the plants behind them. You also need to know whether they are evergreen or deciduous (plants keep their leaves year-round, or drop them in the winter), perennial or annual (plants grow year after year, or die after one season, either warm or cool).

The kind of cooking that your giftee does will determine what plants they will need. Different cuisines use

Take Them Away

If gift giving is about extravagance, you'd be hard pressed to top a visit to **Lake Austin Spa Resort** for sheer indulgence. If shopping locally is your priority, the same gift fits the bill nicely, too. If your gift recipient is fitness conscious or a foodie, you're spot on with this present as well. Actually, you'd be hard-pressed to identify someone who wouldn't be flat-out wowed by a day at the spectacular spa. This is the voice of experience vouching for the gift.

Rated the No. 5 spa in the country by the Zagat survey, Lake Austin Spa Resort (1705 S. Quinlan Park Rd., 372-7300, www.lakeaustin.com) sits on the banks of the Colorado and the site of a former fishing camp. All signs of its former rustic hut days are gone amid the herb gardens, lushly landscaped walking trails, yoga decks, and splendid accommodations. Decades ago, the site was a considerable distance from town, but as Austin has grown, and sprawling ranches are converted into develop-

ments with hundreds of homes, the location is no longer remote. Still, upon arrival there is a sense of leaving the city behind.

On a quiet February day, I cashed in my Half Day Away gift certificate with my sister in tow. We were a motley crew: My hot-water heater was on the fritz, and we were unable to shower prior to our arrival. With greasy, lank hair, we stopped for coffee, which I promptly spilled all over my sisters' pants. We must be among the least glamorous guests they've hosted, dirty and stained as we were, but the staff politely ignored our appearance and warmly welcomed us with sumptuous thirsty robes and complimentary spa slippers. First off, we indulged in the novelty of a hot shower and took advantage of the fragrant soaps, shampoos, and conditioners provided.

Suitably clean, we padded up to the Blue Room to await the first of our two treatments included in the Half Day package. The spacious living room, part of the LakeHouse Spa building, is outfitted with Hill Country-elegant furnishings, textiles, and lime-

stone walls. We had selected our treatments prior to our arrival from the dozens of options. Who knew there were so many options in the world of spas? What possible difference could there be between, say, a Rosemary Sea Salt Scrub and a Citrus Dream treatment? I'm not sure I know even now, so we basically threw darts on a board and selected. We were ushered into immaculate treatment rooms with private showers, where skilled technicians deftly managed our disrobing with modesty, and we submitted ourselves into their capable hands. I don't know what technique they employed or the benefits of the products they used. I do know it was heaven! I was massaged, scrubbed, enrobed, heated, showered, oiled, and wrapped back into my Turkish robe. Next was some face thing: Pores were "evacuated," scrubs were employed, lotions and potions applied, all amid scrupulously chosen relaxation music in a serene room.

Topping off the package is lunch in the **Aster Cafe**, where chef Terry Conlan's considerable culinary skill is interpreted to

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different herbs, so find out if they cook European, Latino, or Asian-style foods, and select varieties accordingly. The following perennials grow well around Central Texas: bay laurel, oregano, marjoram, thyme, sage, savory, mint, chervil, chives, rosemary, lavender, lemongrass, and sorrel. For annuals, you should consider basil (Thai, holy, Genovese, etc.), cumin, chiles, dill, fennel, cilantro, arugula, flat leaf parsley, and tarragon (technically a perennial but grown more as an annual here, or you can substitute it with Mexican mint marigold).

Edible flowers can be mixed into the bed or used as a decorative border. "City of Lights" rainbow-hued chard, which thrives almost year-round, makes a colorful edible accent. Microgreens and salad mixes can be sown sequentially and harvested weekly. The size of the bed planted is really the only limitation to what can be grown for your favorite cook.

Everything you need to install and maintain an herb garden for your partner, friend, or family can be purchased at **It's About Thyme Nursery** (11726 Manchaca, 280-1192, www.itsaboutthyme.com). They carry a huge range of culinary herb plants in assorted sizes, as well as seeds, soil amendments, and mulch, and if you don't have the time, they'll be happy to install the herb garden for you. Regardless of who puts it in, a kitchen herb garden is the type of culinary gift that will keep on giving for many meals to come.

— Mick Vann

suit the spa setting. As a result, you can enjoy a fabulous pecan-crusted chicken-breast salad or a prosciutto-and-provolone panini with basil-and-fig vinaigrette without exceeding the caloric and fat intake of spa proportions. Take home his cookbook, *Fresh*, while you're there; it's chock-full of sophisticated recipes tweaked to minimize the fat and maximize the flavor.

Day visitors to the spa aren't given the bum's rush; you're welcome to stroll the grounds, swim in the pools, stew in a hot tub, or generally lounge around and read that book that has languished on your bedside table. It was with reluctance that my sister and I looked up from our books, abandoned our robes, and padded back to our cars in our new spa slippers, our souvenir of our day of indulgence.

— Barbara Chisholm

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DOWNTOWN

PUB GRUB: B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB With Irish music, excellent pub grub, and Guinness and Smithwick's Ale by the Imperial pint (20 ounces), no wonder there are always friendly folks belled up to the bar. **204 E. Sixth, 494-1335 \$**

AMERICAN CAFE: JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Not just for that morning cup o' brown brew, the Austin Java Co. offers an array of sustenance, plus luscious desserts. **1206 Parkway, 476-1829 \$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: LITTLE CITY Popular coffee shop's nearest campus location, informally known as Itty Bitty City. Vast drink selection and happy hour specials as well as a top-notch bakery. **916 Congress, 476-2489 \$**

INTERIOR MEXICAN: MANUEL'S Somehow Manuel's manages to be chic and casual at the same time. It continues to be our favorite place for value-priced drinks and appetizers. **310 Congress, 472-7555 \$\$\$**

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

PAN-ASIAN: NOODLE-ISM The emphasis is on quality ingredients along with quick and friendly service. This is a place where vegans and carnivores can happily coexist. **107 W. Fifth, 275-9988 \$\$**

AMERICAN CAFE: PARADISE CAFE Its downtown location and hearty menu have led to its success as a lunch destination as well as a night-time spot. **401 E. Sixth, 476-5667 \$\$**

AMERICAN CAFE: RANCH 616 The venison Frito pie took the critics' Best Retro Game Dish in the 2006 Restaurant Poll, but others go for the fried oysters. **616 Nueces, 479-7616 \$**

FINE DINING, SOUTHWESTERN: ROARING FORK The rustic decor - all stone, metal, leather, and antlers - and hearty Western entrées and robust side dishes are a carnivore's dream. **701 Congress, 583-0000 \$\$\$**

TEX-MEX: SERRANO'S Muchas margaritas and full-service Tex-Mex overlooking the Symphony Square amphitheatre. **1111 Red River, 322-9080 \$\$**

CAJUN/CREOLE: SHOAL CREEK SALOON A Cajun oasis next to Shoal Creek, with great South Louisiana chow, ice-cold beer, and a warm and fuzzy ambience. It's the friendliest sports bar in town. **909 N. Lamar, 474-0805 \$\$**

EAST

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

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BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR The newest addition to Eastside's own restaurant row offers a full menu of coffee beverages, paninis, salads, and pastries from Russell's Bakery. **2200 Manor Rd., 472-9900 \$**

BURGER JOINT: DAN'S HAMBURGERS One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's Hamburger King, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friendly service. **844 Airport, 385-2262 \$**

TEX-MEX: DARIO'S RESTAURANT Try the fajita omelet with grilled peppers, onions, potatoes, and beans. But don't overlook the rest of the menu, or you'll miss the fabulous enchiladas. **Que rico! 1800 E. Sixth, 479-8105 \$\$**

TEX-MEX: EL CHILITO Fresh, fast and portable: That's what you can expect from this festive corner taqueria. Don't miss the conchinita in fresh corn tortillas, or the great paleta selection. **2219 Manor Rd., 382-3797 \$**

AMERICAN CAFE: GO GO GOURMET An inviting selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, entrées, and side dishes awaits you. Eat in or take out. **3505 N. I-35, 542-9860 \$\$**

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: HOOVER'S COOKING Dishing out huge portions of freshly cooked, Southern-style home cooking such as Jerk Pork Ribs, the Bella Muffaletta, and heavenly pork chops, this place remains a popular standby. **2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006 \$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY Find the same great pastry and sandwich offerings as the Hyde Park location, as well as the addition of grilled sandwiches and pizzas. **1400 E. 38½, 538-1991 \$**

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

TEX-MEX: VIVO Try their affordable San Antonio-style Tex-Mex fare and margaritas on the decks. **2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300 \$\$\$**

LAKE

TEX-MEX: FLORES MEXICAN RESTAURANT Still offering delicious grilled items, affordable lunch specials, friendly service, and good margaritas. **1310 RR 620 S., 263-9546 \$**

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

ITALIAN: PRONTO ITALIANO Check out the new beer and wine offerings while enjoying a meal in the dining room or grabbing food to take home. **3620 RR 620 S., \$**

NORTH

ITALIAN: ANDIAMO RISTORANTE The personal warmth and hospitality of old-style restaurant Giovanni Cocciantie make this a special place to dine. Northern Italian specialties, good soups, homemade pastas, and a wine list coming in March. **2521 Rutland, 719-3377 \$\$\$**

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, VIETNAMESE: BA LE The baguettes and baked goods may be amazing, but the sandwiches steal the show here. Don't miss the noodle dishes and the pork pté. **8624 N. Lamar, 491-9188 \$**

JAPANESE: BENIHANA The cuisine has been infiltrated by its surroundings, producing the Texas roll, made with smoked salmon, avocado, cucumber, cream cheese, and jalapeño. **9070 Research, 451-7505 \$\$\$**

ITALIAN: BUCAL BEPPO This national chain serves "immigrant Southern Italian" cuisine. Dishes are served family-style, or personalized for two with smaller portions. **3612 Tudor, 342-8462 \$\$\$**

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

ITALIAN: CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL Order from the pasta bar, sample one of the wood-fired pizzas, or choose a grilled specialty. The menu also includes the requisite manicotti, lasagna, and spaghetti options. **11590 Research Blvd., 345-8232 \$\$\$**

PAN-ASIAN: CLAY POT BUFFET Austin's first totally hot-pot restaurant, loaded with fresh seafood and vegetables, just waiting to be plunged into the savory stock on top of your table. Interactive hands-on dining at its best. **13000 N. I-35, Building 12 #200, 833-8837 \$\$**

ITALIAN: ITALIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT From the bowl of croutons on every table to the delicate herbal house dressing, they specialize in hearty southern Italian, "Brooklyn-style" fare. **14611 FM 1325, 388-1062 \$\$**

VIETNAMESE: SAGIANG They specialize in over-the-top, tasty grilled beef, chicken, pork, and shrimp skewers, but they also have great spring rolls and excellent bun and pho. **12636 Research Blvd., 250-8400 \$\$**

STEAKHOUSE: TEXAS LAND & CATTLE COMPANY Casual, respectable food served up in super-friendly style. You'll leave with a full stomach and green still in your wallet. **14010 Hwy. 183 N., 258-3733 \$\$**

NORTH CENTRAL

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN: AFIA CAFE Not for the gastronomically timid, this restaurant makes few concessions to American tastes. *Obogbon, moi-moi, and egusi* are among the authentic West African culinary jewels. **6929 Airport, 450-1101 \$\$**

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

INTERNATIONAL: BOOMERANG'S GOURMET VEGGIE & MEAT PIES Find 11 different flavors of authentic Aussie meat pies in flaky crusts. Very friendly counter folks, and great coffee, too. **3110 Guadalupe, 380-0032 \$**

CHINESE: CHINA PALACE The Palace was huge back in the Seventies and Eighties, with long lines and great Chinese cuisine. It's back with a vengeance, loaded with authentic taste. Insist on the Chinese menu, and be adventurous. **6605 Airport, 451-7104 \$**

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

KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN The interior may be newer and brighter, but the sushi and Korean dishes are as good as ever. Try the *banchan* tidbits and the noodle dishes. You can also grill on your table. **6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149 \$\$**

continued on p.58

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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.57

ITALIAN: MANDOLA'S ITALIAN MARKET This market/restaurant from Houston's Mandola clan is attracting crowds with imported Italian deli meats and cheeses, fresh-baked rustic breads and pastries, and homemade gelatos and sorbetto. Enjoy well-selected wines by the bottle and the glass, and prepared foods to eat in or take out. 4700 N. Lamar, 419-9700 \$

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

BARBECUE: POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE The newest location of this Fifth Street favorite has the same great grub. Don't miss the desserts. 1000 E. 41st, 302-1200 \$

CHINESE: WANFU III You'll find the same offerings at this new location of the Barton Springs favorite. 6801 Airport Blvd., 459-5200 \$\$

SOUTH

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: ABUELO'S MEXICAN FOOD EMBASSY Lubbock-based chain with both traditional Tex-Mex and adventurous Interior Mexican offerings. 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 306-0857 \$\$

TEX-MEX: EL GALLO Austin-style Tex-Mex since the Fifties. Family-owned for 42 years. Try the cabrito and stay for the mariachi trio that plays Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 2910 S. Congress, 444-2205 \$

TEX-MEX: EL MERCADO A very happy hour and home of 99-cent appetizers, nestled in a neon rainforest. 1302 S. First, 447-7445 \$

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

TAKEOUT, TEX-MEX: FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO Stratocaster-sized burritos in a rock & roll environment are the stock-in-trade at this joint. This is big-boy eating heaven: You don't have to include the veggie stuff you don't want, and there's no way you can walk away hungry. 515 S. Congress, 462-3512 \$

TEX-MEX: LITTLE MEXICO RESTAURANT One of our favorite things to do is enjoy a chile relleno or a plate of carne guisada and listen to the mariachi bands that play here weekly. 2304 S. First, 462-2188 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Funky little joint with the brightly decorated patio is the heart and soul of South Austin. Arrive early! Hundreds of breakfast taco variations, great migas, great hot sauce, full bar. 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261 \$

restaurant guide ONLINE
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CHINESE: NG HOUSE A spare and spiffily clean Cantonese oasis for the Chinese-deprived in South Austin. You'll find a huge menu, big portions at low prices, and great specials. 6800 Westgate Blvd. #112, 416-9888 \$

JAPANESE: SHOGUN Specialties of the house include sukiyaki, tempura, teriyaki, teppanyaki, udon, and soba. The menu also features some interesting salads. 1807 Slaughter #225, 292-1580 \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Just a shout away from the former Armadillo World Headquarters; there are several music and food combos on the menu here including a gospel brunch on Sundays. 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304 \$\$

ITALIAN: VINNY'S ITALIAN CAFE All the pasta dishes you'd expect, as well as a number of specialty pizzas. They offer lunch on Saturdays as well as an updated wine list. 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484 \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: THE WAREHOUSE SALOON The buffet on Tuesdays and Fridays offers a wide variety of main courses and sides. Play pool, watch sports, and enjoy moderately priced drinks. 509 E. Ben White, 443-8799 \$\$

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BARBECUE: BERT'S BAR-B-Q The campus location of this popular chain still serves up the chicken that we crave. 610 W. MLK, 474-2613 \$

BURGER JOINT: DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE Open since 1926, hamburgers, chicken-fried steaks, and pork chops are still done on the griddle. 2808 Guadalupe, 477-3173 \$

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

ITALIAN: PICCOLO ITALIAN CAFE Don't just try them for the variety of house-made pastas and wood-fired pizzas. Try the hot and cold appetizers and the chicken, seafood, and veal entrees. 2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600 \$

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: ROCK DOG Chow down on the real deal in grilled dogs while staring at some truly inspired Austin music memorabilia. Great fries and desserts too. 2801 Guadalupe, 481-8282 \$

TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S A wide range of Tex-Mex with a slightly contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The half-pound burgers are tasty and massive, and they also offer chicken-fried steaks. 409 W. 30th, 477-2935 \$

WEST

ITALIAN: BELLIGIO ITALIAN BISTRO Don't plan on arriving late and having a leisurely dining experience - they like to close the kitchen as soon as the dinner rush starts to slow down. 6507 Jester, 346-8228 \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: ELISI'S RESTAURANT Pupusas and masa cortada, the Salvadoran national dish of masa gorditas filled with spiced pork or cheese alongside spicy cabbage slaw, often appear as lunch specials. 6601 Burnet Rd., 454-0747 \$

TEX-MEX: ENCHILADAS Y MAS Hundreds of satisfied customers will testify that the chorizo migas are worth a drive across town. 1911 W. Anderson, 467-7100 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: FOOD! FOOD! With more than 20 varieties of sandwiches to choose from, lunch at this friendly neighborhood deli will always turn up something new and interesting. 2727 Exposition #112, 474-8515 \$

JAPANESE: ICHIBAN Find Korean fare as well as all of the traditional Japanese items and, of course, sushi, with a focus on taste as well as artistry of presentation. 7310 Burnet Rd., 452-2883 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, and there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. 3300 Bee Caves Rd., 328-0200 \$

FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches, salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 306-1998 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, TAKEOUT: LITTLE DELI Nestled in one end of the Crestview Shopping Center. Orders are placed at the counter, and the service is relaxed and friendly. 7101-A Woodrow, 467-7402 \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, TEX-MEX: MI VICTORIA Besides a wide assortment of Mexican pastries and cookies, find excellent breakfast tacos here. Menudo, picadillo, and barbacoa by the pound is also available on weekends. 5245 Burnet Rd., 458-1898 \$

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

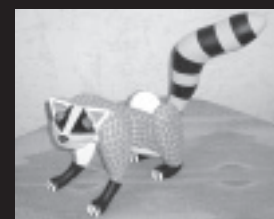
SOUTHWESTERN, TEX-MEX: ZITEJAS Every dish on the menu has a surprise inside - some combination of ingredients that fills the time between ordering and the first bite with heavy anticipation. 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355 \$

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J.L. Aronson on 'Danielson: A Family Movie (or, Make a Joyful Noise Here)'

When I ask what faith, if any, Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker J.L. Aronson follows, there's zero hesitation before he answers. "I'm a Rastafarian," he confides, and then, "No, I'm not. Just kidding. I've been a practicing on-and-off Buddhist since I was a teenager. I have an open mind. I take it all in."

It's not the standard line of inquiry vis-à-vis filmmaker phoners, but in Aronson's case, the tack is notable. As the man behind the film *Danielson: A Family Movie (or, Make a Joyful Noise Here)*, Aronson spent five years delving into the history of the odd, fanciful, and supremely interesting Christian indie outfit Danielson Family, led by helium-voiced frontman Daniel Smith and a revolving door comprising his siblings and, on occasion, the more recent indie-pop darling Sufjan Stevens.

With their jangly, chorus-filled, and sporadically atonal compositions and sporting homemade doctors' and nurses' uniforms, Danielson Family can come off as a novelty act pitched somewhere between Jad Fair and Amy Grant, with backing by the New Christie Minstrels had they been infiltrated and surreptitiously sandbagged by the Polyphonic Spree. For audiences – Christian and otherwise – unfamiliar with the group's heartfelt albeit obscure modus operandi, Danielson Family can be downright bizarre going. But hang in there: Aronson's thorough and thoroughly interesting film explains it all and doubles as a primer in all things Danielson.

"I tried not to have too many assumptions about them going in," explains Aronson, who heard his first earful of the joyful noisters via a CMJ giveaway disc, "but the main one I did have was that, you know, they present this kind of image on stage where the women are almost like wind-up dolls, and no one really speaks on stage. Daniel might tell you what song they were playing, but he didn't really talk too much, in part because he realized that things could easily be taken out of context. The big surprise was



that they are all really smart and funny – they have a great sense of humor about themselves and what they're doing."

Which, of course, is key to surviving and thriving in both indie rock and its more penitent persuasions. Nothing coagulates a fan base like a bleeding heart, least of all one that badgers them to hammer on their own personal crown of thorns. Here's blood in your eye, kids! Not so with Danielson.

"Ultimately," Aronson says, "I just felt that what Daniel was doing was a really good package overall. Reading their album art, you quickly surmise that, because there's a whole cosmology. And any artist that is able to build up a whole world in support of their art or in support of whatever it is they're promoting, be it David Lynch or Danielson Family, is, I think, worth investigating further. And so I did the film, so I could tell their story to people who may have been mediating the experience of Danielson through an ironic lens."

– Marc Savlov

Danielson: A Family Movie (or, Make a Joyful Noise Here) is playing at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown. For showtimes, see Film Listings, p.90.

FILM NEWS BY JOE O'CONNELL POYSER IN CHARGE

Bryan Poyser knows a thing or two about the Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund. He has been awarded grants three times, twice for his critically acclaimed *Dear Pillow* and once for a short film. Now, as the new director of artist services for the Austin Film Society, one of his duties is to oversee the fund process. "It's an exciting time for me," Poyser says. "I'm going to continue to pursue films and write screenplays. This gives me the opportunity to survive and still stay involved." *The Cassidy Kids* – co-written with **Tasca Shadix** and **Tom Willett** and directed by collaborator **Jacob Vaughan** for Burnt Orange Productions – premiered earlier this year at the South by Southwest Film Festival and is still seeking distribution. Poyser was nominated for the 2005 Independent Spirit Someone to Watch award and believes the latest Austin film to be up for an Independent Spirit, *Chalk*, which also has secured a distribution deal through **Morgan Spurlock** and Hart Sharp Video, as well as Sundance selections *Teeth* and *The Unforeseen* are a sign of the film community's growing rep. "Austin filmmakers are really kicking butt and continue to do so every year," says Poyser, whose new job also will have him organizing works-in-progress screenings and, he hopes, several initiatives.

SHOWING OUR SUNDANCE SHORTS

Last week I told you about Texas-connected features accepted to Sundance, but what about those shorts culled out of more than 4,000 entries? **David** and **Nathan Zellner** are back with "Aftermath on Meadowlark Lane."

Plus, **Jesus "Chin" Beltran's** Fort Worth-shot "The Grass Grows Green" is in. Meanwhile, one feature I failed to mention is the story of John Lennon's killer, Mark David Chapman, in *Chapter 27*, directed by **Jarrett Schaeffer**, who went to high school in Grapevine.

GOODBYE TO WELLES' RIGHT-HAND MAN

Famed cinematographer **Gary Graver**, who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer, will be remembered by Texans as the shooter for the 1986 television remake of *Stagecoach*, shot partially in the state, starring **Willie Nelson** and **Kris Kristofferson**. But Graver's credits list is a mile long and highlighted by a long partnership with **Orson Welles**. Graver had fought for years to piece together and release Welles' last, unfinished film, *The Other Side of the Wind*, about a great director's decline. Graver also worked with **Roger Corman** and shot **Ron Howard's** *Grand Theft Auto* (see "DVD Reviews," p.62). Graver's brother Geoff lives in Austin.

TRUE WESTERN INDEPENDENTS

Director **Glenn Helm** and producer **Toby Thomas** may be the combined definition of persistence. The date they started shooting the 1880 period Western *Blood on the Brazos*, their financial backer walked out. As Helm says, with "no script and a bunch of nobodies with a little experience," they steered true and, years later, finally have a finished film from their production company, Sindinero ("without money" en español). The film was shot in the Texas town of Nemo, a name that means either "nowhere" or "no man," depending on whom you ask.

Send tips to filmnews@autinchronicle.com.

ADRIFT IN THE ETHER

New consumer-advocacy project keeps online customers plugged in

According to a recent poll conducted by Austin-based Newgistics and Harris Interactive, "48% of respondents plan on shopping online this holiday season. 93% of adults say that a convenient return policy and process is very important, important or somewhat important when deciding where to purchase a gift for someone else. And 80% are *not* likely to shop again with a direct retailer if the return process is inconvenient."

Since this time last year – the first time we reported on those feisty online agitators intent on tracking down the elusive phone numbers of an array of online retailers and services – the motley assortment of resources has erupted into a full-blown consumer movement.

Boston-based entrepreneur Paul English – whose scrappy blog (www.paulenglish.com/ivr) became the holy grail of customer service hotlines – has, along with an intrepid crew of Internet activists, expanded the operation into its own distinct Web presence: GetHuman.com. The site features a database of online retail phone info, as well as lists of main corporate and government customer service offices, including specific instructions detailing how to reach a real, live human and navigate the byzantine maze of so-called IVR or Interactive Voice Response systems, the most frustrating developments in customer service since the blister pack.

Enjoy this summary of valuable info (we hope you don't need it), and do explore the Get Human site for greater details and more listings.

Happy clicking.



– Kate X Messer

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Source: www.gethuman.com

Gift Guide

SNL: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

Universal Studios, \$69.98

“You can only be new once,” reflects *Saturday Night Live* producer and creator Lorne Michaels. “In that first season, all that really mattered was the work.” *SNL* has been with us so long now it’s hard to recall a time when it didn’t exist. Reissues and “Best ofs” from the series’ salad days have been released in so many permutations they’ve become like Comedy *CliffsNotes*, and the visceral impact of the early shows as they were originally aired has been lost like *Rubber Soul* in a sea of K-Tel compilations.

In 1975, Michaels – a former writer for *Laugh-In* – assembled a stoner repertory company of guerilla writers, improv artists, and Second City alumni – including comic force of nature John Belushi, chameleonlike sketch genius Danny Aykroyd, waifish odd-girl-out Gilda Radner, prim but sexy Jane Curtin, and – the breakout star by far – writer/performer Chevy Chase, who was and you weren’t, if only for one season before departing for the greener pastures of *Fletch*-dom. No one quite knew what to expect at 11:32 EST on Oct. 11, 1975, when a frightened Belushi and then-head writer Michael O’Donohue took the stage at Rockefeller Center’s Studio 8-H for the opening sketch. Live national television hadn’t been attempted since the days of Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca, let alone put into the hands of a ragtag bunch of (mostly) stoned, counterculture sketch comics and writers. With its tacit endorsement of the drug culture, commercial parodies, and assault on the status quo, *SNL* left pungent vapor trails that linger to this day.

But the show didn’t change the medium overnight; It took a couple of months before America began to catch the distinctively subversive whiff of Michaels’ incendiary experiment, which has become the longest-running comedy series in history. Here, after 32 years, is the revolutionary first season exactly as it aired, warts and all, with musical performances intact, breakout guest stars (Albert Brooks, Andy Kaufman, Billy Crystal), memorable hosts (Richard Pryor, Buck Henry, Desi Arnaz, Lily Tomlin), classic sketches (“Word Association,” “Samurai Deli,” “Star Trek,” and Chase’s signature “Weekend Update”), plus bonus features, including each cast member’s screen test. “It was never the same again,” lamented Michaels recently. “It was the end of innocence.”

– Steve Uhler

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE

Criterion, \$39.95

Twelve minutes. The time it takes *The Double Life of Veronique* to lodge a lump in your throat named Krzysztof Kieslowski. The previous 11 minutes and 59 seconds, beginning on Christmas Eve, has already stolen more than your breath. Ninety-seven minutes, then: the interval between your first and second swim through *Veronique*’s meta-physical rapture. Contrary to Annette Insdorf’s equally delicate, precise, idolatrous feature-length commentary, a clear delineation of the film’s doppelgangers, Weronika singing heavenward in the director’s native Warsaw, and *Veronique*’s seduction by marionette in the Paris of Kieslowski’s later *Blue*, *White*, and *Red* trilogy, isn’t immediately apparent. Neither that blurred reality nor the film’s European ending drives repeat immersions, however – even if collaborators cite 15 to 21 different final versions of *Veronique* by its chain-smoking visionary. It’s Kieslowski. His singular, and, in the words of Insdorf, “deeply poetic brand of cinematic storytelling with rhyming images.” More than five hours of rich backstory envelops two discs, including short films, an on-set interview with Kieslowski, and earth angel Irène Jacob. Cinematographer Slawomir Idziak’s anecdote of the decision to cast the shy, inexperienced Jacob, Ingrid Bergman immaculate and glimpsed briefly only in Louis Malle’s *Au Revoir, Les Enfants*, wells up more emotion. Krakow’s Zbigniew Preisner, who scored 17 Kieslowski films in nine years, also bobs for Adam’s apples in honoring his lifelong comrade, who died during what one documentary angrily terms “botched” heart surgery in Poland, 1991.

– Raoul Hernandez

GRAND THEFT AUTO: TRICKED OUT EDITION

Buena Vista Home Entertainment, \$19.99

THE CRY BABY KILLER: BACK-TO-BACK JACK EDITION

Buena Vista Home Entertainment, \$19.99

Funny how things can change over time: As some five decades have passed, prolific producer Roger Corman’s unofficial title has evolved up from the mildly derisive King of the Quickies to the far more impressive Godfather of the Independent Film. Thankfully, it’s the latter that’s reflected in the treatment that’s currently being given to Corman’s 400-plus modestly budgeted, unpretentious features as they begin making their appearance on DVD.

Boasting a new digital master with enhanced audio, the *Back-to-Back Jack Edition* of Jack Nicholson’s onscreen debut, *The Cry Baby Killer* (1958), is technically more bonus than feature; with the movie clocking in at a paltry 61 minutes, there’s enough room on the DVD for a colorized edition of the legendary shot-in-two-days-as-a-joke black comedy *The Little Shop of Horrors* (1960), featuring Nicholson’s classic turn as a masochistic dental patient, plus the producer’s new introductions to both films. The lead movie itself is hardly a classic, but there’s no turning down the charm of the 21-year-old Nicholson.

The *Tricked Out Edition* of Ron Howard’s directorial debut, *Grand Theft Auto*, sports a set of distinctively more relevant extras: In addition to the new intro, there’s a freewheeling commentary track by Howard and Corman, plus a “making of” featurette with Howard’s co-writer/father Rance and co-star/brother Clint. The movie’s a satisfactory actioner with some actual thought put behind it, but here’s something you thought you’d never see: It’s actually better with the commentary track on! (Occasionally, during intros and commentaries, Corman even lets an eye-opening teaser slip out; like, did you know that he’s planning a remake of *Little Shop* or that Tom Cruise is aching to make *Deathrace 3000*?)

These days, the phrase “independent film” means a lot of different things to different people. To some it may indicate an “artsy” or European sensibility, or perhaps a dissonant, personal vision. Too bad, so sad – the only thing that Roger Corman ever promised with any of his movies was entertainment – but if that’s what you’re looking for, just seeing his name on the DVD box may be proof enough for purchase.

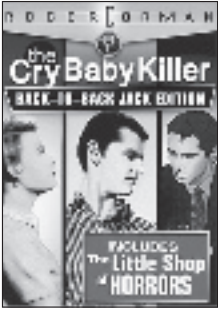
– Ken Lieck

M*A*S*H: MARTINIS AND MEDICINE COMPLETE COLLECTION

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“Now hear this. Tonight’s TV episode will be *M*A*S*H*, starring Alan Alda, featuring the madcap adventures of the wacky doctors and nurses of the 4077th as they do battle with death, dysentery, and depression on the front lines in Korea.” No, that PSA never aired, but it would’ve provided an appropriate symmetry for the last episode of this landmark series. When *M*A*S*H* debuted on CBS in 1973, America was in the last gasp of the Vietnam War. Though Walter

continued on p.64



ROBIN HOOD: MOST WANTED EDITION

Walt Disney Video, \$29.99

THE FOX AND THE HOUND: 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Walt Disney Video, \$29.99

For those of a certain age, *The Fox and the Hound* and *Robin Hood* both stand out as having a specific magical quality. Maybe it’s the quality that all things watched around age 5 acquire, but regardless, you won’t find too many people in their late 20s/early 30s without a special sentimental regard for the them. 1973’s *Robin Hood* was re-released theatrically a year after *The Fox and the Hound*’s 1981 premiere, explaining why many of us saw them around the same time. It was the first animated feature to begin production after Walt Disney’s death in 1966 and is therefore the first of Disney’s post-Walt dark period, when audiences became more critical of the studio’s storytelling. 1989’s *The Little Mermaid* is officially considered Disney’s redemptive comeback, and lots of people would probably argue that Ariel is the one with the specific magical quality. But for me, *Mermaid*, with its splashy color palette and campy jokes (“Walkin’ around on those – whaddya call ‘em? – oh, feet”), can’t compete with the distinctly gentle Seventies quality of *Robin Hood* and *The Fox and the Hound*, with their lovely pastoral landscapes – all muted browns and greens – and their subtle musical scores that don’t get all up your face like those in *Mermaid* or *The Lion King* (no offense to Elton John) or that movie with all the dancing dishes.

Robin Hood has the enviable distinction of being scored by Roger Miller, so it’s a hard act to follow (remember “Ooh-de-Lally”? – “Robin Hood and Little John walkin’ through the forest, laughin’ back and forth at what the other’n has to say”), but even *F&H*’s simple “Best of Friends” (“If only the world wouldn’t get in the way; if only people would just let you play”) strikes a sweet, subdued tone that Disney outings don’t seem to have today. Both movies are about friendship, of course. The impossible friendship between the hunter (Copper the hound dog, voiced by a very young Corey Feldman) and the hunted (Tod the fox) is still heartbreaking today, making the movie infamous for A) being many people’s first memory of crying in a theatre, and B) remaining a crying movie even in repeat, adult viewings. And even the upbeat, frolicking *Robin Hood* has that unforgettable moment of heartbreak, when Little John, his giant bear shoulders slumped in defeat, thinks Robin is dead, after plunging from the burning castle into the moat below ... and then you see Robin’s hollow reed moving through the water.

Robin Hood’s Most Wanted Edition has a special “alternate ending” feature beginning with a very different version of this scene, while the most notable special feature on *The Fox in the Hound* is a too-short six-minute doc. “Passing the Baton” explains the movie’s distinction as a collaboration between the last of the old-guard animators, who’d been with the studio since the beginning, and the first of the new artists, who are still with Disney today. This history perhaps explains the distinctive charm of the two movies. Together, they recall a bygone era of sweetness that perhaps ended with *The Fox and the Hound*, which was, after all, the last of Disney’s animated features to frontload the credits, concluding with nothing but a simple, disconcerting “The End.”

– Nora Ankrum



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Anne Lamott MAY 15

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Cronkite is widely credited with turning the tide of popular opinion, *M*A*S*H* was the likelier cultural catharsis, gently bombarding Middle America with its anti-military pacifist bonbons week after week.

The series started off humbly enough, a quickie cash-in on Robert Altman's seminal black comedy about a group of Mobile Army Surgical Hospital doctors trying to hang onto their sanity during the Korean War. Barely noticed during its first tenuous season, by its second *M*A*S*H* had cracked the Nielsen Top 10. Its cinematic approach – often employing complex tracking shots, characters who actually evolved over the run of the series, and multiple storylines – still resonates more than 30 years later. *M*A*S*H* boasted a flawless ensemble cast supported by a bevy of behind-the-scenes surgeons who helped frame the series: Larry Gelbart, Hy Averback, Gene Reynolds, and first- and second-season director Jackie Cooper, whose Fifties medics-in-the-military dramedy *Hennesey* anticipated *M*A*S*H* by a decade. *M*A*S*H*'s early years were its best, juggling Bilko-esque hijinks with a liberal dose of humanism. The series very nearly jumped the shark with the departure of original cast members McLean Stevenson and Wayne Rogers after the third season, and Alan Alda's increasing domination of the show's occasionally treacly direction offered more mush than *M*A*S*H*. But the addition of David Ogden Stiers' snooty Maj. Winchester and Harry Morgan's by-the-book Col. Potter (the less said about Mike Farrell's vanilla family man, B.J. Hunnicut, the better), revived the show's creative juices. *M*A*S*H* went on for a total of 11 seasons – almost four times longer than the war it was based on. This definitive set contains all 251 episodes – including touchstone episodes “Abyssinia Henry,” “The Interview,” and the feature-length finale, “Goodbye, Farewell & Amen,” the single most-watched TV episode ever – plus two additional DVDs of bonus features including out-takes, cast interviews, a 30-year retrospective, PSAs, bloopers, and more.

– Steve Uhler

**SYMBIOPSYCHOTAXIPLASM:
TWO TAKES BY WILLIAM GREAVES**
Criterion, \$39.95

**GREY GARDENS AND THE BEALES
OF GREY GARDENS**
Criterion, \$49.95

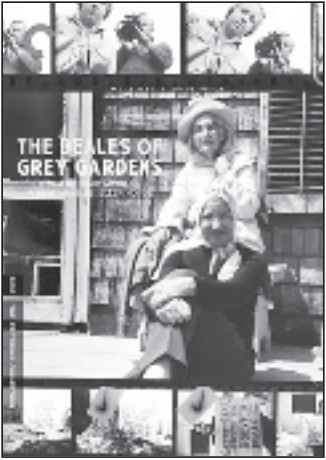
William Greaves and the Maysles Brothers are mentioned a grand total of one time among the more than “110 interviews with top doc industry professionals” and “24 inspirational case studies” in *The Documentary Filmmakers Handbook 1st Edition: A Guerilla Guide* (Continuum, \$35) by Genevieve Jolliffe and Andrew Zinnes. It's Albert, by the way, during a response by Full Frame Film Festival Executive Director Nancy Buirski to a question about fellowships or something. I just thought I'd bring this up because Greaves' and the Maysleses' best work of the Sixties and Seventies remains the state of the art, and because some of their best work arrived on new DVDs the same day I received what I will from now on refer to only as the *DFH*. Also, I took it as a sign that I should mention them together in a very long opening paragraph to right what appears to have been a glaring wrong.

Actually, it's not necessarily that glaring a wrong. I'm still not convinced that 1976's *Grey Gardens* and Greaves' 1968 *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take One*, itself rescued from oblivion in 1991 by a curator at the Brooklyn Museum and shepherded to avant-stardom by Steven Soderbergh and Steve Buscemi after the latter saw it at Sundance in 1992, are even documentaries.

“That's what *Symbio*'s all about,” says Buscemi in a supplemental interview included with *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm: Take 2½*, which he and Soderbergh helped produce in 2003. “Controlling the creation of reality.”

Buscemi is a great actor, and both *Symbios* – like Al Maysles 30 years later with *The Beales of Grey Gardens*, Greaves got to go back and right wrongs, to extend stories, to add and adjust perspective with a companion piece that, as in the case of *The Beales of Grey Gardens*, Criterion has coupled with the original – are great actors' movies. *Grey Gardens* is an even better actors' movie. Doesn't this seem a little weird to you for documentaries?

Take One, inspired by Werner Heisenberg's Principle of Uncertainty as it relates to “social units of people” and “philosophy, mysticism, and the theatrical” (whatever that means), was an experiment in psychodramatic screen tests and making sure that the camera is going “where the energy goes,” says Greaves in the accompanying video



profile “Discovering William Greaves,” which also highlights his other, somewhat more mainstream social efforts like *Ali*, the *Fighter* and *From These Roots*. “What would it look like if you took a group of very highly intelligent people and subjected them to this complete revolt against the traditions of Hollywood filmmaking?” In response, I would say that it looks like actors losing their minds, crew losing their patience, and a director losing control. According to his original “concept,” included with Amy Taubin's excellent essay in the two-disc set's 36-page booklet, this is exactly what Greaves was looking for.

“Rumors of unrest and revolution in the crew should develop, should lead to encounters with the director. This film is rebellion!” he writes. “This film will tell itself. This film is about us, about the cast, crew, and onlookers, about us all as part of nature, and nature has its own story to tell.” Or, as he informs a Central Park cop asking for his shooting permit – yeah, forgot to mention that all of this is being shot on three cameras during a few summer days in the middle of a big park – *Take One* is a “feature-length I don't know.”

Whatever it is – postmodern fiction, distant *DFH* ancestor, protest story song – it was decades ahead of its time. Decades later, then, 2½ explodes off of the screen with symmetrical vengeance. It keeps a promise, fulfills a prophecy, proves Greaves right. Performances by Shannon Baker and Audrey Heningham in the middle-aged return of *Take One*'s variously portrayed Freddie and Alice – the arguing suburban couple serving as sole characters in the director's “conventional theatrical short inside a major unconventional feature” – finally free the film, revealing its true identities.

Missing for us in Albert Maysles' return to *Grey Gardens* is any such closure with *The Beales*. In fact, there's no contemporary footage other than the director's bonus introduction, which serves mainly as rationale. A reference to footage shot in Florida, where star subject Little Edie Bouvier Beale relocated from the Hamptons in 1997 and lived until her death in 2002, is nowhere to be found. So unlike Criterion which also leaves out Greaves' watershed short “Emergency Ward” in the *Symbio* set. But as *The New Yorker*'s Hilton Als asserts in his essay for *Grey Gardens*, included here, “What draws the viewer in are the stories around what we cannot see.” The same holds true for its sequel.

The story we cannot see is that both Big and Little Edie, those competing bursts of color once trapped in the drab of a society that had shunned them, would eventually lose each other. “We loved those two women very much,” Albert says. The story we cannot see is that Albert has lost David, and this has become a personal project for him that will at the same time satisfy the film's hardcore cult. That it will “bring us all together.” As he sorted through unused stuff – longer scenes and more sustained back-and-forth among the filmmakers and their subjects, not to mention a frigging house fire – he must have realized that less was never more for Little Edie; why should it be here? That's a challenging documentary to make or to watch. The one about how moments even caught on film can somehow escape you. No handbook can help you do it.

– Shawn Badgley



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A Snippet of What's to Come

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Where are you watching TV? According to a recent Consumer Internet Barometer survey, one in 10 U.S. TV viewers watches online. Newscasts, entertainment (missed episodes of favorite shows and previews), and sports are the most popular content. No mention was made of content like “webisodes” or podcasts tied to existing series. Details of the survey can be found at www.consumerinternetbarometer.us.

I can now count myself as that one in 10 people. Yes, I finally upgraded my computer system – only because my existing computer was lurching toward a gruesome death. It's been interesting to see the marked difference between how the broadcast networks and pay cable networks work online content. The Web has historically been a place they are loath to embrace, but having learned lessons from the music industry, they know that their future depends on it.

At ABC, for example, you can watch up to four recent episodes of their most popular series (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Lost*, *The Nine*), in their entirety. Yes, there are commercials, but they are mercifully short and fewer than over the air. Online, the cable networks find themselves in a curious dilemma. Why would they want to give away content that they charge for? They don't, and this should prove to be a stumbling block for pay cable, as they try to mark their territory in this widening field of TV viewing.

While HBO has long been the model for “premier” cable programming for a few years – they don't give away anything for free – Showtime may be making the smarter move by offering snippets (20 minutes, www.sho.com) of their most popular series (*Weeds*, *Sleeper Cell*, *Dexter*). The idea is that if they whet your appetite, you will sign up for a subscription. I hate to break it to them, but right now, I'm happy to watch the first 20 minutes and read a recap elsewhere. I've already done this with *Sleeper Cell*, the Showtime series that started its second season last night. The series is superb, but laying out another chunk of change on an already bloated cable subscription? I don't think so. Frankly, it makes me a little cranky, particularly when equally well-produced material is accessible elsewhere. Take the Sci Fi Channel's new miniseries, *The Lost Room* (www.scifi.com). Again, the first 20 minutes are shown, enough to introduce you to the main characters and the conceit of the series (single father and cop played by **Peter Krause** discovers a key that opens doors into a new reality), with an invitation to watch the rest at its regular airtime. Yes, you still have to have a pay TV subscription, but it's not above and beyond what you may already be paying (as for a premium cable channel).



The Lost Room

The good news for consumers in all this is that boutique networks may have to give up some of their cachet and realize that viewers don't have an allegiance to networks. They may be fans of certain actors or genres or even writers, but viewers don't care where the content appears. If it's good, they want to know where and when they can access it.

In the past, I've moaned about watching TV on the really small screen, but I have to say, now that I've been able to catch missed episodes and get a taste of new series on my computer, I'm pleased. All this network jostling for a piece of the online pie is entertaining, like watching suitors vie for your attention. Who's the fairest of them all? Oh, the possibilities.

As always, stay tuned.

FCC alert

The folks at PACT (Public Access Community Television) want to tell you that new video-franchising rules (FCC MB 05-311) that the FCC will vote on Dec. 20 might adversely affect local PEG channels (public, education, government). Presently, the city of Austin receives a 5% cable franchise fee, which is 5% of gross revenues from Time Warner Cable and Grande Communications, in addition to monies for PEG operations and equipment for remote cable casting, a PACT press release explains. Under the new FCC proposal, “Austin would only receive a 5% franchise fee” with no additional allocation for PEG operations and equipment. Furthermore, AT&T, Verizon, or any other phone company poised to jump into the TV business (most likely through satellite service) would not be required to carry PEG channels or be required to build-out networks to the entire city. As there is only a 90-day period to negotiate a new franchise with the city, there is a strong possibility a deal could be brokered without an agreement all together.

“We are telling everyone to call and write the FCC immediately,” says PACT executive director **Linda Litowsky**. “Access channels are tools to engage our local communities in democracy.” For more information, go to www.pactaustin.org or www.savetexasaccess.org.

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



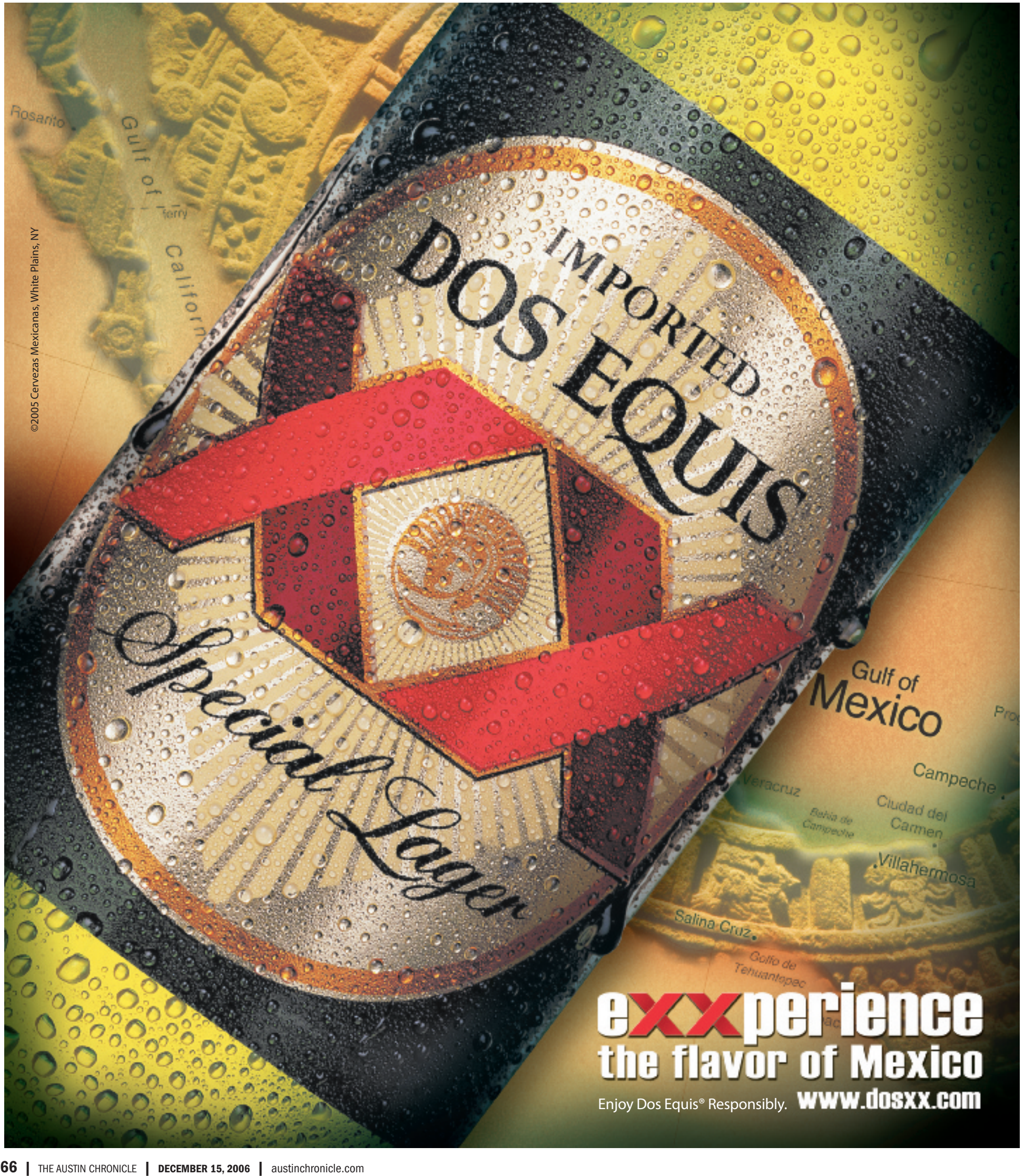
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music

68 THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
72 REISSUES

TCB music news

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

THICKFREAKNESS

UrbanDictionary.com defines “choogle,” first popularized by **John Fogerty**, as “to have a good raucous time.” That also defines Akron, Ohio, duo the **Black Keys’** meaty set before a sold-out **La Zona Rosa** last Saturday night. From opener “Thickfreakness” on down, **Dan Auerbach** (pictured) and **Patrick Carney** choogled through a good 75 minutes of greasy Delta riffs, banzai drums, and soulful ballad “You’re the One.”



FELICA GRAHAM

DIAMOND DISPUTE

Being asked to perform two songs on a network TV series, especially one created by a longtime friend, is normally a good thing. Unfortunately, in the run-up to the **Diamond Smugglers’** appearance on the Nov. 28 episode of **Veronica Mars**, the local **Neil Diamond** cover band found nothing but grief. First, they had to record their versions of “Sweet Caroline” and “Thank the Lord for the Night Time” on a moment’s notice, clear the somewhat ribald lyrics with standards and practices, and then re-record the songs 24 hours later. Seems that after browsing the Smugglers’ Web site, some of Diamond’s people – who had previously approved the songs’ use – informed the band that they took “great offense” at the Smugglers’ “tone and execution” and demanded they alter their performance to lessen the resemblance to Diamond. Even their wardrobe. Singer **Steve McCarthy** “couldn’t wear anything too shiny, couldn’t do his hair up,” says bassist **Hunter Darby**. “I was like, ‘This is bullshit.’” The band considered dropping out but decided to go ahead, mostly as a favor to old friend and *Veronica* creator **Rob Thomas**, who has also used songs from the **Wannabes**, the **Fighting Brothers McCarthy**, and **Paul Minor** on the show. “The last thing you want to hear on Thursday is your band’s going to punk out and you have to find a bar band in San Diego,” says Darby, who, along with keyboardist **John Ratliff** and percussionist **David Mider**, elected to stay home. “No one was calling anyone a scab for going,” he explains, admitting there was some “stony silence” on the plane among those who went. The Smugglers have since smoothed everything over, and although Darby doubts Diamond had anything to do with the situation personally, “We all think he’s an asshole.”

HAIL TO THE CHICKS

They strode onto the **Erwin Center** stage to the strains of “Hail to the Chief” last Monday, but these days the **Dixie Chicks** would rather poke fun at **Britney Spears** than **George W. Bush**. “This one’s for **K-Fed**,” quipped lead singer **Natalie Maines** before the trio and their ninepiece band, anchored by Austinite **David Grissom**, launched into bluegrass burner “White Trash Wedding.” Otherwise, the Chicks’ two-hour set of robust roadhouse rock (“Lubbock or Leave It,” “Goodbye Earl”) and emotional pop (“Not Ready to Make Nice,” “Landslide”) revealed a tougher, rawer band than the pie-eyed days of “Cowboy Take Me Away,” which they played nonetheless. Indeed, from their first two multiplatinum albums, only “Wide Open Spaces” made the cut at the Chicks’ **Austin City Limits** taping two days later. Drawing instead from 2002’s *Home* and this



Once again, the Dixie Chicks regret letting their kids play with the shrink ray.

year’s *Taking the Long Way*, the Chicks inhabited the grownup sentiments of *Long Way*’s “Silent House,” **Patty Griffin**’s “Top of the World,” and heartwrenching encore “Travelin’ Soldier,” performed by just the trio with resilience and grace. Congratulations, by the way, to Natalie’s dad, **Lloyd Maines**, who extended his *ACL* appearance record into the high teens (the exact number escapes even him), and the Chicks themselves: Thursday, *Long Way* was nominated for several **Grammys**, including Best Country Album (ha!), Album of the Year, and Record of the Year.

Hardware Store

Overall, 36 Texans received 53 Grammy nominations Thursday. Here’s a few; see *Grammy.com* for the full list. Winners will be announced Feb. 11 at Los Angeles’ Staples Center.

FEMALE R&B VOCAL: **Beyoncé**, “Ring the Alarm”

R&B ALBUM: **Jaime Foxx**, *Unpredictable*

CONTEMPORARY R&B ALBUM: **Beyoncé**, *B’Day*

RAP/SUNG COLLABORATION: **Beyoncé/Jay-Z**, “Déjà Vu”; **Jaime Foxx/Ludacris**, “Unpredictable”

RAP SONG: **Chamillionaire**, “Ridin’”

COUNTRY ALBUM: **Willie Nelson**, *You Don’t Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker*

FEMALE COUNTRY VOCAL: **Miranda Lambert**, “Kerosene”; **LeAnn Rimes**, “Something’s Gotta Give”

MALE COUNTRY VOCAL: **George Strait**, “The Seashores of Old Mexico”

COUNTRY COLLABORATION WITH VOCALS: **Kenny Rogers & Don Henley**, “Calling Me”

JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM: **Ornette Coleman**, *Sound Grammar*

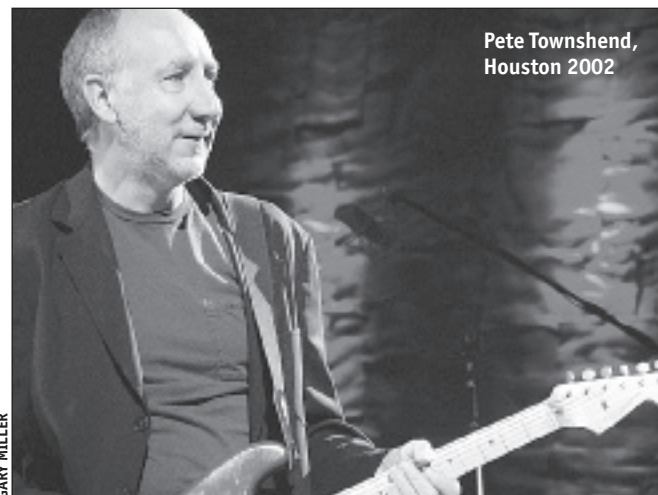
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: **Ornette Coleman**

GOSPEL PERFORMANCE: **Yolanda Adams**, “Victory”; Israel & New Breed, “Not Forgotten”; **Chris Tomlin**, “Made to Worship”; **Tye Tribbett & G.A.**, “Victory”

TEJANO ALBUM: **Chente Barrera**, *Sigue el Taconazo*; **Jimmy Edward**, *It’s ... All Right*; **Bob Gallarza**, *Live in Session*; **Jay Perez**, *All of Me*; **Rebecca Valadez**, *Rebecca Valadez*

CONTEMPORARY FOLK/AMERICANA ALBUM: **Guy Clark**, *Workbench Songs*

COMEDY ALBUM: **Ron White**, *You Can’t Fix Stupid*



GARY MILLER

Pete Townshend,
Houston 2002

After helping fire the **SXSW 06** rumor mill due to girlfriend **Rachel Fuller**’s appearance, noted guitar-smasher and *Endless Wire* auteur **Pete Townshend** will give the Festival’s 2007 keynote speech, panels coordinator **Andy Flynn** confirmed Tuesday. To accommodate his schedule, Townshend will speak “early evening” Wednesday, March 14, says Flynn, but play some version of his and Fuller’s “Attic Jam” songwriter pulls the next day. Besides the widely reported **Stooges**, other names swirling around SXSW 07 include **Rickie Lee Jones**, **David Byrne**, **Emmylou Harris**, Nettwerk CEO **Terry McBride**, and **Booker T** (the musician, not the Houston-born pro wrestler, unfortunately).



CHILDREN OF THE CORN

The **Hickoids** just won’t die. Only around a few short years in the late Eighties, their car crash of country and punk (“a raging, full-on punk band with really perverted cowboy trappings,” wrote the *Chronicle*’s **Lee Nichols** of one 1986 **Liberty Lunch** show) has been a local archetype ever since. Cowpunks are a dime a dozen these days, but back then, admits singer **Jeff Smith**, “It’s pretty safe to say there weren’t many.” Although punk rockers generally embraced them as kindred (if deranged) spirits, traditional country crowds weren’t quite as accommodating. “One night we were playing at some ex-con country bar in Odessa,” recounts Smith, “and [guitarist] **Davy Jones** got a knife pulled on him in the bathroom.” Smith’s **Saustex** label recently compiled their entire recorded output, 1985’s *We’re in It for the Corn LP* and 1987’s *Hard Corn EP* onto one CD, *Corn Demon*. (TCB predecessor **Ken Lieck** penned the liner notes.) Selections include “Corntaminated” and “Corn Foo Fighting,” and their stage decorations often resembled a **Hee Haw** episode gone horribly wrong, but Smith is at a loss to explain the Hickoids’ fascination with the versatile vegetable. After collapsing in the early Nineties, they’ve reunited periodically over the years, doing a little less bodily harm each time. “There was usually some limping or bleeding going on after a show,” allows Smith. Starting Dec. 30 at **Emo’s**, the Hickoids’ calendar has enough bookings to prompt the question: Are they a full-time band again? “We’ll see.”

OOPS! Apologies to the **Black** for misidentifying them as the **Hex Dispensers** in last week’s **Red’s Scoot Inn** item. Get a good look at the gnarled roots-rockers Jan. 4 at **Beerland**.

Twelve Drummers Drumming

Caroling casualties: The 12 nays of Christmas

BY DARCIE STEVENS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NATHAN JENSEN



Don't Bite the Partridge in the Pear Tree: The Club

On the first day of Christmas, the booker said to me, "Don't bitch about the venue!" At least not within earshot of employees, bands, or fans.

"It's always the prima donnas, young industry-made faux bands," Emo's booker Graham Williams says. "The bands that never toured in a beat-up van and slept in it, too. They went straight from their practice space paid for by their parents to a major label and a bus tour. They think, and actually want, all clubs to be plastic, cookie-cutter places like House of Blues. It's unreal.

"We know Emo's is a dump," he continues. "Oddly, that's part of its appeal."

Remember that each show is a step toward something greater, some perfect utopia in which all the drinks are free, all the monitors work perfectly, and all the fans are singing along. One day, the bookers will come to you.



Two Turtle Doves: The Musician and the Media

Bands and journalists have a symbiotic relationship. Believe it or not, we want people to hear your brilliant album. We want to spread the gospel. We want to make you a rock star. That's why we do what we do. Yet when it comes to the interview, not all is smooth sailing.

There's debate in the academic world as to the meaning of the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Some say it's a nonsensical pagan rhyme originally sung in 16th-century Scandinavia. Others say it's a Catholic memory aid full of codes to ensure the safety of the religiously persecuted in 19th-century England. We know it as a song chock-full of lyrics, most of which are forgotten right after a boisterous crowd yells out, "Five golden rings!" Blame it on eggnog.

Despite the suggested origin of such an illustrious and repetitive carol, the correlation between geese a-laying, lords a-leaping, and ladies dancing – never mind pipers piping and drummers drumming – and the music industry is obvious. Could the now-anonymous author have been dreaming of an Epiphany for live music venues – happy sound engineers, stage managers, bookers, and brotherly bandmates? We think so.

Given the chance to share industry secrets with you, those folks who present your musical entertainment, make the songs vibrant, and clean up after we've all gone home for a long winter's nap offer up tips of the trade – industry etiquette, if you will. Naturally, your band isn't guilty of these faux pas, so this is your chance to spread the word. Santa will surely be happy enough to set that vintage JC-120 under the tree next to a shiny red Gibson SG.

"Once an interview time is set up, don't try to cancel or reschedule at the last minute," says Asra Syed, assistant producer for KUT's *Texas Music Matters*. "Our time is precious, too, so don't be late, and don't show up hung-over or stoned. If you are, or aspire to be, a full-time musician, then for God's sake, act like a professional."

The one-on-one can be intimidating for everyone, so please, help us out. We want to hear the tale of your producer spending four hours perfecting the bass sound on the first 30 seconds of the album's closer. We want to hear tour stories from the van's point of view. We really, really don't want to ask you – for the millionth time – how you met your bandmates.

"Think ahead about stories to share, and if you're tired of answering the same stock questions, propose a topic you'd like discuss," Syed continues. "Journalists don't want to rehash what's already known about you. We welcome fresh ideas."



Three (Scantly Clad) French Hens: Stage Production

"I know it sounds simple," offers SXSW production manager Leslie Uppinghouse, "but really, the only problems I've ever had with an artist is when they ask for something they don't ever use – five extra mixes – or want – cucumber finger sandwiches and hair dye."

Ah, the joy of a rider. It must be tempting. "All brown M&M's. Four bottles of Maker's

Mark with the wax melted off. Ten backup mics, color-coded to the order in which they should be used. The sweat from a young girl's brow." Possibilities are endless, but do you really want to be that rock star?

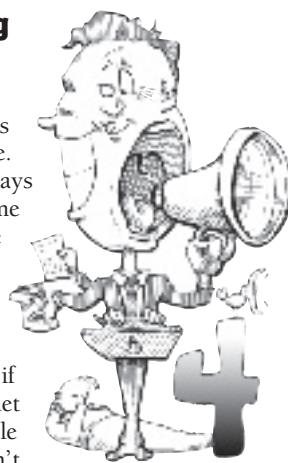
"Day of show is spent patching in 10 more monitors and building stage extensions for said monitors," sighs Uppinghouse. "The production staff sacrifices their dinner break before doors open, cutting the crust off bread and peeling cucumbers. These peelings and crust hardly sustain them for the moment when the pale-faced whispering pop twosome walks in and complains quietly that they much prefer a stripped down sound system, and could the house please remove these unsightly 'black boxy things'?"

You don't want to be that duo. Keep it simple. Ask for what you really need.

Four Calling Birds: Publicity

A publicist's job is never done. There's always some event, some release, some revolution lingering just over the horizon, and they will be damned if every media outlet within a 100-mile radius doesn't know about it.

"The main thing for an artist to understand about a successful publicity campaign is that we need to be on board as early as possible," Vickie Lucero of local publicity outlet Propaganda Media Group says. "Before you decide on the artwork, before you've booked your CD-release events, and definitely before you've chosen a release date, we need to be a part of the whole planning process."



Or then again, you could just let your e-mails pile up, allow journalists to wonder where you are, miss your interview and photo shoot, and have absolutely no presence outside of your local venues. That's no way to roll. If you want worldwide domination, it's worth biting the buck – literally – and hiring a publicist, many of whom already have longstanding relationships with the media outlets you can't seem to penetrate.

"As in any relationship," concludes Lucero, "communication is key."



The Gold Ring: Labels

With the advent of MySpace, the music world changed.

"Don't think that MySpace can replace a real Web site," counters Austin's Misra Records man Phil Waldorf. "MySpace is great for a quick and easy taste, but aside from what a band sounds like – if you can even get the audio to play – it shows nothing about their aesthetic."

Secretly Canadian co-founder Jonathan Cargill agrees. "I think folks are looking for a more intimate relationship with bands," he says. "MySpace cannot provide that. The beauty of our little indie rock world is that these musicians are not untouchable. Even if they want to be untouchable, they can still foster that connection by posting blogs and free, rare tracks."

The bottom line: A Web presence is more important now than ever.



Six Geese A-Layin': The Band

Okay, the geese have taken flight, and you, poor band member, are killing two birds with one stoned: numbing the pain and/or killing shyness. Still, do you have to down six shots of Jäger before stepping, slobbering, onstage?

"Save your drinking for after you play," relates Sean O'Neal, formerly of This Microwave World and the newly dissolved Arm. "That goes for practice, too. You're not Mötley Crüe, and unless you're good-looking enough to pull off sounding like sloppy, unfocused shit as some sort of 'image,' you need to have most of your faculties. It helps with things like remembering how to play the songs."

What's rock & roll without the booze, you ask? The music.

continued on p.70

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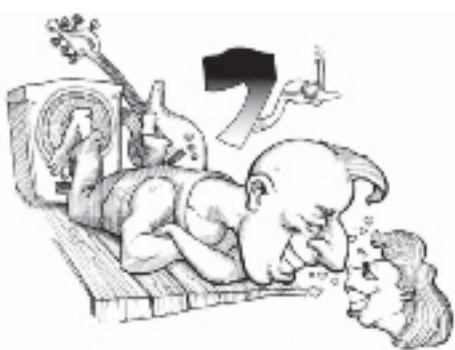
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SHOOT!



Seven Swans A-Swiggling: Other Acts

Nobody likes setting up. Nobody loves waiting. Not the fans, not the staff, and certainly not the next band on the bill. So, check your ego at the door, and treat this show as the first step in a lifelong career.

"I hate it when bands finish and then take forever getting off the stage," shares Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five crooner Greg Lewis. "Put your gear away, then try to get chicks. Not the other way around."

This isn't a new sentiment. Show of hands: How many bands have cooled their heels, gear in hand, waiting to take the stage while the previous act peacocks for the opposite sex, orders drinks at the bar, and forgets the roadies stayed home? There's no feeling quite like playing a great show to a receptive audience, but let's TCB before the party starts.



Eight Maids A-Merching

"We consider ourselves very fortunate to have great relationships with bands and labels that realize the value of design and budget appropriately," says the Decoder Ring's Geoff Peveto, poster artist emeritus. "There are too many groups out there that expect design work for free – and get it – from folks who are fans first and designers second. In the end, that practice devalues what we do as an industry and makes it tougher for designers who are actually running a business."

The milk should never stand alone. In a market saturated with a billion bands – most of which, frankly, sound a lot alike – branding your band is nearly as important as the music you play. And despite what some folks might think, flyering and posterizing is still crucial. Fortunately, Austin's boiling over with graphic designers, extremely talented poster designers, and merchandise houses.

So milk the image for all it's worth. Just remember to pay the milkman.



Nine Lady Lawyers

Okay, you know this. You've heard it a million times. But do you really understand the meaning of mechanicals, master, and sync? Do you understand perpetuity and breakage provisions?

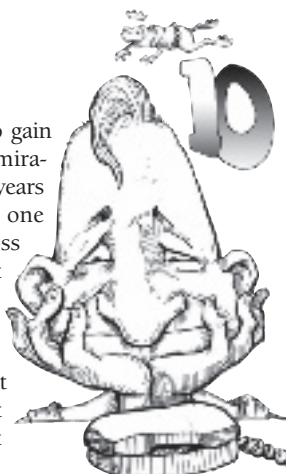
"Bands should never sign a contract without understanding it," emphasizes local entertainment lawyer Amy E. Mitchell, who's also a member of Til We're Blue or Destroy. "At the very least, a band should read the contract before they sign and ask questions if part of a contract doesn't make sense. Many bands are excited that a label or a booking agent or a manager is considering them and think that if they delay in signing, then the label/agent/manager will lose interest. If that were actually the case, then the label/agent/manager probably wasn't that interested in the first place."

The tricky part: You love your bandmates, but maybe all shares aren't equal. Address those issues while everyone still likes one another.

"One of the first things a band should do as they achieve or aspire to achieve success is determine their own internal expectations and put them in writing," says attorney Keaton Clark. "The band agreement, whether formal or informal, should cover division of profits, name ownership, and perhaps even reference the internal decision-making apparatus. Bands are by nature a volatile institution. The fact that a band finally makes some money shouldn't be an additional cause of fracture."

Ten Lords A-Freakin': The Manager

It takes time to gain respect and admiration. It can take years to disseminate one good song across the country. It takes even longer to drive from L.A. to Asheville, N.C. Know what will make that time drag out even longer?



What's rock & roll without the booze, you ask? The music.

"The biggest mistake that bands make is sitting around waiting for things to happen," says Vox trot's manager James Minor. "If you're serious and passionate about what you do, don't waste your time waiting to be 'discovered.' Record and release something yourself. Buy a used van and tour as much as possible. If you keep on working hard, people are bound to take notice. Showing music-industry-types not only that you're willing to work hard but also that you've already taken initiative is the most important thing next to having great music."

See, everyone's reiterating the list. Start with great music, add some posters and T's, sign a (fair) contract with your bandmates, design a Web site, and get off your tight-jeaned ass and do something. Sounds like a job doesn't it? That's why the biggest rock stars are always business-savvy.



Eleven Pipers Twiddling Knobs: Producers

There are stories of musicians writing epic albums in studio. Everything just comes together, and brilliance is achieved. In reality, though, unless you're working with a million-dollar budget and your producer is the most patient engineer on the planet, coming into the studio with nothing but your guitar, hangover, and creativity will kill you.

"Rehearse as much as possible before you go into the studio," local producer Erik Wofford says. "There's no such thing as overrehearsing. You'll be making a permanent archive of your material, so you need to be in top form."

Got that? This will go on your permanent record.

"I like for songwriters to have their lyrics well in place before going in to record," agrees producer Michael McCarthy, who's worked with Spoon, Trail of Dead, and Sound Team among many, many other artists. "Of course, instrumental arrangements are important as well, but if the lyrics aren't together ..."

Practice makes perfect. So does scale, structure, tempo, worn strings, new drumheads, and the studio in which you work.

"Don't pick a studio based on fancy toys or a cocky producer," Wofford adds. "Choose an environment you're comfortable in and that will yield suitable results."



Twelve Drummers Drumming? How About One Sound Engineer?

"What's the difference between a sound engineer and a toilet? A toilet only has to deal with one asshole at a time." Chris Payeur knows more than just industry jokes. The Parish's mistress of the soundboard, Payeur's aural manipulation has gained her the reputation as one of the best sound engineers in the city. Payeur's technical fouls:

"Using your own cheap vocal mic is never a good idea. Buy a good one or leave the practice mic at home.

"Give loudest signals at sound check so nothing gets blown up. Blown equipment is not punk rock; it's just lame.

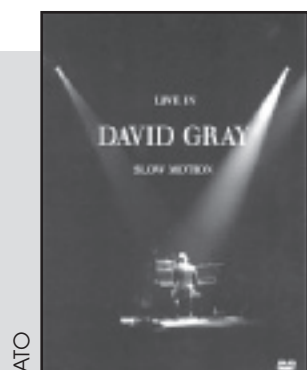
"Despite popular belief, turning up loud can actually make your signal get lost, in addition to clearing the room. A signal that's too loud will create a delay around the room and disappear.

"At least warn the engineers if you're going to go nuts during your set. We can keep a secret and won't worry about our gear."

The most important aspect of a live show, from Jason Morales, Emo's soundman: "Don't be a dick! Our job is only fun when we like who we're mixing, so in the event we don't like your band, at least be pleasant so we might like you as humans."

And the drummer boy strikes his last beat. ■

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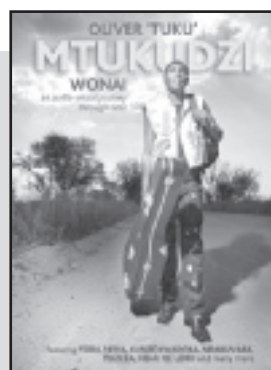
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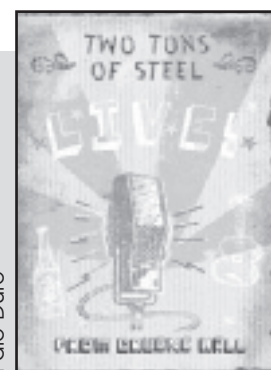
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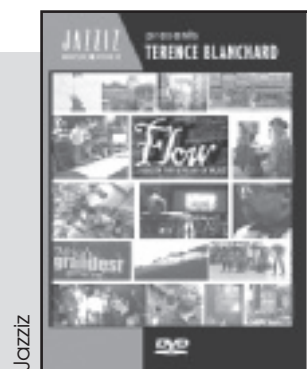
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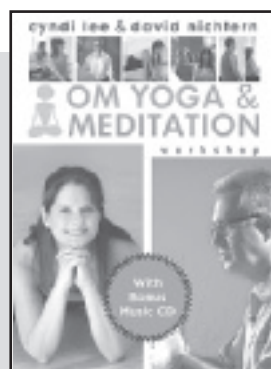
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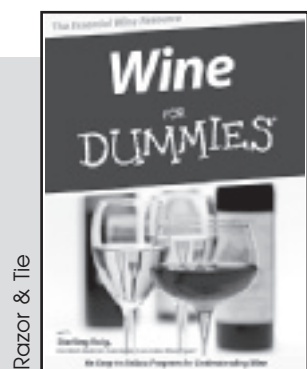
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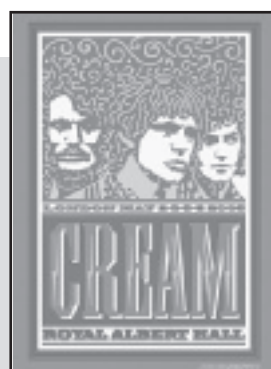
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THE POGUES

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THE POGUES

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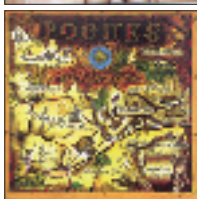
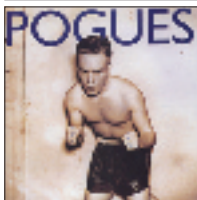
THE POGUES

Peace and Love (Rhino)

THE POGUES

Hell's Ditch (Rhino)

Blasphemous as it sounds, the Pogues were as British as bangers and mash. Born and based around Kings Cross, London's designated dumping ground for all manner of immigrants, outcasts, and reprobates, the perpetually soused ensemble wrote the book on perverting Irish folk with punk rock, and vice versa. To wit, 1984 debut *Red Roses for Me*: tin whistles and accordion pressed into the Sex Pistols' service, ancient tunes cauterizing Thatcher-era despair. Blokes took notice; Elvis Costello signed on to produce '85's *Rum, Sodomy & the Lash* (and married the bass player, though that's another story). Populated by mythical Irish heroes ("The Sickbed of Cuchulainn") and enough drunken louts to fill a season of *The Young Ones*, the sophomore effort also reveled in the band's love of the Wild West ("Jesse James") and sentimental balladry ("Dirty Old Town"). 1988's *If I Should Fall From Grace With God* remains the Pogues' tour de force, a brilliant fusion of influences distilled from an inhuman amount of alcohol consumption. Assisted by Steve Lillywhite, they were in top form, staggering sneering rockers ("Bottle of Smoke") among a widening gyre of cross-cultural forays ("Fiesta") and steel-plated pop classics ("Fairytale of New York"). Drunk as they were, stumbling was inevitable, and they did on 1989's scaterbrained, overambitious *Peace and Love*, though not so spectacularly they couldn't toss off a couple of keepers ("Lorelei," "Misty Morning, Albert Bridge") in the bargain. Producer Joe Strummer's steady hand and singer Shane MacGowan's rejuvenating Thailand holiday made 1991's *Hell's Ditch* an impressive recovery, but even the dulcet "The Sunny Side of the Street" and "Summer in Siam" couldn't save them. Still, "You couldn't kill the soul of their music with a fuckin' shovel," writes U.S. filmmaker Jim Jarmusch in new liner notes — all titles add bonus tracks — and indeed, they've mended enough fences lately to play a few shows per year ... usually in March. Ahem. (*Red Roses for Me*) ★★★★★ (*Rum, Sodomy & the Lash*) ★★★★★ (*If I Should Fall From Grace With God*) ★★★★★ (*Peace and Love*) ★★ (*Hell's Ditch*) ★★★ — Christopher Gray



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

REISSUES

Gift Guide

MUTANTES

Os Mutantes (Universal)

MUTANTES

(Universal)

MUTANTES

A Divina Comédia (Ou Ando Meio Desligado) (Universal)

MUTANTES

Technicolor (Universal)

São Paulo's kaleidoscopic cacophony of electro-indigenous instrumentation and percussion warps even further through the prism of Os Mutantes. Brazil's big bang, tropicalia, hurled Arnaldo and Sergio Baptista and siren Rita Lee into the heart of Sixties psychedelia with a pop heard round the world three decades later with David Byrne's compromised Os Mutantes compilation, 1999's *Everything Is Possible!* Reissues of the trio's first three LPs, Brazilian down to the liner notes, carry no bonuses while barely harnessing a music explosion. 1968's *Os Mutantes* splashes down with a carnival fanfare and the sing-song vocal velour of a Portuguese Beatles on their own Magical Mystery Tour. Chairmen of the board Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil sponsor gateway addiction "Panis et Circenis," while the gaseous distortion and bop-shu-ops of "A Minha Menina" begin the everything-but-the-kitchen-Cuisinart aesthetic of the debut. The crooning Phil Spector homage of "Baby" and canticle "Le Premier Bonheur du Jour" manage to contain some of the chaos. 1969's follow-up is straitjacketed by comparison, and the better for it, kicking off with a Cecil B. DeMille flourish into the beautifully harmonized Euro pop of "Dom Quixote." Irresistible tropi-quirk circa "Dois Mil e Um," the Traffic pulse of "Algo Mais," and "Ritta Lee" come off "Mágica," which gives pure "Satisfaction." *A Divina Comédia* cackles somewhere between its two predecessors in 1970, the front end an extension of *Mutantes* and the latter half cutting up closer to the debut. The déjà vu of "Desculpe, Babe," inconsolable (yet easily translated) "Meu Refrigerador Não Funciona," and broiling wipeout of closer "Oh! Mulher Infel" are indeed divine. That same year, the band re-recorded their greatest hits in English, *Technicolor*, which didn't see the light of day until 2000, yet remains the odd-est of the lot. What "A Minha Menina," "Baby," and "Desculpe, Babe" miss in their original charm they gain in universality. (*Technicolor*) ★★★ (*Os Mutantes; A Divina Comédia*) ★★★ (*Mutantes*) ★★★★★ — Raoul Hernandez



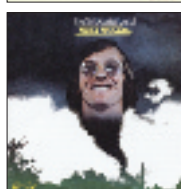
DOUG SAHM & BAND

(Collectors' Choice)

THE SIR DOUGLAS BAND

Texas Tornado (Collectors' Choice)

Right outta the box, it was the best album Doug Sahm had cut. The year was 1972, and neither "cosmic cowboy" nor "progressive country" were part of the lexicon, yet *Doug Sahm & Band* heralded both without twinkly trappings. Never mind the star-studded lineup that included Bob Dylan, Dr. John, and David "Fathead" Newman, no one else was thinking about twin fiddles or how to work a Mexican accordion into bluesy country-rock except Sahm. His solution was to take a little Dylan ("Wallflower"), Willie Nelson ("Me and Paul"), Bob Wills ("Faded Love"), and Bobby Blue Bland ("Your Friends") and sucker punch them with his own righteous material ("Dealer's Blues," "Poison Love"). The results floundered below the charts but outlasted its contemporaries with tracks like the anthemic "Is Anybody Going to San Antone?" Likewise, *Texas Tornado* blew in from the Southwest and further marked Sahm's direction with the post-hippie groove that was his hallmark ("San Francisco FM Blues," "Chicano," "Someday"). It introduced "Texas Tornado" to the world as well, the song whose title became his nickname, the old sonuvagun. As with its predecessor, '73's *Texas Tornado* rode the bottom of the charts before pitching backward into oblivion for the rest of the country. In Texas, and especially Austin, however, Sahm's ear for melding the disparate sounds of the Lone Star state made these albums mainstays. Their reissue, without bonus materials beyond new liner notes, bestows their remarkable longevity with a fresh appreciation for Doug Sahm, whose influence and inspiration remains as big as Texas seven years after his death. (*Doug Sahm & Band*) ★★★★★ (*Texas Tornado*) ★★★ — Margaret Moser



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Car Wheels on a Gravel Road

(*Deluxe Edition*) (Mercury)

Lest we forget, *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road* was a difficult birth. Released in 1998, six years after *Sweet Old World*, its creation featured battles with producers, multiple re-recordings, and the eventual dissolution of Lucinda Williams' longtime road band, anchored by Austin's Gurf Morlix. That process is only hinted at on the newly remastered *Deluxe Edition* with the inclusion of two previously unreleased Morlix produced tracks, so the opportunity to truly hear what was passed over is missed. It hardly matters, however. The Grammy-winning *Car Wheels* is arguably Williams' finest work, and it remains an eminently listenable travelogue of the Deep South told with a combination of bluesy growls, yearning whispers, and soulful twang. The prize in this update is the second disc, a live recording from Philadelphia made around the time of the album's release. It burns white hot with her then-new band, marked by the double guitar attack of Kenny Vaughan and Bo Ramsey. In a set typical of the time, featuring several songs from *Car Wheels*, but also raging versions of



"Hot Blood" and "Changed the Locks," and a deeply yearning "Something About What Happens When We Talk."

★★★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

KAREN DALTON

In My Own Time

(*Light in the Attic*)

On her second and last album, recorded in 1970-71 at Woodstock's Bearsville Studios with the production help of Miles Davis and Bob Dylan session man Harvey Brooks, the late Karen Dalton comes across detached but desperate. These 10 covers sound like the songs sought her out, and she crawled inside them to hide. A banjo player and 12-string guitarist whose voice found comparisons in Jean Ritchie's and Billie Holiday's, as well as admirers in Fred Neil and Nick Cave (and now Devendra Banhart and Joanna Newsom), the Oklahoma-born Dalton struggled with addictions and expectations. All of it, good and bad, catches up with her on kindred spirit Richard Manuel's "In a Station," a sweeping, keyed-up blues that Dalton sings carefully until providing her own coda: "Oh, save me, save me," she wails as the organ and piano slide off the bass' tracks, leaving her behind. It's a feeling she must have been used to. As sophisticated and striking a talent as she was, Dalton never approached the success of some Greenwich Village contemporaries. The traditional "Katie Cruel," embittered and unforgiving, is abandoned on the outskirts; Dalton sounds like she's been rehearsing the tune since she was a toddler, while her modest banjo is overshadowed by a mystic violin. *It's So Hard to Tell Who's Going to Love You the Best*, predecessor to *In My Own Time*, is steadier and more authentic, but it was also recorded — or so the story goes — without the reluctant Dalton's knowledge. This is a singer's showcase: varied, polished, and seemingly a promise of more to come. That nothing did is cruel.

★★★

— Shawn Badgley

DAVID RODRIGUEZ

Proud Heart (Recovery)

Originally from Houston, David Rodriguez moved to the Netherlands a decade ago. It was around that time he released *Proud Heart*, but only to his European audience. Before the singer-songwriter left Texas, Rodriguez — Carrie's father — was a favorite at Austin's then-folk mecca, Sixth Street's Chicago House, and listening to these songs it's clear why. He possesses a finely honed eye for lyrical detail while remaining faithful to his Texas musical roots. Some have compared Rodriguez's work to Townes Van Zandt and even Dylan, but *Proud Heart* mostly evokes the songs of Butch Hancock, with hardscrabble melodies, fleeting visions, and subtle accompaniment. At 14 tracks, the album is a little lengthy; minus a track or two, its impact would be heavier. Still, songs like the aptly spare "Simple Things," the melancholy "The Other Texas," and slowly shuffling "Out of Range" are among Rodriguez's best. The entire album accurately captures the tone of a man on the verge of life changes: optimistic, expectant, and nostalgic, yet suffered with a tinge of sorrow for what he's leaving behind. ★★★★★ — Jim Caligiuri



JOHNNY CASH

At *San Quentin*
(Columbia/ Legacy)

Walk the Line may have given a cinematic face lift to Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues," but live *At San Quentin* produced the definitive, iconoclastic image of the Man in Black, his middle finger forcefully bucking the system. History, like Hollywood, has a tendency to distort such moments: that bird was actually shot during a rehearsal session toward an annoying camera-man, which is exactly why this 2-CD/1-DVD reissue is so important. It captures both the historical and emotional significance of the 1969 prison performance. The 13 previously unreleased songs develop a sense of intimacy and continuity for the entire Johnny Cash show.

Former Sun labelmate Carl Perkins makes the jailhouse rock with opener "Blue Suede Shoes" and later "Restless," while adding electric flair to Cash's closing numbers, including the one he composed, "Daddy Sang Bass." The Statler Brothers share "Flowers on the Wall" and the Carter Family digs deep with "Wildwood Flower." What's truly remarkable is the way Cash blurs the line between audience and performer in this otherwise hostile environment. From his own experiences in "Starkville City Jail," to that of the inmate who penned "I Don't Know Where I'm Bound," Cash embodies the prisoners' woes in "San Quentin" before embarking on a communal, spiritual journey with "He Turned the Water Into Wine" and "The Old Account Was Settled Long Ago." That connection can't be broken; just consult the accompanying documentary DVD or ask Merle Haggard.

★★★★ — Austin Powell

DWIGHT YOAKAM

Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc., Etc. (Deluxe Edition)
(Reprise)

It may be the 20th anniversary of its original release, but Dwight Yoakam's *Guitars, Cadillacs, Etc., Etc.* still gleams as it did in 1986. With a combination of traditional honky-tonk, amped up Bakersfield twang, and rock & roll attitude, Yoakam helped revitalize country music. This 2-CD set contains the now-obligatory remastering of Yoakam's exceptional debut, yet begins with 10 demos the Kentucky-born, Ohio-raised singer-songwriter cut in Los Angeles in 1981. They capture a musician in full bloom with the inclusion of such future hits as "It Won't Hurt," "You're the One," and "I Sang Dixie" and makes one wonder why it took several years for him to find a label. These demos aren't new to fans, having been included on 2002's *Reprise Please Baby* box, but surely of interest is the second disc: a complete live recording from the Sunset Strip's Roxy at the time of *Guitars*' release. It surrounds "Honky Tonk Man" and the album's title track of the disc with songs by Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and Bill Monroe, possessing a crackling intensity and an unrelenting edge that's truly rare in the world of country music.

★★★★ — Jim Caligiuri

continued on p.74



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ROY ORBISON
Sings Lonely and Blue
(Monument/Legacy)
ROY ORBISON
Crying
(Monument/Legacy)
ROY ORBISON
In Dreams
(Monument/Legacy)

Listening to Roy Orbison is the aural equivalent of peeling an onion. Each song is a multilayered masterpiece that envelops the Vernon, Texas-born balladeer’s melancholic aubades in a bitter-sweet breeze of strings that evoke more than just tears. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Orbison’s first LPs for Monument Records, which have finally been remastered as part of the Legacy collection. There’s an undeniable continuity between *Sings Lonely and Blue* (1960), *Crying* (’62), and *In Dreams* (’63), that’s brought about largely through Fred Foster’s repeated role as producer and the consistency of the stellar session musicians, namely Boots Randolph on saxophone, Floyd Cramer on keys, and Howard Bradley on guitar. The Anita Kerr Singers’ Motown-influenced harmonies are also a constant fixture, turning nonsensical arrangements of “doo-wahs” and “oh-la-las” into a surrealistic background that effortlessly blends with Orbison’s quivering croon. These tiers are ultimately what unify the doo-wop of “Blue Angel,” the big-band swing of “Dance” and “Loneliness,” and the gospel-accented “Beautiful Dreamer” into Orbison’s hopelessly romantic calling card. This collection not only makes that cohesive, symphonic sound more suitable for “Uptown” but calls attention to the songwriters responsible for these albums and bonus tracks. While nearly half are collaborative works between Orbison and Joe Melson, a few standouts (“Dream Baby (How Long Must I Dream),” “Shahdaroba,” and “Distant Drums”) were penned by legendary songstress Cindy Walker, while Willie Nelson’s “Pretty Paper,” which he himself didn’t record until 1975, closes out *In Dreams*. Rejection and unrequited love have never sounded so good. Stock up on tissues. (*Sings Lonely*; *In Dreams*) ★★★★★ (*Crying*) ★★★★★ – Austin Powell

DEAD MOON
Echoes of the Past
(Sub Pop)

Fred Cole has been in a lot of bands: the Nuggets-friendly Weeds and Lollipop Shoppe, the whiskey-swilling Zipper and King Bee, and the pregrunge Rats. Dead Moon, including drummer Andrew Loomis and bassist Toody Cole, his wife of nearly 40 years, is the most prolific, a perfect speedball of all those bands. *Echoes of the Past*, a rousing 2-CD, 49-song retrospective of the Clackamas, Ore., trio’s knotty, dirty, garage punk up through 2001, was compiled by Cole himself, and Dead Moon’s perennial themes are all there: desperation, being on the run, time,



PJ HARVEY
The Peel Sessions 1991-2004 (Island)

In 1991, John Peel wrote in *Melody Maker* that PJ Harvey’s sound was “admirable if not always enjoyable.” Obviously this was a compliment, so it’s no coincidence Peel soon became Polly Jean’s champion. Selected as tributes to Peel, the influential BBC DJ who passed away in 2004, this decade-spanning collection recalls an era of grit and glam for Harvey. Revived from her first appearance in 1991, “Sheela-Na-Gig” remains a sensual, sweat-soaked romp in dirty sheets (“Look at these my childbearing hips. Look at these my ruby red lips,” she coos) as does “Victory,” both from Harvey’s seductive and ferocious *Dry* spell. On her 1993 Peel session cover of Willie Dixon’s “Wang Dang Doodle,” as well as the thrashing indictment of Biblical injustices on “Snake,” we get her voice full throttle. “This Wicked Tongue,” a Japanese bonus track from *Stories From the City, Stories From the Sea*, is a welcome and electric indulgence, and “You Come Through,” from a 2004 Peel tribute, is undeniably tender (“You come through for me. You be well for me.”). A near-perfect collection, if a bit short, but it’s easy to see why Peel felt a kinship with Polly Jean. ★★★★★ – Audra Schroeder



THE DELGADOS
The Complete BBC Peel Sessions (Chemikal Underground)

Scots got the lot: brogue, liver, and snark. Glasgow’s pub poets the Delgados also demonstrated foresight cooking up Chemikal Underground Records with their 1995 debut, Arab Strap and Mogwai fellow countrymen and first-timers on the still-bubbling indie. Five chamber trashed LPs later, the founding quartet’s sharp tongue sums itself up best with *The Complete BBC Peel Sessions*. Alun Woodward and Emma Pollock tart up like the Pixies on Radio Scotland, the gnarled “Primary Alternative” drawing first blood. (“Alun remembers never being able to match [that] guitar solo,” writes bassist Stewart Henderson in his lively liners.) A whipping “Under Canvas Under Wraps” rides *Surfer Rosa*. John Peel climbed aboard next with sweeter, thornier results (“Sucrose”), the group’s orchestration swelling middisc with “Pull the Wives From the Wall” stringing up Pollock. “Mauron Chanson” pits boys against girls à la Imperial Teen. Live, the gathering density of “The Weaker Argument Defeats the Stronger” and “No Danger,” both found on the DVD portion of recent label sampler *Chem087CD + DVD*, are suitably edged. Disc two’s covers – ELO, Dead Kennedys, Cat Stevens – complement the stripped pop of 2004’s *Universal Audio*, “Ballad of Accounting” a frank B-side covering Scot folk deity Ewan MacColl. Peel died a month after its broadcast. Fook. ★★★★★ – Raoul Hernandez



cigarettes, love. “Dead Moon Night,” a live “54/40 or Fight,” and “Johnny’s Got a Gun” are pure one-two-let’s-go, while the pummeling backbeat of “Area 51” and “Psychodelic Nightmare” are both more effective than trucker speed, Fred’s electric falsetto and Toody’s husky growl often interchangeable. Yet it’s the love songs, namely “I Won’t Be the One” and “Point of No Return,” that define Dead Moon as truly rock & roll, especially for a band bent on nightmares and graveyards. It’s about time for this collection – punk that’s pure, unrepentant, and on their terms for nearly 20 years. ★★★★★ – Audra Schroeder

NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE
Live at the Fillmore East
(Reprise)

Crazy Horse guitarist Danny Whitten overdosed and died the same night Neil Young fired him in 1972. His long shadow hung over Young’s mournful eulogy, 1975’s chilling *Tonight’s the Night*; Whitten and Young’s “Come on Baby’s Let’s Go Downtown,” a song about scoring drugs, taunted Young & Crazy Horse in their struggle to pick up the remaining pieces. *Live at the Fillmore East*, Young’s handpicked, first installment in his Archives Performance



Series, is an attempt to reframe that same recording into its original setting. In the context of this historic, two-night stand in March 1970, the song now celebrates Whitten’s short-lived, simple brilliance. In fact, *Fillmore*’s crux is in the original Crazy Horse’s irreplaceable affinity. The band gets equal treatment on the marquee, a formal introduction, and none of Young’s solo acoustic performances are included. As the opening “Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere” attests, the collective was still smoking hot from recording Young’s solo debut of the same title. Young and Whitten are truly kindred spirits; their rustic guitars roam freely on highlights “Cowgirl in the Sand” and “Down by the River.” Consider this the setting sun. ★★★★★ – Austin Powell

SONIC YOUTH
The Destroyed Room: B-Sides and Rarities (Geffen)

At the mellower end of Sonic Youth’s 16-year Geffen era comes one last appetizing pang for destruction. *The Destroyed Room*, 11 songs hand-picked by the band, is a sonically interesting mess but proof that not everything they record should be released. “Campfire,” from 2000’s *At Home With the Groovebox* comp, should have been extin-



guished alongside the sleepy “Loop Cat.” The rest jives: “Fire Engine Dream,” an outtake from 2003’s *Sonic Nurse*, is a marathon jam (“Let’s see who’s here and who’s not,” they taunt in the liner notes), clocking in at more than 10 minutes and forcing feedback to ride drummer Steve Shelley’s galloping beat. Mostly instrumental, save for two songs Kim Gordon sings (“Razor Blade,” a twangy B-side from 1994, and the ambient “Blink” from 1999’s *Pola X* soundtrack), *Destroyed* allows SY the room to get typically weird. “Three-Part Sectional Love Seat” is dizzying, the slow interlock of guitarists Thurston Moore and Lee Ranaldo birthing an explosion of noise. Twenty-five-minute closer “The Diamond Sea,” an LP version of the 1995 single, then achieves the maximum trashitude of the title, as well as embodying Sonic Youth’s tried and true formula. The song builds, sparkles, and destroys. ★★★★★ – Audra Schroeder

NINA SIMONE
Remixed & Reimagined
(RCA/Legacy)

Nina Simone’s timelessness means that even dance-floor DJs have adopted her as their own. *Remixed & Reimagined* plops the roaring folk/soul/jazz diva smack-dab in the middle of a Saturday-night boogie – hot, moody, and full of hi-hat. Daniel Y’s sexy smooth opener “I Can’t See Nobody” is just warm up. Jazzeem’s sporadic rendition of “Funkier Than a Mosquito’s Tweeter” follows, adding even more to Simone’s sass, but its schizophrenia is dazzling. One track exceeding Simone’s original is Groovefinder’s “Ain’t Got No – I Got Life,” which puts the Broadway back into the mix by way of an explosive horn section. From then on, with the exception of Coldcut’s “Save Me” and Chris Coco’s disco “To Love Somebody,” Simone is the filling between layers of techno wizardry. If the point of a remix album is to send newbies back to the beginning – or jazzers back to the stacks – *Remixed & Reimagined* is suitable reinvention. ★★★★★ – Darcie Stevens



CANDI STATON
The Ultimate Gospel Collection (Shanachie)

The trials and tribulations of Candi Staton’s all-too-human life supply the platform for her lofty gospel aspirations. With a sordid personal history of abusive relationships and bouts with alcoholism, Staton returned to the church in the early Eighties to rekindle a dedication previously stunted during her adolescence and a stint in the Jewel Gospel Trio. Having performed in the Fifties with Mahalia Jackson and the Soul Stirrers, Staton certainly sports the pedigree to lead congregations in songs of prayer. Wiping away the tears still streaming from days past, this 2-CD set bypasses Staton’s secular Muscle Shoals and disco periods in favor of her much-less-produced modern soul sound. Assembled with amateurish keyboards and drum kits, the brunt of this collection comes straight from the land of tear-jerking infomercials. Staton makes the most of it as her obvious singing talent transcends its emotionally cheesy surroundings. With abundant crossover appeal, Staton’s “You Got the Love” has charted on three separate occasions



since '86 by way of pop remixes. Kindred spirits looking for safe haven in God will benefit from Staton's deep-rooted inspiration.

★★ — Robert Gabriel

PRETENDERS (Sire) PRETENDERS II (Sire)

Overflowing with slashing guitars, boss beats, and fierce swagger, the Pretenders' 1979 debut remains one of the premier calling cards in rock history. Sadly, perhaps expectedly, 1981's follow-up was something of a disappointment, but since this is the only recorded output of the band's original lineup, both LPs remain essential touchstones for anyone with a love for songwriting that uniquely matches the aggressiveness of punk with luminous pop. Beyond remastered sound, these two reissues are notable for their second CDs. The first album adds "Cuban Slide" and "Porcelain" from the group's *Extended Play* EP ('81), as well as some interesting demos of their early work, including a take of "Brass in Pocket" where Chrissie Hynde sings "you're special" in the song's hook, dramatically changing it. The second disc of *Pretenders II* ("The Adulteress," "Message of Love," "Talk of the Town") is made up primarily of what was originally featured on the promo-only release *Pretenders Live at the Santa Monica Civic*. This is the real treasure among the two releases, providing a vivid glimpse into what made the band such an attraction in concert, with James Honeyman-Scott's unleashed



guitar and Hynde's compelling stage presence leading the way.

(Pretenders) ★★★★★

(Pretenders II) ★★★★★

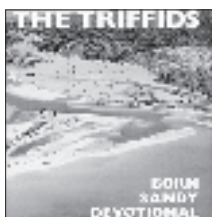
— Jim Caligiuri

THE TRIFFIDS *Born Sandy Devotional* (Domino)

Formed in 1981 in the miles-from-anyplace metropolis of Perth, Western Australia, the Triffids contrasted the dark-hued morbidity of then-contemporaries Nick Cave and Echo & the Bunnymen with the more delicate introspection of Leonard Cohen and Nick Drake. The result wasn't always a model of cohesion, but the sextet's instrumental variations dodge attempts at easy categorization. 1986's *Born Sandy Devotional* is the Triffids' most enduring album. Taken apart from the late David McComb's opaque lyrical desolation, borderline pop songs like "The Seabirds" and "Estuary Bed" might sound at home on a John Hughes soundtrack with their celestial Eighties sheen. The same cannot be said of "Lonely Stretch" and "Life of Crime," which are dramatic, angst-laden confessionals accented by "Evil" Graham Lee's far-away steel guitar. The album takes one last left turn on "Tender Is the Night (The Long Fidelity)," a consoling duet delivered in the fashion of Lou Reed and Mo Tucker on "I'm Sticking With You." This 20th anniversary reissue tacks on nine B-sides, alternate versions, and demos, including the country-goth diversion "Convent Walls" and the title track, which wound up being left off the original LP. Though not quite essential, *Born Sandy Devotional* exudes a chilling charm all its own.

★★★

— Greg Beets



DEPECHE MODE *A Broken Frame* (Rhino/Mute/Sire/Reprise) DEPECHE MODE *Some Great Reward* (Rhino/Mute/Sire/Reprise) DEPECHE MODE *Songs of Faith and Devotion* (Rhino/Mute/Sire/Reprise)

Unlike summer reissues *Violator* and *Music for the Masses*, this trio of albums do not, by and large, represent Depeche Mode's best work. Appended with bonus discs of short films, 5.1 mixes, and bonus tracks, each nonetheless captures the UK synth trio/quartet at a pivotal moment in its 26-year career. 1982's *A Broken Frame*, though slight and forgettable, was Martin Gore's bow as songwriter-in-chief after Vince Clarke's departure. UK Top 10 "See You," "The Meaning of Love," and instrumental "Nothing to Fear" retain some value as electro-pop period pieces, "Monument" and "Satellite" as textural experiments that would blossom later on. *Some Great Reward* ('84) is their first fully realized LP, aided by the addition of third (!)

keyboardist Alan Wilder and Gore's vastly improved songwriting. "People Are People" was a transatlantic Top 20, while "Somebody," "Blasphemous Rumors," and "Master and Servant" regularly show up live even now. By 1993, DM was on top of the world critically and commercially and barely speaking personally. Gore and singer Dave Gahan's love of grunge inspired the former to write with guitars and live drums, and the latter to certain habits that had some wags calling *Songs of Faith and Devotion* the "smack album." Although its drugs-or-Jesus domain evinces greatness — "Walking in My Shoes," "Condemnation," "Rush" — things were headed downhill fast. Wilder quit after the *Devotional* tour, and Gahan was (briefly) declared legally dead in 1996. Thus began nearly a decade in the musical wilderness that only ended with 2005's triumphant *Playing the Angel*.

(Broken Frame) ★★

(Some Great Reward) ★★★

(Songs of Faith and Devotion) ★★★★★

— Christopher Gray

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LEAD STORY

In November, a judge upheld a rule passed by a condominium association in Golden, Colo., prohibiting owners from smoking even inside their own units (in that neighbors had been complaining for five years that a couple's cigarette smoke had been seeping into their town houses). A few days earlier, Belmont, Calif., became the first American city to ban smoking everywhere in the city limits, including condominiums and even cars (but not detached, single-family homes). (A day before that, however, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to instruct the police to treat marijuana-smoking as the city's lowest law-enforcement priority.)

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

- **Bright Ideas:** The City Council of Greenleaf, Idaho, passed an ordinance in November to require nearly all residents to keep a gun at home in case the town becomes overrun by people relocating after Gulf Coast storms. Also in November, a report from the Missouri House's Special Committee on Immigration Reform blamed much of their state's acquiescence to illegal immigration on the fact that since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, 80,000 potential Missourians have been aborted, thus helping to create job vacancies for aliens.

- **A New York City housing program** begun in the 1970s to encourage new construction has enabled huge reductions in property taxes on certain buildings in Manhattan, and those savings continue to this day (and at least through next year and maybe beyond). Among the beneficiaries: Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter, who saves \$130,000 a year on his \$4 million Trump World Tower apartment; designer Calvin Klein (\$134,000 savings on his penthouse); and actress Natalie Portman (saving \$26,300 a year on her \$5.8 million condo) (according to an October *New York Post* report).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Amateurs: A teenager, 17, was booked into a juvenile detention center in Lynnwood, Wash., in October after he got his arm stuck in the dog door of a house he was allegedly attempting to burglarize. (Experienced burglars avoid houses with dog doors because that usually means that a dog is present.) And in Sheboygan, Wis., in November, police arrested Leah Jerolimek, 21, and charged her with trying to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill at a gas station, even though the bill (made with a computer and printer) was blank on the back.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Superprotective: The Powys County Council in Wales warned the maker of Welsh Dragon sausages in November that it must label its product better, such as by marking it “pork sausages” (so as not to mislead about the type of meat it contained). And in October, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sought to extend its abstinence education program (which currently gives grants to states for programs for teenagers), to start reaching unmarried people up to age 29.

GREAT ART!

- “I’ve always had the desire to play (the cello) naked,” said Ms. Jesse Hale, a music major at Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, Tenn.) and member of the CJ Boyd Sexxtet of nude cellists who play their experimental, chantlike songs in concert around the country. Hale, who says she’s been playing naked since sixth grade, explained to Austin Peay State University’s newspaper in September that cellists “make full body contact with (their) instrument,” and their legs even “wrap” around it so that “(i)t just feels natural.”

- **Social Messaging:** 1) The magazine *Time Out New York* reported in September on the “artistic palettes” of the Sprinkle Brigade of artists who dress up dog droppings on New York City streets with glittering candy bits and colorful toothpicks, for “urban beautification.” 2) British performance artist Ian Thorley, working on grants from several local councils, did a week’s stint on an Ashington Street in October, stepping onto and off of a doormat while wearing a badge that identified him as a government doormat tester.

POLICE SQUAD

- At the county jail in Dubuque, Iowa, in November, Michael Kelley Jr., 29 and accused of attempted murder, was swapping stories with inmate Jamie Brimeyer, 34, when he asked about Brimeyer’s facial scar. As Brimeyer described being stabbed in the cheek by an unknown assailant in 2005, Kelley realized that he was the one who had stabbed him and recalled the incident so well that he corrected some of Brimeyer’s recollections. Brimeyer later reported Kelley, who is now also charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

- **Police Blotter:** 1) (From the *Morning Sentinel*, Waterville, Maine, Nov. 10) “6 p.m., a woman said she suspected someone had sabotaged her washing machine. A police investigation concluded that an imbalanced laundry load had caused the shaking.” 2) (From *The Star Press*, Muncie, Ind., Nov. 4) “(A man) reported the burglary around 10 p.m. Thursday after he returned from the hospital and found his 36-inch Samsung TV missing. It (had been) replaced with an RCA TV that was missing a power cord. ... Decorative items were placed around the new TV, apparently in an attempt to fool (him).”

ELECTION ROUNDUP (CONTINUED)

Libertarian Steve Osborn finished second in the U.S. Senate race in Indiana to incumbent Richard Lugar, more than 1 million votes behind, but two weeks later asked for a recount in 10 precincts. And Utah officials are investigating results in Daggett County where 947 people were registered to vote on Nov. 7 (compared to the county’s entire 2005 census population of 943). And in tiny Waldenburg, Ark., the mayor and his challenger tied at 18 votes each, with the only other candidate, Randy Wooten, receiving zero, which Wooten said was impossible because he had voted for himself. And in Lysowice, Poland (with November voting, also), an elections official became so distraught at irregularities at her polling station that she grabbed a box of ballots and locked herself in a restroom until police convinced her to come out.

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. ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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First, your carpets and seats are professionally cleaned to remove spots and stains, restoring that new car luster. The vinyl and the dash are shampooed and conditioned with low-gloss sun block. Your leather is cleaned with an aloe-based shampoo to prevent drying, then mink oiled to protect and restore it's original aroma. Autos shine even cleans the radio buttons, gauges and air vents (yes, we really do use Q-tips).

Next, your vehicle is hand washed before we gently buff your paint to remove surface scratches, oxidation, and swirls. Our paint conditioner is then buffed into your finish to produce the envied Autos shine wet look. Autos shine finally hand paste waxes your car with 100% pure Brazilian Carnauba wax. After cleaning and dressing your tires, your chrome, wheels, and trim are all polished to complete your new car look.

CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE

\$30 off our regular price of \$209.95.*
Offer expires 01/07/07

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Start your New Year with the best music of 2006!



The Best of 2006...According to YOU!

We want your help in choosing the best, most eclectic mix of music to bring in the new year...and then we'll play your choices on the radio!
In return, we'll register you for this year's Grand Prize:

The Top 107 CDs of 2006 from Waterloo Records!

All you have to do is simply vote in the **2006 KGSR MUSIC POLL**.

You can vote online at www.kgsr.com or use the entry form below.

Write down your Top 3 personal favorite songs, CDs, and also your favorite live show of the past year. We'll tally your votes, and
on New Year's Eve we'll play your Top 107 Songs of 2006.

On New Year's Day we'll play selections from your Top 107 CDs of 2006.

The deadline to enter is 5:30 pm Tuesday, December 19th.

The Grand Prize Winner will be drawn January 2nd on KGSR in the Morning at 7:30am. Log onto KGSR.COM to jog your memory about the great music we played over the past year!

Your Top 3 Songs of 2006 (Title, Artist)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Your Top 3 CDs of 2006 (Title, Artist)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Your Favorite Concert of 2006

- 1.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Fill out this form and mail to:
2006 KGSR Music Poll
8309 N. IH35 Austin, TX 78753
Fax your vote to: (512) 908-4902
Vote online at www.kgsr.com

calendar

c COMMUNITY p.78 + **a** RTS p.84 + **t** ILM p.90 + **m** MUSIC listings p.101

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

Thursday 14

101X CHRISTMAS PARTY Burden Brothers, Sparta, and Firekills play to benefit **Habitat for Humanity**. 7pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. \$15, advance. www.antoness.net.

CAPITAL AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION wants your input on spending requests for transportation projects (including toll-road, roadway, public-transportation, bicycle, and pedestrian projects) in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. 4-9pm. Round Rock Main Library, 216 E. Main, 974-2748. www.campotexas.org.

★ **CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG** Christmas songs and pop stars, followed by milk, cookies, and caroling at Jackalope. Another Henri Mazza/Owen Egerton instant classic. 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com.

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 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.

ITALIAN WINE TASTING Led by Hyde Park's resident old-world wine aficionado Jerry Reid, with appetizers from A Taste of Italy. 7-9pm. Vino Vino, 4119 Guadalupe. \$28 (discounts for groups and on bottles to take home). www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com.

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, 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.

★ **PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA** This all-day program (Sat., Jan. 6) gives teenage pianists the chance to learn

about and play a piece on each of the UT area's three different pipe organs. Registration deadline: Fri., Dec. 15. \$10 (\$5, parents/teachers).

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY OF AUSTIN is accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year from students in grades 8-10. Applications are due Jan. 17. 414-0024. www.lbjhs.net/lasa.

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, 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. 15-16. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1, 476-0594 x1. \$12 (\$7, students/seniors). www.zachscott.com.

ANGELS OVER AUSTIN (See daily listings, Dec. 16.) Sat.-Sun., Dec. 16-17.

Wx web extra

Plan ahead for New Year's, with:

austinchronicle.com/newyears

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.

★ **PUBLIC MEETINGS: DESIGN STANDARDS AND MIXED USE SUBCHAPTER** This amendment to the city's **Land Development Code** goes into effect Jan. 13, and today's meeting gives Austin residents and development-community members the chance to learn all about it. Thu., Dec. 14, 1:30pm; One Texas Center Room. 325, 505 Barton Springs Rd. www.cityofaustin.org/development/commercial_design.htm.

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS FUNDRAISER Live music, yummy food, an art-quilt raffle, and lots of shopping to benefit VSA Arts, which promotes arts programs for people with disabilities. 5-9pm. Ten Thousand Villages, 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440. www.vsatx.org. www.villagesofaustin.org.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Lora Reynolds Gallery

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

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Shapes & Sizes Emo's
White Ghost Shivers Red's Scoot Inn
A Scottish Christmas Paramount Theatre
Lomita Continental Club

First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 476-2625. www.fbcaustin.org.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR presents a free, casual **family concert** on Sat., Dec. 16, 3pm, at Central Market Cafe, 4001 N. Lamar, followed on Sun., Dec. 17, by a **Christmas concert** in full Victorian costuming and accompanied by harpist Shana Norton. 4pm. Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition. \$10 suggested donation.

★ **AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE** focuses this month on the seven principles of **Kwanzaa** and the importance of **education**, **community engagement**, and **parental involvement**. Because 6,600 area students failed the TAKS test this year and only 2% have signed up to retake it, a TAKS representative will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have and hopefully bring that percentage up. Other workshops include one for mothers on connecting with sons and one for high school students called When the Odds Are Against You. Bring your sons! Sat., Dec. 16, 10am-2pm. Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg. mrloftontalkshow@sbcglobal.net.

TEDDY BEAR TEA An excuse to get the whole family dressed up, this tra-

ditional holiday tea includes caroling 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. 16-17, 23. Four Seasons Hotel, 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. \$35 (\$25, ages 6-11). www.fourseasons.com/austin.

ONE CANDLE FOR TZEDAKAH A Chanukah celebration with crafts, games, and more – bring unwrapped toys and clothing for donation to local charities. Sun., Dec. 17, 1-4pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8030. www.jcaonline.org.

THE BOY, THE KING, AND THE CHIHUAHUA A musical dramatic reading – the first 50 children receive free coloring sheets and stickers. 2:30pm. Dec. 18-19. The Little Gym, 12407 N. MoPac #350, 331-1234. Free. www.ijustread.com.

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG Sing the Holiday classics at this annual Austin Symphony gathering. Tue., Dec. 19, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 888/4-MAESTRO. Free (tickets still required; call or see Web site). www.austinsymphony.org.

COURTESY OF JOHN HOAG



Learn how to repair (or give away) that old bike ...

(SEE SATURDAY, DEC. 16, YELLOW BIKE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE & BIKE DRIVE)

Friday 15

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN HAVE A PLACE IN THE CHOIR An annual Christmas play and concert from the residents of the **Marbridge Foundation**, a house for adults with cognitive disabilities. Arrive early (before 6pm) to buy discounted poinsettias and other plants from the **Marbridge Garden Center**; stay afterward for cookies and punch. 7pm. The Chapel at Marbridge, 2310 Bliss Spillar, Manchaca.

ALTERNATIVE RADIO features **James Ingalls** and **Sonali Kolhatkar**, authors of *Bleeding Afghanistan: Washington, Warlords, and the Propaganda of Silence*, talking about the situation there five years after the U.S. invasion. David Barsamian hosts. Fri., Dec. 15, 2pm. 91.7 KOOP-FM. www.koop.org.

★ **AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION** boasts a mix of professional and student artwork for your perusing and bidding pleasure. Proceeds benefit YouthWorks' dropout-recovery programming for ages 16-21. 6-9pm. YouthWorks Warehouse, 216 E. Fourth, 236-6100. \$5. www.americanyouthworks.org.



Moses, by student

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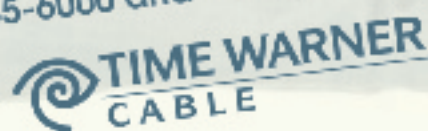
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Amy scooping away, circa 1984. She'll be at Amy's on West Sixth, Friday night.

★ HOME FURR THE HOLIDAYS AT AMY'S ICE CREAMS See Amy herself scooping and doing tricks, and visit with some animals for adoption – perhaps you can even take one home for the holidays. Proceeds benefit **Town Lake Animal Shelter**. 8-11pm. Amy's, 1012-B W. Sixth, 480-0673. www.amysicecream.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, today's the deadline for

nominating them for the **LBJ School of Public Affairs'** annual Barbara Jordan award. 471-8288. www.utexas.edu/lbj/barbarajordanforum/nominate2007.htm.

BENEFIT FOR ATX INDYMEDIA CENTER Tonight's performances from the Hot As Shits, Work Release Program, Neda, and others will benefit volunteer-run media collectives **Austin Indymedia** and **People Will Radio**, as well as a project in solidarity with the **people of Oaxaca, Mexico**. 9pm. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 385-3695.

FREE CATFISH FRIDAY Every week during happy hour. 6-8:30pm. *Club Illusion*, 2700 W. Pecan, Pflugerville, 670-7411.

PEOPLE UNITED presents **Dahr Jamail**, the unem-bedded wartime journalist, who talks about the U.S. occupation in Iraq, where he has reported on the lives of ordinary citizens. **Allan Campbell** hosts, with a weekly commentary from **Rahul Mahajan**. Fri., Dec. 15, 1pm. 91.7 KOOP-FM. www.koop.org.

★ PROJECT HELP Today is the deadline for electing to **sponsor a homeless child or family** by providing them with much-needed clothing and toys this holiday season. 414-0759.

SEN. GONZALO BARRIENTOS FAREWELL APPRECIATION PARTY Dancing and music from **Little Joe y la Familia**. 5:30-11:30pm. *Palmer Events Center*, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 784-5810. Free. sylviabrittain@sbcglobal.net.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS 8am, check-in begins (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org. (See Thursday 12/14)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts) **Design Center of Austin**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings) **A Christmas Story** @ *Paramount*, 9pm **The Shop Around the Corner** @ *Paramount*, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings) **Baby Robots, Horse+Donkey, Foot Foot** *Emo's A December to Dismember with Those Peabodys, Strange Boys, the Carrots, Yellow Fever, and the Ugly Beats* *Beerland* **The Skunks** *Continental Club*

Saturday 16

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.

★ AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN & BOYS CONFERENCE This monthly gathering brings young and old together for workshops, discussions, and lectures from experts on issues affecting African-Americans. Today's conference will have a special focus on the seven principles of **Kwanzaa**. 10am-2pm. *Dobie Middle School*, 1200 E. Rundberg. mrloftontalkshow@sbcglobal.net.

ANGELS OVER AUSTIN In the tradition of a posada, take an angel-guided journey across the church grounds, where you'll encounter wise men, Roman officials, a tax collector, innkeepers, and more in search of the Christ child. 3-5pm. *First Baptist Church*, 901 Trinity, 476-2625. Free. www.fbc.austin.org.

★ ANNUAL TATTOO BENEFIT Get a tattoo today, and you'll be raising funds for the **Center for Child Protection**. How many people can say their tattoo helped end child abuse? Dec. 16-17, 11am, Sat. 2pm, Sun. *Tattoos From the Soul*, 516-B E. Sixth, 476-4003.

AUSTIN ALL NATURAL HOLIDAY PARTY Join the staff, readers, and friends of *Austin All Natural* magazine for snacks, hot cider, and a chance to meet *The Secret's* Joe Vitale. 8pm. *City View Ranch*. www.austinallnatural.com.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET (See Club Listings) 9am-1pm. *Cesar Chavez & Lavaca*, 236-0074. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org, www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

AUSTIN FIREFLIES Meet with fellow lamp-working enthusiasts for demonstrations, show-and-tell, and idea-sharing. 7pm. *Blue Moon Glassworks*, 108 W. 43rd, 880-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.

BLACK STAR CO-OP BEER SOCIAL hosted by Austin's (and the world's) one and only beer co-op

– perhaps you'll like it so much you'll join. (Don't forget to dress warmly.) 7-10pm. *MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.blackstar.coop.

★ CARAVAN TO TAYLOR VIGIL Taylor, Texas' **T. Don Hutto immigrant detention center** detains entire families, including toddlers, in jail cells as they await deportation or asylum. Children there wear prisoner uniforms and only receive one hour a day of recreation and school, and many have lost weight due to poor nutrition. Caravan with **Texans for United Families** to this vigil at the jail. *Caravan*: 9:45am; *vigil*: 11am. Meet at *ACLU*, 1210 Rosewood, 971-0487 or 210/835-4755. liblal@grassrootsleadership.org.

FACUNDO'S NIGHT OUT Four hours of nonstop spoken word, short films, music, art, and comedy. (See Club Listings) 8:30pm. *Flamingo Cantina*, 515 E. Sixth, 784-2297. \$3. www.myspace.com/iamfacundo.

FESTIVAL OF TREES continues this week with a *Nutcracker* piano recital and live performance from the Keys of Life kids, followed by a festive holiday reception among the Carver's winter wonderland of decorated trees and wreaths. 3-5pm. *George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center*, 1165 Angelina. \$15 (\$10, advance). www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver.

FREE MEDITATION CLASS This intro to self-realization through meditation is always free with no catches or hidden trickiness. Yay! 11am-noon. *Austin Recreation Center*, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. www.austinsahajayoga.org.

FROSTY'S 5K FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK benefits several area charities: **STARRY, Habitat for Humanity, RRISD Partners in Education Foundation**, and **YMCA**. 9am (check-in, 8am). *Dell Diamond*, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/255-2255. www.frostys5k.com.

GREAT WALL CHINA ADOPTION An information session for couples interested in adopting from China. 10:30am-12:30pm. *Milwood Branch Library*, 12500 Amherst, 323-9595. Free. info@gwca.org, www.gwca.org.

HARMONIZE HEARTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS A multicultural artists holiday market with music, food, kids activities, a portraiture corner for family

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The Money Factory is what most people call the Western Currency Facility on the northern edge of Fort Worth. Don't call it a mint. That's where they make coins. At this federal facility they only make bills. Stacks and stacks of crisp greenbacks.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a branch in the Department of the Treasury, operates two currency printing plants. The factory in Washington, D.C., has been providing the nation with bills, securities, stamps, and engraved announcements since it opened in 1863 in an old brick office building. It took 128 years before the government built a second currency factory.

The Fort Worth facility rolled out its first bills in April 1991. Somewhere on the left side of the front of the American bills (different denominations have it in different locations) is the plate number made up of a small capital letter and a number. If this indicator is preceded by "FW," then the bill was printed in Texas. The Washington plant uses no identifier.

At first the Fort Worth plant printed a wide range of government documents, such as securities, stamps, and Treasury notes, but in the last five years, it has concentrated mostly on producing billions of bills ranging from \$1 to \$100. Running three eight-hour shifts five days a week, the factory has a capacity of more than 6 billion notes a year. That's a lot of cabbage.

Standing in the hallway looking through the windows down onto the production floor, the pallets of paper look just like that – stacks of paper. It's not until near the end of the 45-minute tour when the operator fans a fresh bundle of bills from the banding machine that it becomes obvious that he's handling cold cash.

Visiting the factory is very much like touring any commercial printing plant with its printing presses the size of railroad box cars churning out 10,000 3-foot-by-3-foot sheets of paper an hour. The difference, as you might expect, is that security is extremely heavy.

The factory looks more like a small prison surrounded by razor wire-topped fences than a print shop, with the exception of a glass roof that resembles the pyramid on a \$1 bill. A loudspeaker in the parking lot advises guests to leave their guns, knives, pepper spray, phones, and cameras in the car before being processed through the metal detector. The platoon of heavily armed security guards smiles and advises you

not to miss the 15-minute film as you wait for a bus to take you to the printing compound.

Opened in 2004, the visitor center is a museum telling the history of U.S. currency and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. On display are one-of-a-kind artifacts and showcases filled with encyclopedic information about American money.

What we refer to as paper money is actually made of 75% cotton and 25% linen. Wood-pulp paper could not survive a clothes-washing machine. The life span of a \$1 bill is about 22 months, while typical \$2 bills will last three years.

The bureau has a group called the Mutilated Currency Division which rescues bills that have been burned, buried at sea, or run through a shredder. Only the front of the bill is actually legal tender, and 51% of it must be recoverable to be replaced. Last year the division processed 30,000 claims for more than \$30 million. As you might imagine, they have some interesting stories to tell.

Besides telling the story of money, the visitor center has a gift shop that goes beyond the usual selection of T-shirts, caps, and key chains. Whoever came up with the idea of selling an uncut sheet of 16 \$20 bills for \$409 was a marketing genius.

The Western Currency Facility is at 9000 Blue Mound Rd. at U.S. 287/81, west of I-35. The visitor center opens Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm, except on federal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's. In June and July, the hours are extended to 10:30am to 6:30pm. Admission and tours are free. To make reservations, which usually aren't needed except in the summer months, call 866/865-1194, or go to www.moneyfactory.gov.

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.

The color of money



GERALD E. MCLEOD

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

WALKWAY OF LIGHTS opens for the holiday season with thousands of lights reflecting off the lake. *Through Jan. 1*. 6-10pm. *Marble Falls*, 866/839-3378.

SANTA'S RANCH features 1.5 million lights decorating 40 scenes across 10 acres of rolling hills. *Through Dec. 31*, 6-10pm. Off I-35 between *San Marcos* and *New Braunfels*. \$15 per car, 830/743-1293. www.santasranch.net.

THE 'IMAGINE' PIANO The instrument on which John Lennon composed several songs in 1971 is the centerpiece of a special photography exhibit celebrating peace. This is the first time the upright piano, complete with Lennon's cigarette burns, has traveled outside of England. *Through Jan. 13*. *Goss Gallery*, 2500 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, 214/696-0555. www.gossgallery.com.

INVENTIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI are on exhibit as built by IBM from drawings left by the master. In the upstairs gallery, see 50 color photographs of Texas singer-songwriters by art professor Gary Goldberg. *Through Dec. 31*. *Grace Museum*, 102 Cypress St. at North First Street, *Abilene*, 325/673-4587. www.thegracemuseum.org.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS provides tours of a 19th-century working farm. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 15-17*. *Texas Education & Heritage Center*, 390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, 830/379-1122. www.texagedu.org.

LIVING STORY OF CHRISTMAS Performances every half-hour. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 15-16*, 6:30-8:30pm. *First United Methodist Church*, *Johnson City*, 830/868-7414.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BOYHOOD HOME takes visitors into the Johnson family parlor to see how the president's family might have celebrated the holidays in the 1920s. *Sat., Dec. 16*. *LBJ National Historical Park*, *Johnson City*, 830/868-7128.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING includes a German farmstead open house with homemade refreshments, a children's nativity scene, music, and bus tours of the Texas White House. *Sun., Dec. 17*, 4pm. *LBJ State Park and Ranch*, *Stonewall*, 830/644-2252. www.nps.gov/lyjo.

LAS POSADES presents a reenactment of Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem, led by a mariachi band and followed by refreshments and a diablo piñata. *Sun., Dec. 17*, 6pm. Starts at *City Hall*, *Seguin*, 800/580-7322.

or individual photos, and shopping among paintings, photography, jewelry, crafts, sculpture, pottery, and more. 1-9pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 553-0988. \$1 (free, kids under 10). map@multicultural-artists.org.

MONEYSMART MIXER: BUYING A FORECLOSED PROPERTY Register online. 10am-noon. Wachovia Mortgage, 8200 MoPac N. #200, 634-2115. Free. www.moneysmartmixers.com.

NEW TO NIA WORKSHOP Noon-2pm. George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 791-6597. \$10. moveeastnia@yahoo.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

THE PATH TO GOD Dinner followed by a film screening and an enlightening talk from **Barsana Dham Ashram** founder **Swami Prakashanand Saraswati**. 5:30-9pm. 400 Barsana, 288-7180. www.barsanadham.org/Swamiji.

★ YELLOW BIKE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE & BIKE DRIVE Stop by to learn about YBP's free bike-repair workshops and youth-outreach programming, and meet members of other cycling programs, like Citizen Schools, Tools for Life, and Bikes to Schools. YBP will also be collecting bikes today for raw materials used during children's workshops. 1-5pm. Main Workshop, 2013 E. 51st. www.austinyellowbike.org.

★ CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG 4pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com. (See Thursday 12/14)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
The Edmond Bulldogs The Hideout Theatre

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
A Christmas Story @ Paramount, 1pm
Bus Rider's Union @ Cepeda Public Library, 2pm
Santa vs. Satan @ Alamo Downtown, 7, 9:45
The Shop Around the Corner @ Paramount, 3pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Danny & the Nightmares Emo's
Invincible Czars' Nutcracker Suite Ruta Maya
Facundo's Night Out Flamingo Cantina
Holiday With the Neighbors Hole in the Wall

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

AUSTIN FAERIE CIRCLE is a group for alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae. Yae! groups.yahoo.com/group/thcfes.

A FOODIE TO REMEMBER One of our very own, long-time Foodie member and supporter **Michelle Ellis** – a kind, quiet, caring soul – has passed on, and will be remembered fondly. Michelle, along with her family, was a mentor at Pillow Elementary, and Foodies will be collecting children's books to donate to the school in her memory. Contact Kitty to donate: beatsagogo@aol.com.

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

HOLIDAY WITH THE NEIGHBORS Ho, Ho, and Ho. Three bands – **Tiny Adventurers**, **Darling New Neighbors**, **Hit Space** (is this Carrie's new dirty band?) – “excruciating” carols, “desperate” jingles, a post-Thanksgiving rap song, and “raunchy” Santa (all things promised in their press release). We love the DNN. Mostly because their write-ups write themselves. Ha, ho. Sat., Dec. 16, 10pm. *Hole in the Wall*, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747. www.darlingnewneighbors.com.

DAM!BEAVER: WHAT'S IN YER BOX? A holiday treat for those ready to load up their bushes, err, trees for the *brrrr* season. Bundle up for some bondage, and let Santa know just how naughty you wanna be this year. Featuring the spintastic **DJ A! Right** and drink specials to warm even the chilliest scrooge's heart. Whipped kitties especially welcome. Sun., Dec. 17. *Chain Drive*, 504 Willow, 480-9017. \$3. www.myspace.com/dammbeaver.

A CANDLE ON THE WEB In honor of **World AIDS Day**, all month long, **Bristol-Myers Squibb** will donate \$1 to AIDS research every time someone lights a virtual candle on their Web site,

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

Sunday 17

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. 11am-6pm. *Zein's Dance Studio*, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. www.wmdproductions.com.

CANDLELIGHT YOGA PRACTICE Flowing yoga accompanied by jazz keyboardist Mike Klotz. 5-6:30pm. *Metamorphosis Dance Academy*, 900 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, 512/876-7836. \$8 (bring your own mat). www.aurorahealingarts.com.

★ FACING THE GRINCH: COPING WITH HOLIDAY STRESS The holidays are abundant with triggers for stress, and this workshop will help you develop strategies for coping with them all. 11:30am-12:30pm. *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.

LAS POSADAS The procession starts at **Seguin City Hall** with accompaniment from **Mariachi Michoacan** and makes several stops around town before ending up at **St. Andrew's Episcopal**, where tamales, bunuelos, and a candy-filled piñata await. Come costumed, and bring a candle. 6pm. *Seguin*, 830/401-5000.

THE LIGHT (MASTER'S TEACHINGS) Channelings “via the masters,” followed by a Christmas party. 2:30-6:30pm. *Healing Light Center*, 7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0559. \$25. www.sashagabriel.com.

ANGELS OVER AUSTIN 9-10:30am. *First Baptist Church*, 901 Trinity, 476-2625. Free. www.fbcaustin.org. (See Saturday)

★ ANNUAL TATTOO BENEFIT *Tattoos From the Soul*, 516-B E. Sixth, 476-4003. (See Saturday)

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT Thu., 6-10pm; Sun., 7pm-12mid. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 647-4803. www.insidebooksproject.com. (See Thursday 12/14)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Old Joy @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Christmas Songwriters Showcase *La Zona Rosa*

LightToUnite.org. Go on, give in to the Web-scouring pyro inside of you ... for a great cause.

MOMMY MAYHEM Come join the every-third-Sunday book group that never needs to ask that age-old question: “Did you baste, or did you party?” Babies (as long as you keep 'em wrangled and on your person) are welcome. Sun., Dec. 21, 1pm. *BookWoman*, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785.

★ A VERY PINK CHRISTMAS Menopause is comin' to town ... if you don't believe us, just ask our mothers. Or those hilarious gray-hairs the **Austin Baptist Women**, who'll be bringing the song, the dance, and even the mistletoe (watch that tongue, mom!) to celebrate more than two decades of fundraising holiday festivity. With an auction, a raffle (proceeds benefit the **Breast Cancer Resource Center of Austin**), and yuletide glee, there's sure to be more than just yer stocking getting stuffed. To all a good night, indeed. Sun., Dec. 17, 8pm. *Rainbow Cattle Co.*, 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. \$5 donation. www.babtistwomen.com.

★ A SONG FOR ANA Back by popular (and clamoring) demand, Puerto Rican vocalist and composer **Lourdes Perez** brings her majestic contralto passion to an Austin stage once again. Sigh. Join her, along with a lineup of ever-talented guest performers, for an enchanting night to benefit local artist and community leader **Ana Sisnett** in her battle against ovarian cancer. Tue., Dec. 19, 9:30pm. *One World Theatre*, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500. \$20. encantoproductions@gmail.com, www.lourdesperez.com.

THE WHITE PARTY Think you have to travel to the Dinah Shore to sport the most Cloroxed clothing lingering in your closet? Not this year, tchotchkie! Wear your whities, tight or loose, and dance until you glow. Black lights on, smoke machine fogging, and three DJs spinning to the danciest depths of your soul. It's going to be hot! White hot. With proceeds benefiting the top surgery of local gender queer, quasi-celeb, model, and goth-bar tender extraordinaire **Monique**, in a journey to make the outsidies match the insides. Thu., Dec. 21, 9pm. *Elysium*, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$2, with white attire.

calendar > COMMUNITY > ARTS > FILM > MUSIC

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. 29 issue is Monday, Dec. 18.** 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.

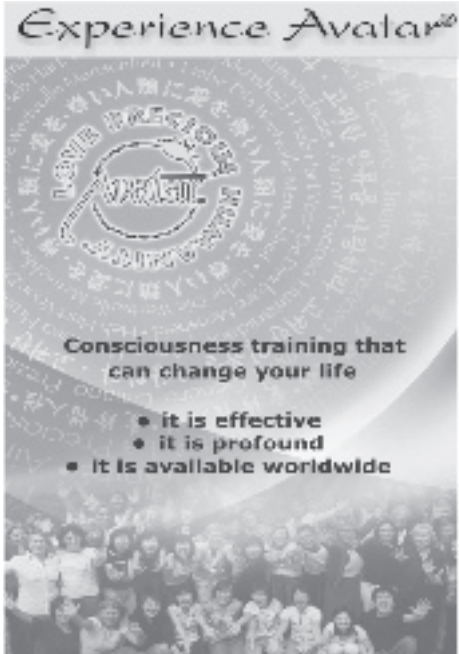


DVD \$29.95

New Book \$23.95

4 CD Set \$29.95

Sacred Shelf Books & Gift
9603 Dessau Road
837-6225 10-2pm

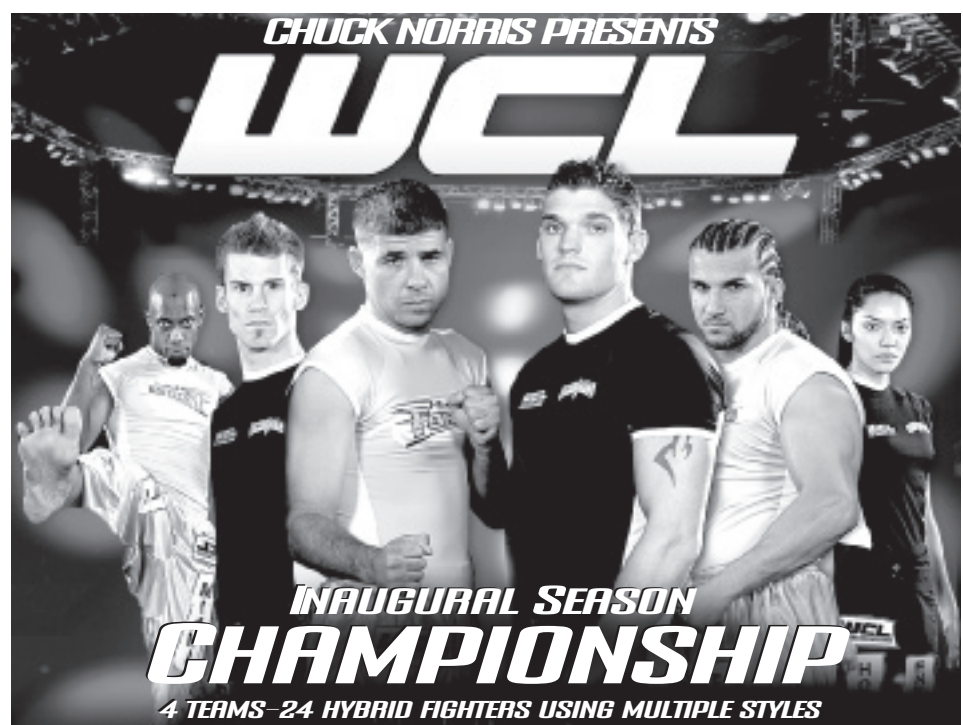


The Avatar Course
Dec 27th - Jan 4th
Austin, TX

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your free introduction to Avatar,
please contact:

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Monday 18

AUSTIN POND SOCIETY MEETING 7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.austinpondsociety.org.

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

FREE YOGA Totalilly. 6pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

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

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Old Joy @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Honky, Billy Dee Woody's South

Tuesday 19

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG Join the Austin Symphony Orchestra for an evening of your favorite holiday tunes. Expect special appearances from the Grinch, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph, and Santa. 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 888/4-MAESTRO. Free (tickets still required for admission). www.austinsymphony.org.

★ **FIESTA NAVIDEÑA PARA TODA FAMILIA** Delicious traditional holiday foods and a piñata for the kids. 6:30-8:30pm. Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7400. Free.

Ongoing Events

★ **MOTHERS' MILK BANK** more than ever needs healthy breast-feeding women to donate their milk for premature and ill babies who need it to ward off life-threatening infections. Even if you're not breast-feeding, you can still help with milk-pouring and donor-support on weekdays. Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin, 900 E. 30th #214, 494-0800. www.mmbaustin.org.

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 non-perishable 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=M721461929826040637622665.

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.

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.

HEALTH TALK WITH HOST SHANNON JONES Tune in to **KAZI 88.7** on Tuesdays for this program addressing health issues and disparities in Travis County and tracing the progress of Austin's **African-American Quality of Life Initiative**. 8-9am.

HILL COUNTRY NUDISTS MONTHLY INTRODUCTORY MEETING 7pm. Mr. Natural, 2414A S. Lamar, 916-9223. www.hillcountrynudists.com.

MEXICAN BINGO NIGHT Play for ice cream sun-daes, T-shirts, CDs, books, and other prizes. Or for fun. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. 25 cents per game. www.ventanadeloul.org.

SOUL TRAVEL: EXPLORING THE WORLDS OF GOD This free four-week workshop ends Dec. 26. 7-8:30pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. www.eckankar-texas.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Lourdes Perez One World Theatre

Wednesday 20

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET This midweek market features local farmers, vendors, and live music every Wednesday. (See Club Listings) 4-7pm. Whole Foods parking lot, 525 N. Lamar. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE These night clinics are open to everyone, offer child care, and are right on the bus line. 6-7pm. Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. Johns.



Blue Santa float, Thanksgiving 2006

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

★ **BLUE SANTA** needs help with delivering toys and food to families in need (large volunteer groups call 974-4900). Sat., Dec. 16. They're also still accepting **donations of new, unwrapped toys**, especially for **children ages 8-12** (through Dec. 15). 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.cityfaustin.org/library.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR brings more than 80 regional artists together. Dec. 7-23. Sun.-Thu, 10am-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid (Sun., Dec. 24, 10am-6pm). 916 Springdale www.bluegenieart.com.

HOLIDAY FAVORITES IN THE MUSEUM Local musicians play holiday music while you peruse the "Miss Ima's Quilts" exhibit. 2-4pm. **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com.

★ **INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE** This free class will get you all excited about this spring's Permaculture Design Certificate Course. 7-8:30pm. **Habitat Suites Hotel**, 500 Highland Mall Blvd., 619-5363. www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm.

INTUITIVE CIRCLE This weekly class helps you hone your intuition and use it to help others. 7:30-9:30pm. Private residence, 560-5193. \$10. www.intuitivestudiesaustin.com.

★ **METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB** presents a talk from Austin Energy's Mark Kapner: **Electric Vehicles & Real World Economics**. 7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15 (members/first-time guests). www.mbcaustin.org.

SHAMANIC JOURNEY CIRCLE Learn the fundamental practice of both ancient and contemporary shamanism. 7:15-9pm (7pm, newbies). **NiaSpace**, 3212 S. Congress, 586-2736. \$10. www.shamanicpassages.com.

FREE YOGA 6pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net. (See Monday)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Danielson: A Family Movie @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Apeshits, Teeners Beerland
Amos Lee La Zona Rosa

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 (in 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.keeptaustinhouse.org/newsletters.htm.

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.

★ **ORPHANED ANIMALS IN NEED** The **Town Lake Animal Shelter** needs toys and chews (specifically tennis balls, wand-type cat toys, and natural raw-hide chews), while the **Animal Trustees of Austin** desperately need towels for bedding and surgical procedures. Leave your donations at *The Natural Gardener*, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., or see Web sites for additional info. (Also, the Paramount and State theatres are accepting donations for *TLAS Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm, through Dec. 20*, in exchange for a Paramount gift: see www.austintheatre.org) www.ci.austin.tx.us/tlac, www.animaltrustees.org.

ZILKER PARK TRAIL OF LIGHTS Every night boasts a full lineup of dancers and singers to accompany the 1-million-light spectacle. *Through Dec. 23*. 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.

CHAIN FREE AUSTIN PLEDGE DRIVE As part of the movement to outlaw tethering dogs (based on research showing that the practice is dangerous for both humans and the animals themselves), **Chain Free Austin** is proposing that the ban proposal (to go before council in January) be accompanied by a pledge drive to help low-income pet owners buy fencing materials. If you'd like to pledge a future donation to the **Fencing Assistance Fund**, visit www.chainfreeaustin.org.

DREAMING OF A GREEN TEXAS Austin's peaceful Hill Country retreat destination hosts a weekend of sustainable-living activities, including a green-shop-

Thursday 21

AUSTIN CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING 7:30pm. Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd. (in Zilker Botanical Gardens). Free. www.austinctss.com.

FESTIVAL OF TREES: SILVER BELL SOCIAL invites senior citizens to enjoy a jazzy performance from **Pamela Hart** and **James Polk** among the Carver's enchantingly decorated holiday trees and wreaths. 3-5pm. **George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center**, 1165 Angelina. \$15 (\$10, advance). www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver.

ITALIAN HONEY TASTING Sample imported Italian honeys of the flavored (orange, lemon, strawberry, and tangerine) and cream-custard (pistachio, hazelnut, almond, and dry-fruit) variety, and A Taste of Italy's Elsa Gramola will personally bring you back your faves in two weeks when she returns from her next trip to Italy. 7pm. Private residence, 345-8941. \$20. www.atasteofitalyinaustin.com.

THIRD THURSDAY ON GUADALUPE Music, food, and shopping. *Third Thursday*, 6-10pm. **Guadalupe** between 28th & 38th www.austinthirdthursday.com.

★ **CHRISTMAS POPS! SING-ALONG** 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com. (See Thursday 12/14)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Old Joy @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Banana Blender Surprise Continental Club

ping fair, eco-friendly workshops, and *The Land*, a play by David Marquis. Plus there'll be holiday dining, carolling, nature walks, and more. Stop by for one event, or stay the whole weekend. *Fri.-Sun., Dec. 15-17*. 877/944-3003. www.thecrossingsaustin.com.

★ **MEALS ON WHEELS** desperately needs help during the holidays with providing food to Austin's homebound elderly and disabled. *Meals on Wheels and More*, 3227 E. Fifth, 476-6325. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org.

★ **CHRISTMAS DAY MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS** **AISD's Project Help** provides Christmas meals to homeless families through your donations of A) a cooked or ready-to-eat meal that you deliver directly, or B) all the ingredients necessary to prepare a traditional holiday meal. 414-0759.

OSCAR MAYER WIENERMOBILE makes a few pit stops around town this week: **Cooking Out and Caroling for a Cause** Eat some hot dogs and sing with the Longhorn Singers; *Thu., Dec. 14, 3-6pm; HEB, 641 E. Hopkins, San Marcos*. See Sports listings for the following: **Frosty 5K Run** Sat., Dec. 16, 8-10am; *Old Settler's Park, Round Rock*. **Jingle Bell 5K Run** Sun., Dec. 17, 8-10am; *Auditorium Shores*.

INSTRUMENT & FUND DRIVE The Lone Star School of Music's **Music Resource Center** provides low-income children with the opportunity to learn to play music. Your **monetary donations** are needed to fund scholarships for 2007, while your **used instruments** will stock the program's lending library. 524-5252. www.mrcakids.org.

GOT VASES TO SPARE? If so, **Keep Austin Beautiful** would be happy to use them for center-pieces during this February's awards luncheon. 391-0622. alanna@keepaustinbeautiful.org.

★ **RECYCLING JOY** Donate your **used eyeglasses** (with lenses intact) to those who need them in countries like Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Haiti, where a single pair can cost a month's salary or more. Do so by *Jan. 31*, and you'll get \$25 off your next pair from Eye Physicians of Austin. Drop-off at either *Eye Physicians of Austin* location: 5011 Burnet or 13376 Research, 583-2020.

★ **GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP** You can designate any one of several worthy local causes – Yellow Bike Project, Cinemaker Co-op, and AIDS Services of Austin, to name just a few – to receive a percentage of the proceeds from your holiday online shopping at all kinds of stores, from Target to Dell to Ann Taylor. Yay! www.igive.com.

37TH STREET LIGHTS Despite rumors to the contrary, 37th Street is up and running with all kinds of shiny, twinkly lights for you to blink at. We suggest walking, if you can – it's much better than inching along in your car. *37th Street, between Guadalupe & Home Lane*.

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

ALL AMERICAN TENNIS SHOOTOUT

I hope you're ready for some top-notch tennis, because Austin will play host to the No. 1 American talent, James Blake, as well as the world's top doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan. Blake will take on Mardy Fish in a singles match and then team with his brother Thomas in a doubles match against the Bryans. See the Web site below or call 866/443-8849 for your tickets. Fri., Dec. 15, 7pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000. www.gettix.net.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY CONLEY

THE HOME TEAMS

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Midwestern State: Tue., Dec. 19, 6pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Women's Basketball Vs. Henderson State: Sat., Dec. 16, 2pm.

AUSTIN TOROS The addition of Jay Williams (the second overall pick of the 2002 NBA Draft) can only help the winless Toros. Vs. Sioux Falls: Sun., Dec. 17, 3pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

AUSTIN ICE BATS See our sports blog at austinchronicle.com/sports for more on the Bats. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: Sat., Dec. 16, 7:30pm. Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$15-35. www.icebats.com.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. Hanover: Sun., Dec. 17, 2pm. Vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor: Tue., Dec. 19, 6pm. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

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. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

ACTIVE ADULT 50+ ACTIVITIES Free outdoor activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, rock hounding, extreme jewelry making, fly fishing, and hiking for active adults 50+ every day of the week. Hosted by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Daily. Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Activity Center, 34 Robert Martinez Jr., 391-1863. Free. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/camacho.htm.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

FROSTY'S 5K FAMILY FUN RUN/WALK will benefit the Round Rock YMCA, STARRY, Round Rock Habitat for Humanity, and the Round Rock ISD Education Foundation. Food and drink provided, plus activities for the kids, live music, and family fun. Sat., Dec. 16, 9am. Old Settler's Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-9885. www.frostys5k.com.

JINGLE BELL 5K A celebration of MADD's mission to stop drunken driving and underage drinking, and support the victims of this crime. Registration includes a long-sleeved T-shirt and all the fun activities. Sun., Dec. 17, 9am (registration begins at 7am). Auditorium Shores, 512/445-4976. www.madd.org/bx.

RUNNING OF THE BULLS Run half a mile from Republic Square to the Convention Center, and then enjoy a Toros basketball game. Participants will receive a shirt and a ticket to the game. Sun., Dec. 17, 1pm. Republic Square. www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1390429.

JINGLE BELL RIDE There will be a police escort for this ride through the Trail of Lights in Zilker Park and up and down Congress. All riders need front white headlights and rear reflectors. Bring a food item or cash donation for the Capital Area Food Bank. Sun., Dec. 17, 6pm. Departs from the Austin Parks and Recreation lot on Toomey Road behind Schlotsky's.

Longtime MLS coach **Bob Bradley** was named interim head coach of the **U.S. national team** on Friday, the day after **Jürgen Klinsmann** withdrew from consideration. Bradley is one of five finalists for the permanent job, but he could also be gone by May – before the team even plays a real game. Klinsmann had been the only candidate the U.S. Soccer Federation was talking to.

Neither side would say why a deal couldn't be made, but it may have been about control issues, more than money. Bummer for the Yanks, who've incidentally dropped to **31st in the world** in the latest FIFA rankings, and could clearly use a jolt of some kind. Bradley's a well-respected journeyman, but thrust into a difficult caretaker position, it's hard to see this working out extremely well.

Derby Day in Europe. A couple of great games last Sunday: Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Chelsea, an absolutely brilliant game in the heavy rain in London – two goals in the last 15 minutes, two balls off the post in extra time alone, and a goal-of-the-year candidate from **Michael Essien** – followed by the equally intense Rome derby: Lazio's 3-0 upset over Roma. Just a reminder, the football year's not quite over yet. – Nick Barbaro

Soccer WATCH



Take a walking tour in search of the Christ Child. Visit the petting zoo and miniature horses, hear Christmas carols, and enjoy crafts for the kids, tasty snacks, and a Sunday brunch.

Free guided tours start every 15 minutes, rain or shine
Saturday, Dec. 16, 3-5 p.m. • Sunday, Dec. 17, 9-10:30 a.m.
901 Trinity Street in Downtown Austin.

For more Christmas events, visit us at: www.fbcaustin.org



SHORT STORY CONTEST

LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!

\$1,500 in cash and prizes to be divided among five winners. Manuscript to be published in *The Austin Chronicle*.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
December 15, 2006

CHRONICLE

austinchronicle.com/shortstory

One in four children in Texas is at risk for going to bed hungry.



**CAPITAL AREA
FOOD BANK
OF TEXAS**
Silver Anniversary

Please visit austinfoodbank.org to find out how you can help.



Legerity Inc. encourages the Austin community to be generous and support the Capital Area Food Bank this holiday season.

AUSTIN WRANGLERS FOOTBALL

Sign up to win an Austin Wranglers Holiday Pack; including two arena sideline seats to the Wranglers 2007 home-opener against the Las Vegas Gladiators and an authentic Austin Wranglers game jersey courtesy of the Austin Wranglers, AM1300 The Zone and the Austin Chronicle. A \$205 value! Tickets for the 2007 Austin Wranglers Arena Football League season are available now. Call (512) 339-3939 to purchase your tickets today or visit austinwranglers.com for more information.

to WIN Wranglers tickets log on to
www.austinchronicle.com/contests

TICKET
GIVE
AWAY

Reckless

City Theatre, through Dec. 17

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, except for the hit man contracted by Rachel Fitzsimmons' spouse. As the children were nestled all snug in their beds, Rachel told her husband how perfect her life was as a stay-at-home mother, only to have him reply that he'd hired a killer to break in through the bay window and make her death seem like an accident. And to all a good night, indeed.

Craig Lucas wrote this black comedy, *Reckless*, in 1983, providing Rachel a long freeway from family values into reckless abandon. Despite the strange turns of events, she remains totally chirpy. Her head up in the snow-filled clouds, she is downright flaky.

Without a thought to leaving her two boys behind with her homicidal husband, Rachel runs away. She catches a ride with a soft-spoken physical therapist she meets in the street, lobbing her wedding ring out the car window and changing her name to Mary Ellen Sissle. The therapist, Lloyd Bophtelophti, takes her home to meet his deaf-mute girlfriend, Pooty – if you want to ensure laughs throughout your play, name one of your characters “Pooty” – but things with this couple aren't quite what they seem. Lloyd isn't his real name (he's eluding a marriage in arrears), and Pooty is faking her deafness in order to speed up her disability benefits. But the happy-go-unlucky trio manages to win \$100,000 on a game show while wearing planets on their heads.

Chance pushes Rachel into another escapade the following Christmas, when her husband finds her. Bounding for every Springfield in America, Rachel falls into a series of tête-à-têtes with therapists (a Freudian, a hick, and a monk – all played by a man of many caricatures, Clay Breeden), none of whom seem able to help her reason the things that happen to her. With genuine innocence, Rachel eludes the scandal and horror of embezzlement, premeditated murder, men in ski masks, and drunken Santa Clauses.

Throughout the City Theatre Company production, a Christmas tree remains stationary center stage, but that's about all that's still. Artistic Director Andy Berkovsky has the actors buzz around like weirdos more than kooky characters, which is just what the doctor ordered. David Meissner makes an obnoxious game-show host in a light-blue tux, and Ginny O'Quinn delivers bubbly performances as the mute yet chatty Pooty and, later, a trash talker on a talk show. As Lloyd, Adam X. Medina's haunting composure and smile never crack, even as his character's mind does. And Laura Caslin's Rachel flies adeptly, if at first anxiously, through the production. She teeters and flails at just the right moments; her voice trembles at the thought of Christmas. Her enthusiasm is the production's locus, even through Rachel's collapse and her finally abandonment of recklessness.

– Patti Hadad



Theatre

OPENING

HAMLET William Shakespeare's classic retakes the stage under the direction of Japhy Fernandes, with Sam Grimes in the title role, in this latest offering from the fledgling Velvet Rut company. *Dec. 15-24. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Velvet Rut Theatre, 1612 E. Eighth, 236-1092. \$4-30.*

SVT READS: GETTING ACROSS TOWN First, it's from SVT, who, when they do a reading, it's almost like a goddam performance, that's how fierce they are. Second, it's written by Cyndi Williams, who knows how to script up some tasty drama. Third,

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. 29 issue is Monday, Dec. 18.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

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

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

Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com.**

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com.**

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

it's directed by Jeffery Mills, and we don't know how he is as a director (so we get to be surprised), but when onstage he's like God-Actor of Dune or somesuch (that's a good thing, mind), so this should rock even harder. And the cast? Some of the names would make you plotz with excitement, bubbie. And all of that is why it's being free and open to the public is almost too insignificant to mention. *Sat., Dec. 16, 5pm. Bank of America Bldg., Fifth & Congress (hint: follow the signs). www.salvagevanguard.org*

CLOSING

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. *Through Dec. 17. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12 (\$8, seniors, students). www.lapastorela.com.*

HOLIDAY MUSICAL Out in Bastrop, the all-low-ercased John Daniels Jr. and Engela Edwards and company serve up this, well, *holiday musical* for your seasonal pleasure. *Through Dec. 16. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Bastrop Opera House, Bastrop, 512/321-6283. www.bastropoperahouse.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. 535-6643. \$17 (\$14, Thursdays; ACoT discounts, too). www.hydeparktheatre.com.*

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. *Through Dec. 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. *Through Dec. 16. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/336-8966. \$10-12. www.wobcp.org.*

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: **Hands On Thu., Dec. 21, 4pm. In front of Zilker Park's Christmas tree. www.zachscott.com.**

PAGEANT The drag show to end all drag shows returns to Austin to brighten your cross-dressing holidays. Who will be the winner in this beauty-pageant parody? Will it be Miss Bible Belt? Will it be Miss Industrial Northeast? Will it be Miss Small Town? Or will it be one of the other queenly contestants giving it their unmitigated, sequin-spangled all under the direction of Blake Yelavich for Naughty Austin? You'll have to be there to find out, because you, the audience, get to vote on who provides best evidence of fabulousity. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$25. www.naughtyaustin.com.*

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 metafictional take on the classic *Miracle on 34th Street*, featuring holiday songs and commercials for “needlessly complicated” Moneygo products, as the players show what happens when Business tries to commandeer Art and all performative hell breaks loose. *Through Dec. 23. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$15 (\$12.50, in advance). www.violetcrownradio.com.*

★ ROB NASH: IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, THE 70S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL stars the hypertalented and seemingly multiple-personalised 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, mindwarping style: Paul Lynd, Charo, Howard Cosell, Walter Cronkite, Miss Piggy, Charles Nelson Reilly, Richard Dawson, Mushmouth, Ricardo Montalban, Redd Foxx, Gerald 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. *Through Dec. 23. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

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.

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. 16, 23, 5pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38. 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. 14, 16, 21, 22, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.meatballs.com.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FRONTERAFEST 2007: NOW HIRING FronteraFest is searching for fun-loving, dedicated people for the following positions: box-office manager and attendants, house managers, stage managers, ASMs, venue managers, and board operators. All positions paid. Send résumé and letter of interest to: Hyde Park Theatre 511 W. 43rd, Austin, TX 78751. Or via e-mail to: fronterafest@hydeparktheatre.org.

THEATRE ACTION PROJECT This educational theatre company seeks volunteers for their afterschool program and for First Night Austin's New Year's Eve Kids Festival. 442-8773. www.theatreactionproject.org.

HYDE PARK THEATRE: AVAILABLE FOR RENT HPT currently has three slots available for four-week rentals in 2007: Move in Feb. 18 with a Feb. 22-March 17 run; move in July 1 with a July 5-28 run; and move in July 29 with an Aug. 2-25 run. E-mail or call Ken Webster for details. 479-7530. kenwebster@austin.rr.com.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

100 Proof features JR Brow, Matt Sadler, Matt Bearden, and Doug Mellard. The very best of Austin comics? We wouldn't argue with that designation if we could, *although it'd be more certain if Cockfield and Huntsberger were part of the line-up, too*. But let's not get all picayunish up in here: When it comes to bringing the funny, these boys do just fine. Dec. 19-23. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

Open Mic Comedy Seasoned pros and up-and-comers knock themselves out to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter. *Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).*

Rodney Carrington has his own show on the 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. 14-17. Thu. & Sun., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport www.coldtowne.com.

This place? Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv:

Get Up is Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin's hilarious longform 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*

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Starring: Kevin Farr, Bill Akey, Charles Brown & Steven Michael Miller
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THE ROCK-N-SOUL MUSICAL!
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The Nutcracker

Bass Concert Hall, through Dec. 23

Running Time: 2 hr, 10 min

On Christmas Eve, families gather and greet in the majestic living room of the Silberhaus mansion. Presents are distributed to the children in a formal, regal ceremony. A mysterious guest arrives with unique gifts – two life-size dancing dolls and a special wooden nutcracker dressed in red like a soldier – for the Silberhaus daughter, Clara. The families depart, and the children are sent to bed, but Clara returns for her nutcracker to find the room transforming into a fantasy world filled with mice and rats, soldiers, a Snow King and Queen, many fairies, and Clara's nutcracker come to handsome life.

I could have told you this story only in the vaguest detail before I had seen Ballet Austin's 44th annual production of this Tchaikovsky ballet, because this was the first time I have seen any production of it. Of course, I've heard some of its music, as it is practically impossible to live in the western world today and not have heard the lovely, light, and lilting music that fills Tchaikovsky's world of fantasy. But I went with only the vaguest notion of what it was about, and I left delighted beyond measure.

This particular experience also marks my first time attending a ballet, and while it is one thing to understand that ballet is a traditional dance form that does not involve spoken words, it is another to experience an entire performance of a story told without words and understand who everyone is and exactly what is going on, as I did here. In order for that to occur, a tremendous number of disparate elements must come together seamlessly, and they do, thanks to choreographer Stephen Mills and to Richard Rosenberg, who conducts the Austin Symphony Orchestra in its lovely rendition of Tchaikovsky's music.

Everything about this production breathes artistry. Set in the late 19th century, the time the opera was composed, the style is very traditional. Scenic designer Richard Isackes uses the drop-and-fly system in Bass Concert Hall to create huge Christmas trees, journeys



through the countryside, and towering castles. Tommy Bourgeois' costume design is so lush and rich that it looks like nothing so much as the finest storybook come to breathtaking life. Given the sumptuous visual feast, it is somewhat surprising that the most lovely moments occur at the end of the first act, when the stage is drenched in white as the Snow King and Queen and their snowflakes dance in the falling snow for Clara. In almost every possible way, the amazingly athletic, finely skilled dancers embody Tchaikovsky's fantasy, most especially Ashley Lynn as the Snow Queen and Aara Krumpke as the Sugar Plum Fairy, who each dance a lovely pas de deux, and Allisyn Paino and Reginald Harris, who perform a luscious and sultry Arabian dance at the court of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

For decades now, *The Nutcracker* has been a Christmas holiday tradition, and now I know why. Its story is every child's wish for Christmas come to vivid life – a world of ideal beauty and perfection that can be truly seen only when looking through the eyes of the very young.

– Barry Pineo

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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 shortform stylee. *Saturdays, 10pm. You, Me, and Greg* are sometimes improv, sometimes sketch, always unpredictable. *Sundays, 7pm.*

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 Playstation 3 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.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688.
www.heroescomedy.com.

AUSTIN IMPROV Let the Austin Improv Collective and friends take away some of the season's chill with a little extemporaneous comedifyin':

Thursday: ColdTowne's Chris Trew and **Dave Buckman** of the Frank Mills host an Ed Sullivan-style show of stand-up, improv, and sketch comedy to start your preweekend off on the right rockin' foot. *8pm. www.thursdaynightawesome.com*

Friday: Improv Threefeet features **\$10 Bourbon, Available Cupholders**, and **Foolish Mortals**. *8pm. \$7-10. The Double Barrel* features **Millerski** and **You, Me & Greg** *10pm. \$7-10.* And late night's **Cage Match** brings, as challengers, the terrifying **Pussycake**. *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 gets all mad topological with **Knotprov**. *11:30pm. \$7-10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.
www.thevelveetaroom.com.

Doug Mellard 2006's Funniest Person in Austin hits the Cheese Palace with a big can o' comedy whup-ass, and his openers are **Ruby Collins** and **Justin Sanders** in this one-night-only show. *Fri., Dec. 15, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

★ **THE EDMOND BULLDOGS** Drop everything. No, seriously, drop everything, and do whatever it takes to get your ass into a seat to see these guys. We caught their gig at the recent Out of Bounds festival, and we were gobsmacked with awe and laughter. They'll be onstage with support from locals **Shannon McCormick** and **Jeremy Lamb**, there'll be clips from their video, and the show will be further fortified by improv from the **Available Cupholders**. Seeing this gig is one of the biggest entertainment favors you could do for yourself this year. (See "Edmond Bulldogs," p.43, for more.) *Dec. 16-17. Sat., 10:30pm; Sun., 6pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$7-10. www.heroescomedy.com.*

Dance

35TH VICTORY DAY OF THE LIBERATION WAR OF BANGLADESH Some wars apparently have happy conclusions that lend themselves to annual celebrations. This one, for instance, celebrates the end of a war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh (né East Pakistan). Things have gone swimmingly since then, so here in Austin the local Bangladeshi community celebrate with an annual daylong festival of food, music, dance, and culture. *Sat., Dec. 16, noon-midnight. Manor High School Performing Arts Center. www.bagatx.org.*

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. As ever, special guest Mother Gingers from among Central Texas' leading lights add fun, flair, and not some little height to the festivities; this year's crop includes Mayor Will Wynn, KVUE anchor Christine Haas, San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz (ooh, dueling mayoral Gingers!), and

a host of others. *Fri., Dec. 15, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 16, 2pm & 7:30pm; Sun., Dec. 17, 2pm; Wed.-Fri., Dec. 20-22, 7:30pm; Sat., Dec. 23, 2pm & 7:30pm.* Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 866/4GET-TIX. \$15-63 (\$10 student tickets available one hour before show). www.startickets.com.

SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS, FEATURING BONNIE RIDEOUT Stirring music, sublime dance, and sugar-plum fairies. (Wha?! There are nae fairies in Sco'land! Well, all right, maybe one or two. Plus a prehistoric-era monster wha' swims in a loch.) Traditional Scottish fare – carols, wassail tunes, and dance music – brings comfort and joy to all. *Thu., Dec. 14, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 866/4GETTIX. www.austintheatre.org.*

TRAIL OF LIGHTS Besides the fancy lights and family-friendly walkabout, there's nightly entertainment at this annual event, sometimes featuring local dance and classical music troupes. Check their Web site for schedules. *Through Saturday, Dec. 23. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/entertainment.htm.*

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

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.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 512/971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm. Lessons every first and third Thursday at 7:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. \$3. www.austinscand.org.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm.*

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/tlfd/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.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL DANCE Austin Contra Dance and Austin Friends of Traditional Music present an evening of participatory, social dance. If you can walk fast and follow instructions, you can dance. Live music, with dance instruction by Lissa Bengtson. No partner needed; casual dress; beginners welcome. *Sat., Dec. 16, 7:30pm beginners lessons; 8-11pm main dance. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 402-0221. \$8 with discounts available.*

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

THE INVINCIBLE CZARS: NUTCRACKER SUITE

The Invincible Czars bring back their take on the holiday classic. In place of the traditional symphony orchestra, this version, for rock band, includes parts for guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, trumpet, and a guest violinist. The Golden Arm Trio opens. *Sat., Dec. 16, 3pm (kids show); 7pm (loud show).* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.invincibleczars.com.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR Two more appearances round out the choir's fall season. The first is at **Central Market** *Sat., Dec. 16, 3pm. Central Market Cafe, 4001 N. Lamar. Free.* The second is this year's **Christmas Concert**, featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols," with harpist Shana Norton, double choir works, and seasonal favorites, performed by the girls in gorgeous Victorian costumes. *Sun., Dec. 17, 4pm. Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition. \$10. 453-0884. www.austingirlschoir.com.*

THE TRADITIONAL SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH

The Austin Civic Chorus, under the artistic direction of Dr. Kenneth Sheppard, presents this holiday tradition, featuring the rich vocals of the Austin Civic Chorus and soloists, music by Chorus Austin Orchestra, and you! *Sun., Dec. 17, 7pm. Westlake Hills Fine Arts Facility, 4100 Westbank. 719-3300. \$15 (\$10, seniors, students; \$5, ages 12 and younger).* www.chorusaustin.org.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

This holiday tradition truly brings "Joy to the World," so be there with your "Silver Bells" on! *Tue., Dec. 19, 8pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. Free. www.austinsymphony.org.*

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: CAROLING AT NOON

Weekly midday concerts usher in the holiday season. This week: **Canterbury Bells of St. David's.** 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.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL In addition to the gorgeous Celtic music and song by the likes of Stephanie Prewitt, Claire Vangelisti, the Tea Merchants, and Ed Miller, the concert will feature Irish dance champion David Bologna and storytelling in the Celtic tradition. This show is almost sold out, but 100 standing-room-only tickets will be made available at the door the night of the concert once advance ticket holders have been seated. *Thu., Dec. 21, 8pm (doors open at 7pm). St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th. 472-4540. \$18 (standing room only).* www.celticcenter.org.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

AVED GALLERY: TEMPORAL HAPPINESS is presented by Courtney DiSabato and Sean Gaulager at the all-too-shortlived gallery in Austin, as works showcase fleeting moments of bliss, passion, and joy in our otherwise routine lives. *Thu., Dec. 14, 7-11pm. 4002 Ave. D.*

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.*

AMOA: VISIONS is a two-hour event, free and open to the public, offering "Ways of Seeing" by 11 painters participating in classes at Laguna Gloria. *Thu., Dec. 14, 6-8pm. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR More than 120 artists and merchants offer imaginative gifts and Austin musicians perform nightly and on week-end 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

"Beverly Penn: Weeds"

D. Berman Gallery, through Dec. 23

"But a weed is simply a plant that wants to grow where people want something else. In blaming nature, people mistake the culprit. Weeds are people's idea, not nature's." – Author unknown

Situating her primary area of interest at the junction between nature and civilization, Beverly Penn frequently uses phrases like "the sacrifice that accompanies the advances of industrial and post-industrial times" to describe the issues in question in her artwork. Yet while Penn's wax-cast sculptures of weeds in bronze, brass, steel, and nickel may be stunning examples of the tension between our increasingly technologized world and the global resources we're draining and replacing in that advance, there's something in Penn's study of weeds, rather than flowers or plants, that essentially recasts these past explanations of her projects. We tend to think of weeds as nature unhinged, as wilderness

amid civilization, as sin in the soil. Quotes like Robert M. Pyle's "But make no mistake: The weeds will win; nature bats last," illustrate the inside vs. outside, cultivated vs. natural dyads we use to even think about weeds. Yet as noted above, weeds are *our* ideas, not nature's. So with no real distinction between weeds and any other plant you might think of other than the ones we invent, weeds are as culturally constructed as the bar codes and measuring devices Penn uses to illustrate their differences. Thus, Penn's beautifully crafted weeds may look as if they allude to something wild that has been tamed, measured in time, and gilded into the confines of an unnatural technology, as in *Twelve Months Time* (2005), but in fact, this sculptural graph of a Pittsoporum plant in bloom and recession is all construct. It is entirely man-made, from the idea of weed to the technology that holds the recast plants themselves.

None of this redescription or redefinition takes away from the tiny sublimity of Penn's work. As each thorn, each opening bud, each plant going to seed, is replicated in fine metal sculptures, the artist's intricate metalsmithing skills are abundantly clear. Even so, the tensions change. Penn's work no longer illustrates the difference between technology and nature but rather how both are tools from the same toolbox: constructs we use and invent to

who've brought so much oversized and year-round joy to this bustling city. *Through Dec. 24. Sun.-Thu., 10am-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid. 916 Springdale, 444-6655. www.bluegenieart.com.*

HOLIDAY FAVORITES IN THE STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

Live musicians perform seasonal tunes to enhance your art appreciation. *Dec. 20-27. Daily, 2-4pm. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.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. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099. carolynp@mail.utexas.edu.

OPENING

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: KAREN BRENNEMAN

Breneman's paintings are an exploration of discipline and endurance, drawing from a wide range of interests. *Through Jan. 27. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

WINN & WINN @ PENN FIELD The twins strike again! Walker Winn's small, geometric, highly polished, resin-enhanced paintings and Taylor Winn's giant (up to 14 feet) canvases of pure paint will refresh you. Reception: *Fri., Dec. 15, 5-7pm.* Exhibition: *Through Jan. 20. 3601-C S. Congress, 693-0562.*

ONGOING

TIRU GALLERY: ANIMAUX A show of works by Jamie Kimmel Shelton galvanizes a venue filled with prints and jewelry from many artists. *Through Dec. 22. Tue.-Sun., 4-9pm. 3701 Guadalupe #103.*

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

ADAMS AVENUE GALLERY: THE NOVEMBER PROJECT

Thirty photographs of Austin, taken each day of November 2004 by photographer David Keenan. *Through Dec. 30. 5601 Adams Ave., 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. *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.pablotaobadastudio.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 shit-load – 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. *Through Dec. 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.

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.*



order the world according to our preferences and our tendencies. As work like Beverly Penn's helps to, at least, resituate and, at most, redefine the nature vs. technology dichotomy, it is interesting to think how simple redefinitions might help us rethink other basic dyads, like man vs. woman, foreigner vs. native, even legal warfare vs. terrorism. If "weeds are people's idea," then what else might we be oversimplifying? – Nikki Moore

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 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.

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. *Through May 28. 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb/spbt/history/chistory.htm.*

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 non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

D BERMAN: WEEDS No, it's not that dope-alicious show on cable. *This* exhibition is the delicate and stunning bronze sculpture of Beverly Penn, intricately arranged and based on plants from roadsides and her own Austin garden. *Through Dec. 23. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

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. *Through Jan. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

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 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 specializes in 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.

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 Almuella, Marc Silva, Sun McColgin, Rory Skagen, and 46 others. *Through Jan. 13. 910 W. Third, 481-1088.*

www.gallerylombardi.com.

GRAVITY CONSTANT STUDIOS: TERRY BEUTLER The gallery's grand opening presents new paintings by Beutler, depicting an autobiographical journey. *301 Chicon Ste. 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.

IF+D: PO+P is a group exhibition featuring works by Rob Fairburn, Karen Maness, Andrew St. Martin, and others. *Through Jan. 5. 208 Colorado, 469-0870.*

www.ifdaustin.com.

JCAA: LOLI KANTOR'S PHOTOGRAPHS A series of photographs addressing today's Jewish cultural landscape in Central and Eastern Europe. Reception: *Sun., Dec. 17, 6pm.* Exhibition: *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.*

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961.*

www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.

STUDIO 107: HOLIDAY PUNCH 3 highlights emerging artists that continue to push the possibilities of beauty and design. *Through Jan. 1. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092.*

www.studio107.com.

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/cmss.

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 Schlieff Houston, Jason Singleton, Allison Wiese, and others. Closing Reception: *Sat., Dec. 30, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 30. 320 Congress #100, 236-1240.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: RED Erin Cone, Julie Speed, Margie Crisp ... wow, what more could you want? How about: all the Workman Gallery regulars, painting in red. This show's as impressive as it is incarnadine. *Through Dec. 24. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.*

www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

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 features new paintings from Toronto's Jennifer Harrison. *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613.*

www.yarddog.com.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.*

www.decola-eusebi.com.

GUTTERKITTY SUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT a group show of figurative paintings done by some of Austin's best painters. *102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.*

THOMAS SAVERIO SALON: BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL acrylic paintings of flowers by Nancy Lay. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31, 5416 Parkcrest Ste. #800, 323-0615.*

LAS MANITAS AVENUE CAFE: THE RUG HOOK PROJECT In the small subsistence farming village of Augustin Gonzales, located in the central Mexican highlands, 16 women spend what little free time they have hooking rugs; see those rugs here. *Through Dec. 30.*

RANDOLF NESBITT: A STATEMENT ABOUT PEACE A powerful and symbolic work that pushes the envelope of our more cherished and misused icons. To see more of his works visit www.poetsagainsthewar.org. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 15. 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

www.bookpeople.com.

FAIRHURST GALLERY Features paintings by Ava Sharifian, woodcrafts by Coleman Kelly, and jewelry by Sasha Murphy. *5453 Burnet Rd., 323-0650.*

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL SOUTH: KENYA AND ITALY includes prints from the travels of local photographer Romain Nayalkar. *Through Jan. 6. 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700.*

MYSTIC MONKEY TATTOO EMPORIUM Paintings by Chris Chappell and David Ohlerking. *Through Dec. 23. 4607 Bolm, 286-7222.*

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE Contemporary quilt exhibition curated by Marcia Kaylakie. *Through Jan. 20. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178 or 924-3824.*

www.quattrogallery.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS is a vintage-neon gallery and studio where artist Todd Sanders creates neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. *1720 S. First, 442-6366.*

www.roadhouse relics.com.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE: TEXAS ZYDECO Twenty-one black-and-white digital prints by photographer James Fraher, from his new UT Press book with author Roger Wood. *Through Dec. 22. 1317 S. Congress.*

www.texasfolklife.org.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AVAA: STUDIO RENTAL Affordable artist studios available, Central Austin. Historic building, natural light, utilities paid. Private studio: \$395 monthly; shared, \$170. www.avaaonline.org.

CITY HALL: PEOPLE'S GALLERY CALL FOR WORKS The Cultural Arts Division is now seeking 2-D and 3-D, installation, and digitally created artwork by regional visual artists for the 2007 "Austin City Hall Exhibition." The exhibition will be installed in February and will remain on display for one year. Applications available online. Deadline: *Jan. 5.*

www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/apply.

MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS PARTNERSHIP EVENT: CALL for vendors, volunteers, and artists. Event: *Dec. 16, 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.

ADVANCED PAINTING Taught by Richard Cutler. Learn insights into color application, including reflections, transparency, and shadows. *Jan. 13-March 3. Saturdays, 10:30am-1:30pm. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.*

www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty.

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.*

Ladies and gentlemen, the 39th president of the United States. **Thursday morning at BookPeople.**

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.*

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

LES MCGEHEE improves his way through another interview about his new inspirational book on bringing humor into your life, *Plays Well With Others*. Dillon McKinsey laughs for Writing on the Air. *Wed., Dec. 20, 6pm. KOOP 91.7FM.*

www.koop.org.

TURK PIPKIN presents his *Nobility* DVD, a feature documentary, which looks at the world's most pressing problems through the eyes of nine distinguished Nobel laureates. Turk also signs books he's authored, including the latest, *The Tao of Willie*. *Sat., Dec. 16, 11am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Wed., Dec. 20, 5-6:30pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146.*

MOSTLY TEXAS features acclaimed storytellers Doc Moore and Tim Tingle spinning yarns of history and humor from Texas and the Great Southwest. *Sat., Dec. 16, 1pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

RED SALMON ARTS PRESENTS a community celebration, blessing ceremony, and the unveiling of *If Truth Be Told, La Mera Verdad* ..., a painting by Austin Chicano muralist/activist Raul Valdez. The celebration also features Susana Almanza of PODER and Chicanindio poet raulsalinas, poetry by Phylcia Fabian, music by noisetet, Jacob Rivera, and San Antonio accordionist Juan Tejeda, among other special guests. *Sat., Dec. 16, 2pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

JIM SIMONS presents his *Molly Chronicles: Serotonin Serenades*, a nonfiction work about a commune born in the late Sixties in Austin. *Fri., Dec. 15, 2-4pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146.*

www.directevents.net.

JIMMY CARTER The former president who's become the greatest ex-president we've ever had. A true American treasure and what Ronald Reagan never was and never will be: a great heart filled with the light of humanity. This will be very crowded. You know the drill. *Thu., Dec. 14, 10:30am-noon. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

www.bookpeople.com.

TEXAS NAFAS presents Ric Williams reading poetry from his *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

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP casts about with *Oracle Night* by Paul Auster. *Wed., Dec. 20, 10am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP This twice-monthly group of screenwriters is open to new members to read, discuss, and critique each other's work. *Mon., Dec. 18, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

LUDICROUS SPEED BOOK GROUP dates *Altered Carbon* by Richard Morgan. *Mon., Dec. 18, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

www.bookpeople.com.

CARVER BRANCH FREEDOM BOOK CLUB spir-its up *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler. *Thu., Dec. 14, 6pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 472-8954.*

www.ci.austin.tx.us/library.

BRAD STRAHAN The former Fulbright professor of Poetry and American Culture, editor of *Visions-International*, critic, and translator Strahan addresses the Austin Poetry Society. *Sat., Dec. 16, 10:15am-12:30pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.*

www.austinptrysociety.org.

UNIVERSITY HILLS BOOK CLUB wrings it over *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. *Thu., Dec. 14, 7:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.*



OPEN MICS

SASHA'S RUSSIAN MARKET with your hosts Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. *Tuesdays, 7-9pm. 7817 Rockwood. 459-1449.*

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www.antoniostexmex.com.

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www.austinslam.com.

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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.

CAFE LIBRO is a bimonthly series from Red Salmon Arts, featuring ire ne lara silva (executive coordinator for the Macondo Writing Workshop) and Moises S. Lara. *Fri., Dec. 15, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

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poetryabc@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY & thus the essence of the world her turn of joys a simple thing essential a hand upon a strand of sable hair her face open eyes calculating the fall of a glance upon a river of perfect skin porcelain or the essence of the world she rises on bare feet as if birds lit inside her. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

earth goddess is here
and she's wearing candy cane panties
jesus is dead now he ain't ever coming back
get over it please
so many christians so few lions
– Glosso, "jesus is dead now"

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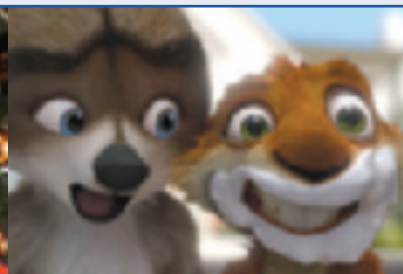
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The Bridesmaid

D: Claude Chabrol; with Benoît Magimel, Laura Smet, Aurore Clément, Bernard Le Coq, Solène Bouton, Anna Mihalcea, Michel Duchaussoy, Suzanne Flon. (NR, 110 min.)

You might think that by now the men of France and America had seen enough movies to know better than get involved with batty women – no matter how beautiful or compelling the gals might be. At best, these romances wind up as pitiful cases of *l'amour fou*; at worst, they culminate as tawdry items in the local police blotter. Chabrol, the French auteur whose penchant for creating movies full of psychological tension often causes him to be compared to Hitchcock, knows a thing or two about femmes fatales – mostly, that men are eternal suckers for their come-hither gaze. *The Bridesmaid*, Chabrol's latest film to reach the States, is based on a novel by Ruth Rendell (whose fiction also provided the source material for the best film of his late career, *La Cérémonie*). In it, Magimel plays a constrained young man named Philippe who works as a salesman for a plumbing contractor



and lives at home with his widowed mother and two younger sisters. All of them, except Philippe it seems, are itching to escape this household with its overbearing floral wallpaper and petit bourgeois routine. Philippe is content to remain at home in the company of a stone garden statue of a woman's head to which he has developed a fetishistic attachment. At the wedding of one of his sisters, Philippe and the substitute bridesmaid Senta (Smet), a cousin of the groom, are instantly attracted. When Philippe leaves the party early offering Senta a ride home which she rejects, Senta then follows him home in the rain, arriving soaked and with a justifiable reason to remove her clothes. From there, it's a quick descent into passionate love and undying commitment, even though it's obvious that Senta's background is a jumble of self-invented half-truths and fabrications. Maybe her unbridled ardor serves as a lure to Philippe's natural reserve, or maybe it's simply a matter of great sex, but the guy's clearly lost his head over this girl. Chabrol doles out information gradually and sparingly, as is his style. The final payoff is a good one and relates to something tossed out in the film's opening minutes. Still, this is middling Chabrol, not as tight and suspenseful as his best work. We know from the outset that Senta (if that's even her real name) is a head case, the only question that remains regards the extent of her derangement. And Philippe's attachment to the stone head he hides in his closet is uncomfortably perverse. The tightly wound Magimel is always a delight to watch and Smet (the daughter of actress Nathalie Baye and pop star Johnny Hallyday) is an understandable beguilement. Chabrol's film stands as a reminder of the madness that lurks in plain sight, and apparently there can't be too many cautionary tales about the dangers of daffy dames. **AFS@Dobie** ★★★ Dobie

– Marjorie Baumgarten



home in the rain, arriving soaked and with a justifiable reason to remove her clothes. From there, it's a quick descent into passionate love and undying commitment, even though it's obvious that

New Reviews

CANDY

D: Neil Armfield; with Heath Ledger, Abbie Cornish, Geoffrey Rush, Tony Martin, Noni Hazlehurst, Tom Budge. (R, 108 min.)

Junkies, like barn swallows, are patently unthrilling and scrawny and don't live long. Both tend to gravitate toward dim safe havens (West Campus efficiencies, barns), neither is very swift, and rarely does either group have a decent film made about them. While the barn swallow is the national bird of Estonia, the junkie is nodding off on the couch and drooling on the carpet. And despite what Graham Chapman may have said, neither one is particularly adept with coconuts; they're just *there*, and, barring *Trainspotting* and William Burroughs' *Junky* and – ahem – Estonia, it's safe to say that most of us wouldn't mind if they just quit tweeting at us and/or stealing our car stereos. No such luck, though: *Candy* sports Oscar nominee Ledger and Cornish (of rave-up *One Perfect Day*) as a narcotized pair of deep-down underers increasingly

on the outs with family, reality, and rent. It seems far easier to pen a reasonably engrossing book about the junk lifestyle, or lack thereof – the prose form allows both author and reader to crook a mental arm and embrace the ecstatic dissolution of heroin on the far more negotiable wings of their own imagination. Film has a more difficult time of it, and when you excise the dire comedy of pursuit, purchase, and eventual inhumation in favor of kinda-sorta realism, as *Candy* does, the end result is almost always a dribbly snooze. *Candy*, which is adapted from a novel by Luke Davies, is less a smacky shoot-'em-up than a wannabe classical romance, the dog-end of doomed lovers' days gone by. It's neither utterly real nor utterly romantic (heroin, like alcohol, manages to be awfully and unremittingly both), and when the world's most gleeful cadaver (Rush) finally wanders into frame you wonder what the Marquis de Sade would've made of his woozy professorial dealer. Probably a damn snappy copiece. *Candy* isn't a total bleach-based washout, though, not with Ledger's smart-stupid schemer at its sticky black core. Playing off the perpetually lovely Cornish,

one of the few actresses I can name who radiates some sweet, unknowable inner warmth even in the darkest of roles, Ledger manages to make the pathetic goofy and vice versa. His Dan is a clueless naïf in love who finally gets it – but good! – way too late. It's not a *Brokeback*-meaty role, to be sure, nor is it anywhere near as ridiculously, possibly impossible as anything Irvine Welsh's done in ages – I can't even say it's not yawny with a straight face – but perhaps that's director Armfield's point. Just because you're a poet and in love and jamming spikes in your veins in the deepest downest underer, it doesn't make you Nick Cave. Or even a barn swallow, for that matter. – Marc Savlov

★★ Arbor

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

D: Gary Winick; Dakota Fanning and the voices of Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi, Dominic Scott Kay, John Cleese, Oprah Winfrey, Cedric the Entertainer, Kathy Bates, Reba McEntire. (G, 97 min.)

It's a dicey business bringing a much-loved book to the big screen. True believers will be hiding around every corner with a cleaver, waiting for you to slip up on

even the slightest plot point. Things get particularly precarious when you're talking about a classic children's book. Attempt that and you're opening up a Pandora's box of nostalgia and sentimentality; even decent, fair-minded adults who normally wouldn't think twice about a children's movie can get unreasonably defensive when you start messing around with a shining memory from their youth. So it is with *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White's brilliantly told tale of a runty pig named Wilbur (voiced by Kay) and his spider friend and savior, Charlotte (voiced by Roberts). Updated only slightly to accommodate the sensibilities of today's kids, with their affection for digitally enhanced creatures and wise-cracking sidekicks, this new version manages to lose very little of the sentimental sweetness and plainspoken nobility of the original. In fact, for modern-day kids fare, it's a remarkably temperate and quiet movie: Bathroom humor is kept to a minimum, Templeton the scavenging rat (voiced by Buscemi) never once breaks into song, and there isn't a single pop-culture reference in the entire film. And three cheers for that, because any attempt at clamorous irony would have killed this movie. What *Charlotte's Web* has always had going for it, and what I imagine kids will always cling to (regardless of technological advances), is a sweet, simple, and timeless story about the power of friendship and the acceptance of loss, a story that's told faithfully here. And that ending is still a doozy. As the first of Charlotte's babies started to float away, I noticed at least as many adults as children with wet handkerchiefs in their hands and newly reddened eyes in their heads, their own sadness compounded (I conjectured) by a wistful longing for cherished things long past. I, of course, was unmoved: a rock of critical detachment and unsentimental objectivity with nary a lump in his throat. Any sniffing heard coming from my direction was merely a result of stubborn allergies or perhaps a lingering spot of the flu. – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

ERAGON

D: Stefan Fangmeier; with Edward Speleers, Sienna Guillory, Djimon Hounsou, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, Robert Carlyle, Garrett Hedlund. (PG, 104 min.)

Dear George Lucas: What gives with this *Eragon* jazz? I mean, gee whiz, did you seriously think that we wouldn't recognize you, the Great Man, as the guiding, um, force behind this dull retelling of *Star Wars*? C'mon, man, give us a little credit: An orphaned farm boy raised by his uncle who harbors a secret destiny as the last of a magical breed of warriors? An evil king and an imperiled princess? A sage old mentor and a cocksure sidekick? A rebel alliance, and a desperate, final airborne assault on the forces of darkness? Dude, we've been over this before. Enough, already. It's bad enough that you've cloaked your true identity behind that of a 15-year-old best-selling novelist by the name of Christopher

Paolini – which, frankly, is totally creeping us out – that was you in the chat room the other day asking about the length of my broadsword, wasn't it? – but did you have to remake *Episode IV* all over again? With friggin' dragons?! Trust me, the X-Wings were infinitely cooler. I can sympathize with your postpartum Tattooine-sextet blues, and I realize it can be difficult for an artist of your caliber to wake up one day and realize that all your lightsabers are suddenly behind you, but don't you think it's best for all concerned to let long ago and far away stay that way? Why resurrect, recontextualize, and reimagine the Jedi saga as a lot of pseudo-medieval, dragon-happy claptrap? Leave that to the pros, like Peter Jackson and his WETA team and keep the Lucasfilm and Skywalker brands out of it. Sure, Irons in the Obi-Wan role is genius casting, but Malkovich as the king/emperor? Ninety seconds of Malkovich is never enough, although the final shot *does* set up his eventual return in a sequel. I suppose you chose Edward Speleers to embody the dragon-riding savior Eragon because, like Mark Hamill, he's a newcomer to film and sports blond hair and a guileless smile ... okay, I get it, but why Carlyle in the Durza/Vader role? Just because the guy cracked skulls and radiated bad juju in *Trainspotting* shouldn't typecast him as Evil's cat's paw (plus, it reminds us of Ewan McGregor's far better turn as Obi-Wan). Even the effects work here is subpar. All those lousy rear-projection shots of Eragon astride the dragon Saphira look like they were lifted from *Reptilicus*! And Rachel Weisz as the voice of the dragon? Dude, what have you been smoking? Hobbit shake? So your ruse failed, Mr. Lucas. We know it's you. But take heart, Old Man Skywalker: Your legacy is safe and continues to spawn new and ever more clever permutations on fan sites the Internet over (you should check out the the Kirk/Spock/Vader B&D fanfic sometime!). You're already golden, Dragon Boy. Just try and stay that way. – Marc Savlov

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

GUADALUPE

D: Santiago Parra; with Ivana Miño, Gemma Guilemany, Pedro Armendáriz Jr., Eric del Castillo, Sandra Estil. (PG, 112 min., subtitled)

If you're possessed of that particular religious temperament that leaves one weeping openly at the news that Jesus' likeness has been spotted in an open-faced sandwich in Tupelo, Miss., or if you're willing to travel hundreds of miles on your knees to touch the hem of some sage's garment, then nothing anyone tells you about *Guadalupe* will likely be heard above the din of angels singing. On the contrary, this movie will probably make your spirit soar, regardless of the stubborn protests of a thousand critics. For the rest of us, however, *Guadalupe* is amateur hour dressed up in ecclesiastical purple: a poorly drawn, poorly directed, and poorly acted attempt

Openings

The Bridesmaid (NR)

Candy (R)

Charlotte's Web (G)

Eragon (PG)

Guadalupe (PG-13)

The Pursuit of Happyness (PG-13)

Rocky Balboa (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

at a film of weight and religious significance. This profoundly mawkish story of redemption and religious awakening flashes back and forth in time between 16th-century Mexico – a time, legend says, when a vision of the Virgin Mary appeared before a peasant in the desert and brought a new identity to the fledgling nation – and modern-day Mexico, where two archeologists have come from abroad looking for proof of the legend and end up instead finding a path to their own much-longed-for spiritual contentment. At the heart of the story is the quest for a theological truth that will lead to psychological equanimity, but the filmmakers are too caught up in their own religious sentiments and educational aims to pay much mind to character or plot development, and the movie is already slipping off the rails by the end of the first scene. Aiming to be a religious mystery along the lines of *The Da Vinci Code* or *The Name of the Rose*, *Guadalupe* settles instead for being pure soap opera, drenching itself in sweeping violins, clichéd domestic dramas, and episodes of religious reverie that would embarrass any believer possessed with even a modicum of modesty. Heaven help the religious movie whose audience can't help laughing whenever the mother of God appears hovering onscreen in all her gauzy glory.

– Josh Rosenblatt

☹ Tinseltown South

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Terror Thursday: *Blood Beach:* Thu (12/21), 12mid

The Christmas Pops! *Sing-Along:* Sat, 4:00pm; Thu (12/21), 7:00pm

Danielson: *A Family Movie:* Wed, 7:00pm

Sinus Show: *Die Hard:* Fri, 7:00, 9:45

AFS: *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence:* Tue, 7:00pm

Music Monday: *I Swear I Was There: The Gig That Changed the World:* Mon, 9:45pm

Weird Wednesday: *The Magic Christmas Tree:* Wed, 12mid

Old Joy: Sun, 9:45pm; Mon, 7:00pm; Thu (12/21), 9:45pm

Foleyvision: *Santa vs. Satan:* Sat, 7:00, 9:45

Secret Fishgirl Sing-Along: Sun, 7:00pm

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5: Wed, 9:45pm

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Borat: Fri, 3:40, 7:30, 10:15; Sat, 12:45, 3:40, 7:30, 10:15; Sun, 12:45, 3:40, 10:15; Mon, 12:45, 3:40, 7:30; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:45, 3:40, 7:30, 10:15

Déjà Vu: Fri-Sun, 12:25, 3:45, 7:25, 10:40; Mon, 12:25, 3:45, 7:25; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:25, 3:45, 7:25, 10:40

The Departed: Fri, 7:00, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm; Mon, 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00pm; Tue-Thu (12/21), 11:45am, 3:15, 7:00, 10:30pm

Eragon: Fri-Sun, 12:35, 3:35, 7:15, 10:25; Mon, 12:35, 3:35, 7:15; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:35, 3:35, 7:15, 10:25

The Fountain: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 7:05; Mon, 12:10pm; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:10, 7:05

***The Pursuit of Happiness:** Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:10, 7:40, 10:45; Mon, 12:05, 3:10, 7:40; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:05, 3:10, 7:40, 10:45

Stranger Than Fiction: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:35; Mon, 12:00, 3:30, 7:15; Tue-Thu (12/21), 12:00, 3:30, 7:15, 10:35

Tenacious D in the Pick of Destiny: Fri-Sun, 3:00, 10:00; Tue-Thu (12/21), 3:00, 10:00

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***Apocalypse:** 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 (12/21), 3:30, 7:00, 10:15

Babel: 9:45pm

Borat: Fri-Sun, 12:05, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 9:55; Mon, 4:45, 7:40, 9:55; Tue, 12:05, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 9:55; Wed, 9:55pm; Thu (12/21), 4:45, 7:40, 9:55

Casino Royale: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 7:10, 10:25; Mon, 3:15, 7:10, 10:25; Tue, 12:00, 3:15, 7:10, 10:25; Wed-Thu (12/21), 3:15, 7:10, 10:25

For Your Consideration: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35; Mon, 5:00, 7:35; Tue, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35

***The Pursuit of Happiness:** Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:20; Mon, 4:15, 7:30, 10:20; Tue, 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/21), 4:15, 7:30, 10:20

Silent Night, Deadly Night: Wed, 9:45pm

Stranger Than Fiction: Fri-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Wed-Thu (12/21), 4:00, 7:05, 9:50

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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-Thu (12/21), 3:25, 7:10, 10:15

Borat: Fri-Sat, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Sun, 1:45, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Mon-Wed, 4:20, 7:45, 10:00; Thu (12/21), 7:45, 10:00

Casino Royale: Fri, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25; Mon-Thu (12/21), 3:30, 7:05, 10:25

TV Party: *The Gilmore Girls* and *Veronica Mars:* Tue, 7:30pm

***The Holiday:** Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Mon, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Tue, 12:00, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Wed-Thu (12/21), 3:20, 7:00, 10:20

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid

Videoke: Fri, 12mid

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Apocalypse: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 2:15, 3:15, 5:20, 6:30, 8:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 12:00, 2:15, 3:15, 5:20, 6:30, 8:30, 9:40

Babel: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 3:00, 6:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 3:00, 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 (12/21), 12:30, 2:35, 3:45, 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:10

Candy: 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

For Your Consideration: 12:20, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

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.

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Déjà Vu: Fri, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/21), 3:40, 6:50, 9:50

Eragon: Fri, 1:30, 2:05, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:25, 1:30, 2:05, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 1:30, 2:05, 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40, 10:05

Happy Feet: Fri, 1:35, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 11:15, 1:35, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 1:35, 2:00, 4:10, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15

The Nativity Story: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

The Pursuit of Happiness: Fri, 1:45, 3:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:25, 9:25, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 11:50, 1:45, 3:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:25, 9:25, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 1:45, 3:00, 4:35, 6:30, 7:25, 9:25, 10:10

Stranger Than Fiction: 7:05, 9:45

Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30; Sat, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:25, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 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. Call theatre for showtimes Wednesday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 21.

***Apocalypse:** Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 11:10, 1:10, 2:05, 4:10, 5:05, 7:05, 8:05, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:45am, 1:30, 2:45, 4:25, 5:45, 7:25, 8:45, 10:25pm; Mon-Tue, 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-Tue, 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, 8:35, 10:30pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:15, 2:20, 4:15, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 1:15, 2:20, 4:15, 5:25, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20

***Charlotte's Web:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 11:05, 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:45, 4:55, 6:05, 7:15, 8:35, 9:35, 10:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 11:05, 12:15, 1:25, 2:35, 3:45, 4:55, 6:05, 7:15, 8:35, 9:35, 10:35pm; Mon-Tue, 1:25, 2:35, 3:45, 4:55, 6:05, 7:15, 8:35, 9:35, 10:35

Deck the Halls: Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00pm; Mon-Tue, 3:00, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

Fast Food Nation: Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:20; Sun, 1:35, 7:30; Mon-Tue, 1:35pm

The Fountain: Fri-Sat, 10:40am, 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:35pm; Sun-Tue, 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20, 10:35

***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, 11:30am, 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:10, 8:35, 10:25pm; Mon-Tue, 1:10, 2:30, 4:10, 5:30, 7:10, 8:35, 10:25

Marie Antoinette: Fri-Sat, 10:35am, 10:05pm; Sun-Tue, 4:20, 10:10

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55pm; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 1-800-FANDANGO. Call theatre for showtimes Wednesday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 21.

***Apocalypse:** Fri-Tue, 12:15, 3:40, 6:50, 10:05

***Blood Diamond:** Fri-Tue, 12:00, 3:15, 6:55, 10:10

Casino Royale: Fri-Tue, 10:05am, 1:20, 4:30, 8:00, 9:45pm

***Charlotte's Web:** Fri-Tue, 10:10am, 11:30, 1:00, 2:15, 3:45, 5:10, 6:30, 7:45, 9:10, 10:25pm

Deck the Halls: Fri-Tue, 11:15am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20pm

Déjà Vu: Fri-Tue, 10:25am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35pm

***Eragon:** Fri-Tue, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15pm

Happy Feet: Fri-Tue, 10:15am, 12:45, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30pm

***The Holiday:** Fri-Tue, 10:00am, 1:05, 4:15, 7:25, 10:30pm

The Nativity Story: Fri-Tue, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40pm

***The Pursuit of Happiness:** Fri-Tue, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00pm

The Santa Clause 3: *The Escape Clause:* Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:20pm

***Unaccompanied Minors:** Fri-Tue, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.

Apocalypse: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/21), 6:50, 9:30

The Bridlesmaid: Fri, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/21), 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 (12/21), 7:00, 9:40

The Pursuit of Happiness: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/21), 7:20, 10:00

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.

***Apocalypse (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15, 11:40; Sun-Thu (12/21), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

***Blood Diamond (in DLP digital):** 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

Casino Royale (in DLP digital): 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

***Charlotte's Web (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:25; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

Déjà Vu: Fri-Tue, 7:25, 10:00

***Eragon (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35, 11:50; Sun-Tue, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35; Wed-Thu (12/21), 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

Flushed Away: 12:00, 1:45, 3:35, 5:25

Happy Feet (in DLP digital): 11:55am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20pm

***The Nativity Story (in DLP digital):** 7:20, 9:40

***The Pursuit of Happiness:** Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:10, 12:20am; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

***Rocky Balboa (in DLP digital):** Wed-Thu (12/21), 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45

The Santa Clause 3: *The Escape Clause:* Fri-Tue, 1:20, 3:15, 5:15

***Unaccompanied Minors:** Fri-Sat, 4:50am, 7:05, 9:05, 11:05, 12:40, 2:45am; Sun-Thu (12/21), 4:50am, 7:05, 9:05, 12:40, 2:45am

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 X3808. Call theatre for showtimes Wednesday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 21.

Borat: Fri-Mon, 11:40am, 4:30, 10:40pm; Tue, 11:40am, 4:30, 10:00pm

Casino Royale: Fri, 3:10, 6:50, 9:55; Sat, 11:15am, 6:50, 9:55pm; Sun, 3:10, 6:50; Mon, 3:10, 9:55; Tue, 11:15am, 3:15, 6:45, 9:50pm

Casino Royale (open captioned): Fri, 11:15am, Sat, 3:10pm; Sun, 11:15am, 9:55pm; Mon, 11:15am, 6:50pm

Charlotte's Web: Fri-Sat, 9:00am, 11:00, 11:30, 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 9:00am, 11:30, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:00am, 11:30, 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:10pm; Tue, 11:00am, 11:30, 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:05pm

Déjà Vu: Fri-Tue, 11:35am, 3:05, 6:55, 10:00pm

Eragon: Fri-Sun, 9:30am, 10:00, 10:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:25, 2:55, 3:35, 5:00, 5:30, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 9:35, 10:15, 10:45pm; Mon, 10:30am, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:25, 2:55, 3:35, 5:00, 5:30, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 9:35, 10:15, 10:45pm; Tue, 10:30am, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:25, 2:55, 3:35, 5:00, 5:30, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 9:35, 10:10, 10:40pm

Happy Feet: Fri-Sun, 9:20am, 11:50, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon-Tue, 11:50am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25pm

The Holiday: Fri-Sun, 9:50am, 12:20, 12:50, 3:25, 3:55, 6:40, 7:20, 9:40, 10:20pm; Mon, 12:20, 12:50, 3:25, 3:55, 6:40, 7:20, 9:40, 10:20; Tue, 12:20, 12:50, 3:25, 6:40, 7:10, 9:40

The Holiday (open captioned): Tue, 3:55, 10:20

The Nativity Story: Fri-Sun, 9:35am, 12:20, 3:30, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30

The Pursuit of Happiness: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 11:55, 12:35, 2:35, 3:20, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55, 10:05, 10:35pm; Mon, 11:55am, 12:35, 2:35, 3:20, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55, 10:05, 10:35pm; Tue, 11:55am, 12:35, 3:20, 5:15, 7:25, 7:55, 10:15, 10:45pm

Stranger Than Fiction: Fri-Mon, 1:45, 7:00; Tue, 1:45, 7:15

Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 9:55am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45pm; Sat, 9:55am, 12:15, 2:45pm; Sun, 9:55am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45pm; Mon, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 9:45; Tue, 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:20, 9:45

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, 9pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00; Mon-Thu (12/21), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9pm

Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am; Mon-Thu (12/21), 10:00am

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

Apocalypse: 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 10:05

Blood Diamond: 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:55

Casino Royale: 11:50am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:15pm

Charlotte's Web: Fri-Sun, 9:00am, 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/21), 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm

Happy Feet: 11:10am, 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:25pm

The Holiday: 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 10:00

The Nativity Story: 11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45pm

The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20pm

Unaccompanied Minors: 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stanssney, 447-0101. Call theatre for showtimes Wednesday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 21.

Borat: Fri-Tue, 12:25, 3:00, 5:20, 8:10, 10:35

Déjà Vu: Fri-Tue, 12:25, 4:15, 7:25, 10:30

Eragon: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 11:55, 1:45, 2:30, 4:20, 5:05, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:25pm; Mon-Tue, 11:55am, 1:45, 2:30, 4:20, 5:05, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:25pm

Flushed Away: Fri-Tue, 12:20, 3:00, 5:15

Happy Feet: Fri-Sun, 10:45am, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 3:20, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:55, 10:35pm; Mon-Tue, 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 3:20, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:55, 10:35pm

The Nativity Story: Fri-Tue, 11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm

The Pursuit of Happiness: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:00, 12:15, 1:20, 2:00, 3:10, 4:10, 4:50, 6:40, 7:20, 7:55, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45pm; Mon-Tue, 12:15, 1:20, 2:00, 3:10, 4:10, 4:50, 6:40, 7:20, 7:55, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45

The Queen: Fri-Tue, 7:35, 10:20

Stranger Than Fiction: Fri-Tue, 7:35, 10:20

Turistas: Fri-Tue, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40

Unaccompanied Minors: Fri, 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 11:45am, 2:05, 4:30, 10:00pm; Sun-Tue, 12:05, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.

Open Season: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 2:15, 6:15pm; Wed-Thu (12/21), 10:30am, 1:15pm

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning: Fri-Sat, 12:15, 4:15, 8:15; Wed-Thu (12/21), 4:15pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE 713 Congress, 472-5470.

A Christmas Story: Fri, 9:00pm; Sat, 1:00pm

The Shop Around the Corner: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat, 3:00pm

ROUND ROCK R 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.

Alex Rider: Operation Stormbreaker: Fri, 2:10, 4:30; Sat-Thu (12/21), 11:55am, 2:10, 4:30pm

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals: Fri, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20; Sat, 12:10, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:10, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10

Employee of the Month: Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30

Flyboys: Fri, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15; Sat, 12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:15; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:20, 3:30, 7:00

Gridiron Gang: Fri, 3:40, 7:25, 10:20; Sat, 12:40, 3:40, 7:25, 10:20; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:40, 3:40, 7:25

The Marine: Fri, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05; Sat, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05; Sun-Thu (12/21), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40

Open Season:</

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. (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

APOCALYPTO

D: Mel Gibson; with Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Raoul Trujillo, Rodolfo Palacios, Morris Birdyellowhead. (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, Gibson continues his (probably unintentional) study of the mortification of the flesh through the ages. *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. 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. However, despite showcasing a civilization little seen on the silver screen, there are several historical aspects of the film that just don't jibe. (12/08/2006) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Highland, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 amid 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 orndance, 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

BARNYARD: THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS

D: Steve Oedekerk; with the voices of Kevin James, Courteney Cox-Arquette, Danny Glover, Sam Elliott. (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

★★★ Round Rock

BLOOD DIAMOND

D: Edward Zwick; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, Jennifer Connelly, Arnold Vosloo. (R, 143 min.)

As a means to drive home its 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. 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. DiCaprio plays a former mercenary who now operates a lucrative diamond-smuggling trade in war-torn Sierra Leone and has a crisis of conscience that arrives in the form of Connelly's crusading Yank journalist and Hounsou's downtrodden diamond-digger. *Blood Diamond* is by turns moving, horrific, and bombastic. The film works best when it puts its social message on the back burner. (12/08/2006) — Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, 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, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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Steve Oldfield, FOX-TV

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PRODUCED BY TODD BLACK JASON BLUMENTHAL STEVE TISCH JAMES LASSITER WILL SMITH DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO

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the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS (12:00 3:00) 5:00 / 10:45	eragon (12:00 3:00) 7:15 / 10:25	DE JAVU (1:00 3:00) 7:28 / 10:40
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BORAT (12:00 3:00) 7:00+ / 10:15	stranger than fiction (12:00 3:00) 7:10 / 10:25	THE DEPARTED (1:15 4:00 6:15) 7:00 / 10:30
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THE FOUNTAIN
(12:00 3:00)
7:15 / 10:25

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Old Joy

Old Joy (2006) *D: Kelly Reichardt; with Daniel London, Will Oldham, Tanya Smith, Robin Rosenberg. (NR, 76 min.)* Old Joy is an accurately observed slice of that moment between postadolescence and parenthood, when friends cling or scatter and circumstances force buried feelings to the fore. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Sun., 9:45pm, Mon., 7pm, Thurs 12/15, 9:45pm.



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 daredevilry, vodka martinis, and highest-stakes cardsharperry. The good news is Craig is mesmerizing; you can see Sean Connery in his future, and it looks just about spot-on. Craig carries *Casino Royale* with gutsy aplomb, and if his Bond carries more than a hint of streetwise rough trade, it only adds to the film's edgy, grim demeanor. Bond purists will wrangle at this film's extended – but necessary for future character development – backstory, which until now is not a phrase I'd have used to describe 007. Unlike the other Bonds, this one feels pain, lots of it, and bleeds a lot of blood. Those who always hoped the series would morph into something approaching realism (if only cinematic) will find their wait justly rewarded. Craig, simply put, is Bond. (11/17/2006) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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

★✶ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, 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

The Shop Around the Corner

The Shop Around the Corner (1940)

D: Ernst Lubitsch; with Margaret Sullavan, James Stewart, Frank Morgan. (NR, 97 min.) This smart and stylish Lubitsch comedy was recently remade as *You've Got Mail*. In the 1940 version, most of the action takes place within the small shop. Stewart and Sullavan work side by side, never knowing they are secret romantic correspondents. (Double bill: *A Christmas Story*) (*) @Paramount, Fri., 7pm, Sat., 3pm; \$7, \$5 children/students/seniors.



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, 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, Tinseltown South

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

D: Greg Coolidge; with Dane Cook, Jessica Simpson, Dax Shepard, Efen Ramirez, Andy Dick. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle proved that the stoner/slacker comedy genre can generate films of sublime humor, if only once every 10 years or so. *Employee of the Month* mines similar comic pyrite but moves the setting to a gigantic, Costco-like retail outlet and replaces actors with what appear to be cyborgs. Here, Cook plays Zack, a lowly box boy who aspires to topple smarmy No. 1 cashier Vince (Shepard) from his position of (relative) power and thereby win the hand, or at least the labia, of new cashier hottie Amy (Simpson). Co-writers Don Calame and Chris Conroy utterly fail to notice the wealth of black-comedy gold inherent in the very notion of sprawling supercenters and instead go for the dumbest gags they can find, including but not limited to celebrity casualty Andy Dick as a blind eye doctor and enough fat/fart/gay jokes to outfit the next four National Lampoon vacations. (10/13/2006) – Marc Savlov

★✶ Round Rock

FAST FOOD NATION

D: Richard Linklater; with Greg Kinnear, Bobby Cannavale, Patricia Arquette, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Ashley Johnson, Esai Morales, Lou Taylor Pucci, Ethan Hawke, Luis Guzmán, Kris Kristofferson, Bruce Willis, Wilmer Valderrama, Ana Claudia Talancón, Avril Lavigne. (R, 116 min.)

Using Eric Schlosser's bestseller as its background, director Linklater and the author have fleshed out a multilayered narrative that rips the protective veil of high-dollar marketing campaigns from the fast-food industry and all of its attendant social ills: the undeniably horrific plight of the undocumented Mexican workers who daily ebb and flow across the border to work in one of the four major meat-packing plants in this country, the sexual harassment, the rampant methamphetamine use among workers desperate to keep up with the impossible pace of the mechanized inspection

lines, and the daily loss of life and limb to the ominously grinding machinery of the meat industry. It's a real horror show on the so-called "kill floor," but what's most shocking about this film is how little it shocks. *Fast Food Nation's* characters come off as randomly generated ciphers whose only purpose is to illustrate the assorted societal and industrial dysfunctions of the fast-food biz. (11/17/2006) – Marc Savlov

★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

FLUSHED AWAY

D: David Bowers, Sam Fell; with Kate Winslet, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis. (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 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

★★★★ 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. (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, Christopher 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 mov-

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ies of this loose-knit group of comedians, *For Your Consideration* doesn't have even a drop of affection for its characters. Everyone in the film is a grotesque, a caricature formed almost entirely out of his or her basest, most unlikable qualities, and it makes for a remarkably unpleasant movie experience. (11/24/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

THE FOUNTAIN

D: Darren Aronofsky; with Hugh Jackman, Rachel Weisz, Ellen Burstyn, Sean Patrick Thomas. (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, Tinseltown South

GRIDIRON GANG

D: Phil Joanou; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Xzibit, L. Scott Caldwell, Leon Rippy. (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 snout-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

★★★ 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

★★★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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. 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. 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, they will do the bump and laugh uproariously, and the camera will trickle backward out 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 provide much-needed elements of freshness and emotional authenticity. (12/08/2006) – Marrit Ingman

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 pleasurehound 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

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

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Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence

Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence (2004)

D: Mamoru Oshii; with the voices of Akio Ōtsuka, Atsuko Tanaka, Kōichi Yamadera, Tamio Ōki. (PG-13, 99 min.) **Austin Film Society: Sublime Lines** – Japanese Animé. Post-apocalyptic neo-noir gets a ferocious upgrade in this loquacious albeit visually stunning sequel to the cult 1995 animé. For more info see austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A422689. Reservations can be made at www.austinfilm.org. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Tue., 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 nonmembers.



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 kidnaps Kate and leaves 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 uncrawled, 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, Hiam Abbass, Shaun Toub. (PG, 101 min.)

Hollywood does love an epic. Try this on for size: A teenage girl learns she's giving birth to the son of God; a king so fears the coming of God incarnate that he orders the slaughter of newborn babies; and a trio of astrologers travels more than 1,000 miles to see the realization of centuries-old prophecies. Yes, it's the story of the birth of Jesus. And religious affiliations aside, the setup has potential for some badass epic filmmaking. Sadly, the tale is presented with a yawn-inducing neutrality more reminiscent of a community-center Christmas pageant than an epic story of divine humanity. Best known as 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

OPEN SEASON

D: Roger Allers, Jill Culton, Anthony Stacchi; with the voices of Martin Lawrence, Ashton Kutcher, Gary Sinise, Debra Messing, Billy Connolly, Georgia Engel, Jon Favreau, Jane Krakowski. (PG, 99 min.)

Sometime over the last 15 years, an animated-blockbuster formula was carved onto stone tablets: Take an odd coupling of bumbling animals – one large and fussy, the other small and volatile – send them out on an adventure together with little but the charm of their celebrity voices to protect them, pit them against an antagonist of frothing hostility (not evil, mind you, just low-grade comic petulance), and stand back as bumper-sticker lessons about friendship and loyalty crowd the screen. *Open Season* follows this formula to the letter with its tale of a domesticated grizzly bear, Boog (Lawrence); his sidekick, Elliot (an antic mule deer voiced by Kutcher); and their quest to find their way back home from deep in the woods – fighting off a delusional hunter and becoming best friends as they go. The film is long on manic energy and bathroom humor but short on real storytelling, emotion, or characters. (09/29/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Millennium, Round Rock

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

D: Gore Verbinski; with Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Jack Davenport. (PG-13, 150 min.)

Suffice it to say, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* is hardly the wildly overlong snoozer the 2½ hours required to view it might suggest. On the other hand, our oceanic friends have been transformed from simple, lovingly presented slices of sushi into all manner of bipedal beasts that are forced to do the bidding of Davy Jones (Nighy) as he captains *The Flying Dutchman* above and beneath the briny deeps in pursuit of Depp's still-brilliant caricature of unbuckled swash, "Captain" Jack Sparrow, he of the super-Max Factored lids and garishly effete mannerisms. 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

★★★ 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, Metropolitan

The Pursuit of Happyness



Bus Rider's Union

Bus Rider's Union (1999) *D: Johanna Demetrakas and Haskell Wexler. (NR, 87 min.)* **Bus Riders Union-ATX.** Wexler is one of the all-time great cinematographers and a committed social activist who here turns his camera on the 1994 Los Angeles bus-riders union that became a prime example of multiracial grassroots organizing. @Cepeda Public Library, Sat., 2pm.



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 hyperelaborate 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, bringing the whole series full circle, back to the first *Saw*, and in the case of the Jigsaw killer himself, beyond even that. (11/03/2006) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Tinseltown 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, Gateway, Metropolitan

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 bizzarro notes that fans are used to. How much you'll love (or loathe) JB and KG's passion for the power chord will depend, most likely, on your familiarity with the duo beforehand. (11/24/2006) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING

D: Jonathan Liebesman; with Jordana Brewster, Andrew Bryniarski, R. Lee Ermy, Taylor Handley, Matthew Bomer, Dora Baird. (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 Ermy'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

★ Millennium, 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

★★★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

D: Paul Feig; with Lewis Black, Wilmer Valderrama, Tyler James Williams, Dyllan Christopher, Brett Kelly, Gina Mantegna, Quinn Shephard, Dominique Saldana, Paget Brewster, Rob Corddry. (PG, 89 min.)

The Breakfast Club in *The Terminal*? Home Alone meets *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*? Calling John Hughes: Former *Freaky* and *Geekster* Paul Feig has got your number. Feig 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 by-the-numbers comedy about a half-dozen kids trapped by weather in an airport on Christmas Eve. They run amok, create havoc, share secrets, and plug Sharper Image products. *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. (12/08/2006) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



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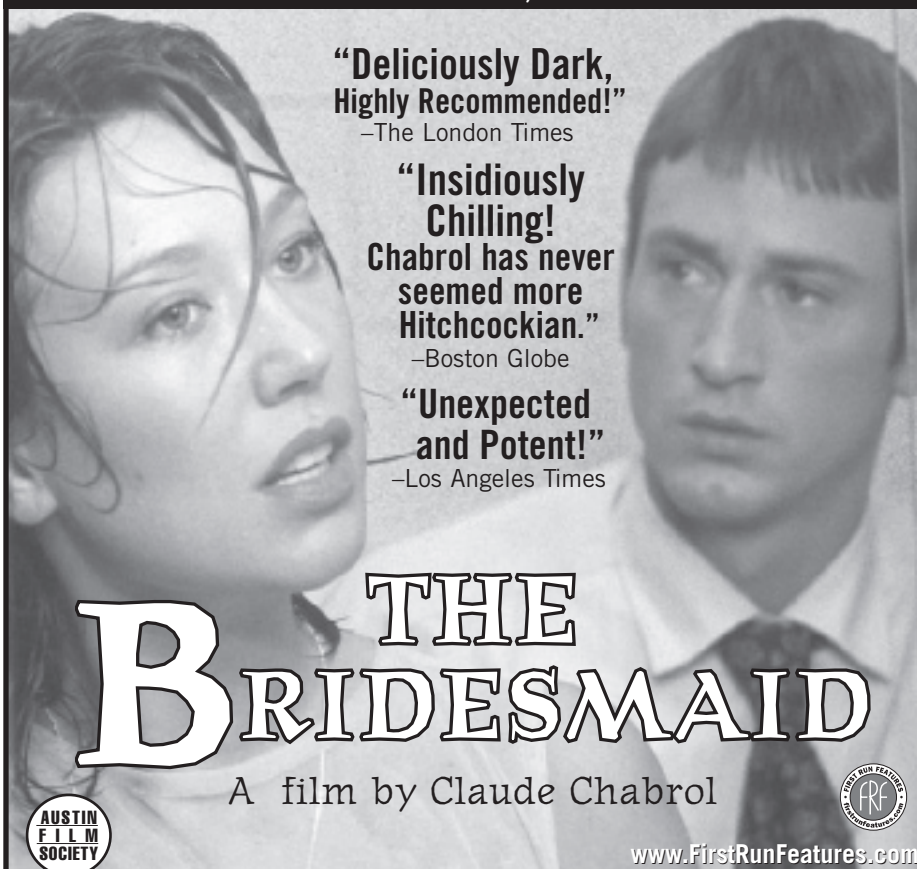
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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 14

Nudge 3.5 *D: Various. Austin FilmWorks Production One and Two.* These semiannual end-of-the-semester screenings present students' work for public consumption. The feature *Fall to Grace* by former Austin FilmWorks student Mari Marchbanks will open each show. The Wednesday show also includes the shorts, "Adventure Story" and "Bride Monster" by Vicky Boone. The Thursday show from the advanced cinematography and editing class premieres "Warning" and "Expectations." Filmmakers will be in attendance at the screenings. For more info, see www.austinfilmworks.com. (*) @Arbor, 7pm.

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, unexpected nudity, extreme pro-wrestling, bizarre anti-flatulence products, nonsensical English phrases, and supreme goofiness. Also highlighted in this program are Japanese torture and humiliation game shows. A Japanese menu will be served. See www.originalalamo.com for more info and reservations. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

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.

FRIDAY 15

A Christmas Story (1983) *D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon, Ian Petrella, Scott Schwartz, Tedde Moore. (PG, 98 min.)* Ralphie (Billingsley) is a young boy who wants nothing more for Christmas than a Red Ryder 200-shot, range-model air rifle, but he must convince Mom and Dad (Dillon and McGavin) that, if lucky enough to receive this "holy grail of Christmas presents," he won't shoot his eye out. (Double bill: *The Shop Around the Corner*) (*) @Paramount, 9pm; \$7, \$5 children/students/seniors.

Battlestar Galactica *D: Ronald D. Moore; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.)* **Sinus Show.** Superb action movie set on Christmas Eve stars Willis as an everyman hero who is coincidentally visiting a high-rise at the same time terrorist thieves are taking it over. The Sinus gang will observe with their tongues planted firmly in their cheeks. For tickets see www.originalalamo.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

Die Hard (1988) *D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.)* **Sinus Show.** Superb action movie set on Christmas Eve stars Willis as an everyman hero who is coincidentally visiting a high-rise at the same time terrorist thieves are taking it over. The Sinus gang will observe with their tongues planted firmly in their cheeks. For tickets see www.originalalamo.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

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. 29 issue is Monday, Dec. 18.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

The Shop Around the Corner (1940) See p.94.

Videoke Act out scenes from various movies, and win prizes. See www.originalalamo.com for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Bowling for Columbine (2002) *D: Michael Moore. (R, 119 min.)* Free. (*) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 9pm.

SATURDAY 16

A Christmas Story (1983) @Paramount, 1pm; \$7, \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Fri., 12/15)

Santa vs. Satan (1959) *D: René Cardona and K. Gordon Murray; with José Elías Moreno, Cesáreo Quezadas, José Luis Aguirre. (NR, 95 min.)* **Foleyvision.** In Foleyvision, new sound effects, music, and dialogue are dubbed in over the original film – and performed live. The title of this live-action oddity pretty much says it all. (See www.originalalao.com and austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2002-05-17/screens_feature.html for more background). @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 4pm. (See Thu., 12/14)

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.

The Shop Around the Corner (1940) See p.94.

SPACES

An Inconvenient Truth (2006) *D: Davis Guggenheim. (PG, 100 min.)* **AlGore.com and MoveOn.org.** If you still haven't seen this documentary on the global warming crisis, there will be numerous watching parties nationwide this Saturday, including several here in Austin. To find locations near you, go to pol.moveon.org/event/events/index.html?action_id=69 and type in your ZIP code. (*) @Various locations.

Bus Rider's Union (1999) See p.96.

Offscreen

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. 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.austinfilmsschool.org.

Club de Ville Fall Film Series: Entries Requested Submit your shorts (no longer than 15 minutes) in DVD or VHS formats, any genre, no submission fee. Selected films will show at Club de Ville, with cash prizes for audience favorites. Include a phone number, e-mail, a brief bio, and a statement asserting ownership of your film. **Do it now.** Deliver to: Club de Ville, 900 Red River, 457-0900. www.myspace.com/clubdeville.

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.

Seeing Film Afresh Hey, film buffs, view and discuss a film a week using fresh perspectives on the visual, audio, dramatic, and thematic aspects of movies. Led by Richard Cutler, Ph.D. Jan. 7-Feb. 27. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458. \$135. www.doughertyartscenter.org.

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 3.0 Submit your short films to the *Austin Movie Show* for possible screening on local access TV at 6-8pm on Sunday nights, with a live screening to follow. Drama, comedy, docs – you name it. For submission details, check their Web site. www.austinmovieshow.com.

The Screenplay Workshop: 2007 Winter Registration Registration has begun for four-week and 10-week workshops with Jill Chamberlain, and also for a free sample class on story structure (Sat., Dec. 30, 10:30am-12:30pm). See their Web site for more. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.



Santa vs. Satan

Short Student Films *D: Various. Facundo's Night Out.* A night of music, spoken word, visual arts, and film. Four short films produced by UT undergraduates will be accompanied by a preview of Shara Lange's documentary about women in Marseille. For more info see www.myspace.com/iamfacundo. @Flamingo Cantina, 8:30pm.

SUNDAY 17

Old Joy (2006) See p.94.

Secret Fishgirl Sing-Along It's a musical about someone who is part girl and part fish and an animated personality. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

SPACES

A Christmas Story and Gremlins Free. @Opal Divine's, 8:30pm.

Cookin Good With the Cola Sisters Austin access TV show. @Spiderhouse Patio Bar, 8pm; free.

MONDAY 18

I Swear I Was There: The Gig That Changed the World (2005) *D: David Nolan. (NR, 91 min.)* **Music Monday.** The Sex Pistols performance at the Lesser Free Trade Hall in Manchester on June 4, 1976, is generally regarded as one of the most pivotal performances in music history. Featuring previously

unpublished photos, interviews with key players and audience members, this movie – based on Nolan's book – brings pop culture to life 30 years after the Summer of Punk. Other material from the period will also screen. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Old Joy (2006) See p.94.

SPACES

Bowling for Columbine (2002) @Austin Java Co. (1206 Parkway), 9pm. (See Fri., 12/15)

Capote (2005) *D: Bennett Miller; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Chris Cooper, Bruce Greenwood, Bob Balaban, Amy Ryan, Mark Pellegrino. (R, 98 min.)* Free. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

Red *D: Krzysztof Kieslowski; with Irene Jacob, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Frederique Feder, Jean-Pierre Lorit.* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

TUESDAY 19

Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence (2004) See p.96.

The Gilmore Girls and Veronica Mars **TV Party.** New episodes. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:30pm.

SPACES

"Cabbage Patch Kids: Vernon's Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "Jack Frost" Free. @Spiderhouse Patio Bar, 8pm.

Revolver (2005) *D: Guy Ritchie; with Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Vincent Pastore, André Benjamin. (NR, 115 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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. (12/14)-Thu. (12/21), 1, 6

Happy Feet: The IMAX Experience (2006) *D: George Miller.* Digitally remastered version of the new animated musical. Thu (12/14)-Sat., 11am, 2, 4, 7, 9pm; Sun., 2, 4, 7, 9; Mon.-Thu. (12/21), 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. (12/14)-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/21), 10am

WEDNESDAY 20

Danielson: A Family Movie (2006) D: J.L. Aronson. (NR, 105 min.) The surprise of Aronson's debut doc – in which a sprawling, childlike musical group fond of strange arrangements, silly costumes, and screeching lead falsetto develops 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, 7pm.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984) D: Charles E. Sellier Jr.. (R, 85 min.) **Movies & Music.** Santa Claus in on a killing spree. In addition to the movie, the Jungle Rockers will beat their tom toms and bring the mayhem, while members of the Red Light Burlesque will do their thing. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 9:45pm.

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 5 @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm. (See Thu., 12/14)

The Magic Christmas Tree (1965) D: Richard C. Parish; with Chris Kroesen, Valerie Hobbs, Robert "Big Buck" Maffei, Darlene Lohnes. (NR, 60 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A magic tree grants a boy three wishes, so he abducts Santa Claus and all his toys. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

SPACES

Delicatessen (1991) D: Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Jean-Claude Dreyfus, Karin Viard, Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac. (R, 100 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Unknown Passage: The Dead Moon Story (2004) D: Kate Fix and Jason Summers. (NR, 88 min.) Free. @Beerland, 7pm.

THURSDAY 21

Blood Beach (1981) D: Jeffrey Bloom; with David Huffman, Marianna Hill, Burt Young, Otis Young, Lena Pousette, John Saxon. (R, 92 min.) **Terror Thursday.** Just when they thought it was safe to go back in the water ... comes this *Jaws* knock-off. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Old Joy (2006) See p.94.

The Christmas Pops! Sing-Along @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Thu., 12/14)

SPACES

La Femme Nikita D: Luc Besson; with Anne Parillaud, Jean-Hugues Anglade, Tcheky Karyo, Jeanne Moreau. **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.



Film - Double Features

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- (512) 472-5470



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A Christmas Story

• Friday @ 9 pm • Saturday @ 1 pm

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The Skunks CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 15

In Austin's punk rock history book, the Skunks are the first page. From the time they played the original alt-rock nightspot, Raul's, through lineup changes that eventually brought them right back to the beginning, this trio toughed it out. Bassist Jesse Sublett, guitarist Jon Dee Graham, and drummer Billy Blackmon's muscular power punk is still as potent and danceable now as it was 20 years ago. Local cowpunks the Lifters open. — Margaret Moser

A December to Dismember

BEERLAND, FRIDAY 15

Nothing screams "Christmas" like "bloodbath." Beerland kicks off this sanguine-themed extravaganza with a garage rock bludgeoning from the Ugly Beats at 7pm. Later, Yellow Fever brings fistfuls of Sixties pop, the Carrots project girl-group pathos in Spectorvision, Dallas' Strange Boys bo-diddle through minutelong blasts of shivtoting rock, and Those Peabodys clean up with their spasmodic scorched earth sound. Those wearing all red get in free! — Greg Beats



AUBREY EDWARDS

The Ugly Beats

Facundo's Night Out

FLAMINGO CANTINA, SATURDAY 16

Overlapping film projects, spoken-word poetry, and constant music, Flamingo Cantina hosts this most promising amalgamation and proposes a frenetic challenge to the senses. With the Dirty Sounds Trash Stars (Young Nick & the Haze Boys, Element7d, and Pop with the Kill), DJ Manny, Vehicular, Many Birthdays, the Carabelas Collective, Christopher Vanderslice, and AfroFantastic, expect a barrage of the frontal lobes and a rhythmic re-education program. — Robert Gabriel

Christmas Songwriters Showcase

LA ZONA ROSA, SUNDAY 17

For the eighth annual Christmas Songwriters Showcase, Radney Foster leads the way. The Del Rio native is joined by young turks of "Texas Music," like protégé Randy Rogers (whose major label debut, *Just a Matter of Time*, he produced) and Roger Creager, as well as stalwart Max Stalling and Fred Andrews. Expect tunes about Texas and drinking, with a touch of holiday spirit. — Jim Caligiuri

The Corral

Holiday With the Neighbors

HOLE IN THE WALL, SATURDAY 16

Put down the carving knife, and toss that Paxil and peppermint schnapps cocktail — there's hope! The Darling New Neighbors' second annual holiday show ladles out hot, gooey accordion rock, and you don't have to worry about chatting up your uncle with the lazy eye! More reasons? Locals Hit Space unleash their debut EP, *(Verb)*, and Li'l Cap'n Travis offshoot Tiny Adventurers spike the cider. — Audra Schroeder

Chili Cold Blood, Ian McLagan & the Bump Band: Continental Club

Pong, Arab League: Room 710

Sons of Hercules, Bad Rackets, Victims of Leisure: Beerland

Lemurs, Maneja Beto,

Til We're Blue or Destroy, Xcella: Parish

Book of Shadows: Salvation Pizza

2006 has been a big year for Daniel Johnston. His art was featured in the Whitney Biennial; his music was turned into a Houston-based play, *Speeding Motorcycle*; and his life was the subject of Jeff Feuerzeig's fascinating and heartbreaking doc *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*. One of the more humorous parts of *Devil* was fellow Waller, Texas, resident Jason "Nightmare" (you might remember he wore the "Fuck Satan" shirt) recalling his chance meeting with Johnston in 1999, when he and wife Bridget saw a man on a bike being attacked by dogs. "My wife's a kung-fu expert," he explains, "and she got out of our car and started warding off the dogs, and then Danny's like, 'You guys play music?'"

The trio, fittingly christened Danny & the Nightmares, began making boom-box recordings that night, even though Jason (guitar) and Bridget (drums) were novices on their instruments. Several home recordings and demos followed, culminating in 2003's *Freak Brain* on Sympathy for the Record Industry, which tackled Johnston's usual themes: Jesus, Satan, rock & roll, monsters, love.

"I've always likened us to the three characters that come from space in *Superman*," ventures Jason of their small-town friendship. The Nightmares have a new album scheduled for next year — *The Death of Satan* — and this first Austin show in many moons finds Johnston in fighting form.

"He's just feeling good," exclaims Jason. "Danny's never short of ideas. We've learned at this point how to catch the curve balls he likes to throw. He's always reminded me of the kid in the *Twilight Zone* movie who made his sister's mouth disappear. He's a wild mind." — Audra Schroeder

Houston cellophiles *Two Star Symphony* and Johnston collaborator *Jad Fair* open.

Zom Zoms FLAMINGO CANTINA, TUESDAY 19

Evidence for Devo's theory on devolution, Zom Zoms' seizure-synthesized spazz-rock sounds like the product of B-movies, Ritalin, and standardized testing. The polka-dotted local fourpiece is unplugging its Ataris once and for all and returning to former lives as pizza-delivery boys, but not before one last ride on the *Yellow Rainbow*. San Diego's Dmonstrations headline; locals Teeners and Denton's the Undoing of David Wright break open the Pixy Stix early. — Austin Powell



Amos Lee LA ZONA ROSA, WEDNESDAY 20

Hailing from the City of Brotherly Love, singer-songwriter Amos Lee blends the best elements of soul and folk into a sound that's earned him opening slots on major tours with Bob Dylan and Norah Jones. The former schoolteacher has avoided any notion of a sophomore slump with recent Blue Note release *Supply and Demand*, an album that balances socially conscious insights with deep soul. Fellow Philly soul brother Mutlu funks first. — Jay Trachtenberg

Banana Blender Surprise

CONTINENTAL CLUB, THURSDAY 21

ScREW candy canes and eggnog, nothing says holiday cheer like RC Cola and MoonPies. That's right, the best band to ever combine vintage rock & roll, genuine Gulf Coast soul, and an unnatural obsession with teeth-rotting confections is back in town for their yearly yuletide engagement. Come ready to dance and *Paint the Town Brown* (as per this year's anthology), but watch that blood sugar, sugar. — Christopher Gray

IN-STORES

Friday: **David Chenu** CD release, End of an Ear, 6pm; **Tolar, DDC**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 6pm

Saturday: **DJ Hobo D**, End of an Ear, 7pm

Sunday: **Damp Heat, Tha Fucking Transmissions**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 4:30pm; **MC Terroristic**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Danny & the Nightmares

EMO'S, SATURDAY 16

TODD V. WOLFSON

Celtic Christmas

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, THURSDAY 21

Something about Celtic music fits the season, perhaps because many Christmas carols spring from across the sea. This year's annual Celtic Christmas concert falls on the winter solstice, with music by the Schola Cantorum, Cluan, the Tea Merchants, Ed Miller, Gregory Grene, the Austin Police Pipe Band, and Heather Gilmer, Serge Laine & Mark Stone. — Margaret Moser

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

BABY ROBOTS, HORSE + DONKEY, FOOT FOOT

Emo's Lounge, Friday 15

TGIF (Thank God It's Feedback) with DJ Blip.

ASSACRE

Red 7, Friday 15

Three words: gay death metal.

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Emo's, Saturday 16

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'NUTCRACKER SUITE'

Ruta Maya, Saturday 16

Crackin' nuts with fellow Tchaikovsky-philes Golden Arm Trio.

DYLAN THOMAS CD RELEASE

Cactus Cafe, Monday 18

With Rich Harney, Alex Coke, Suzi Stern, and Chris Mares.



Invincible Czars

IV THIEVES

Beauty Bar, Monday 18

The IV Thieves of Christmas, plus DJ Mel and We Explode.

LOURDES PEREZ

One World Theatre, Tuesday 19

Beloved and back to benefit local poet Ana Sisnett.

APESHITS, TEENERS

Beerland, Wednesday 20

Plus a screening of *Unknown Passage: The Dead Moon Story*, 7pm.

A VERY PARISH CHRISTMAS

Parish, Thursday 21

Holiday faves spiked by Will Sheff, Loxsly, Voxtrout, and more.

live music VENUES ▶ p.102

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WOODY'S SOUTH, 321 W. Ben White, 851-9663
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
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of Wilco

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EVERY
TUES.

7PM PTARMIGAN

EVERY
WED.

6:30PM Sean

RUSSELL

EVERY
THUR.

Stayton

BONNER

FRI.
DEC. 15

David

ROMERO

SAT.
DEC. 16

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Jewels

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Renegade

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AND ADAM WHITE
OF THE PERSONALS
SUN DEC 17

GOSPEL BRUNCH
THE GOSPEL STARS
- HOLY -
WITH

FRI DEC 29
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WITH O.A. AND ROMALICE
SUN DEC 31
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WITH SOUTH AUSTIN
JUG BAND
AND DIRTY BIRD

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WHITE YEARS
WITH AUX, THE PAPER SOUTH
AND ASTER

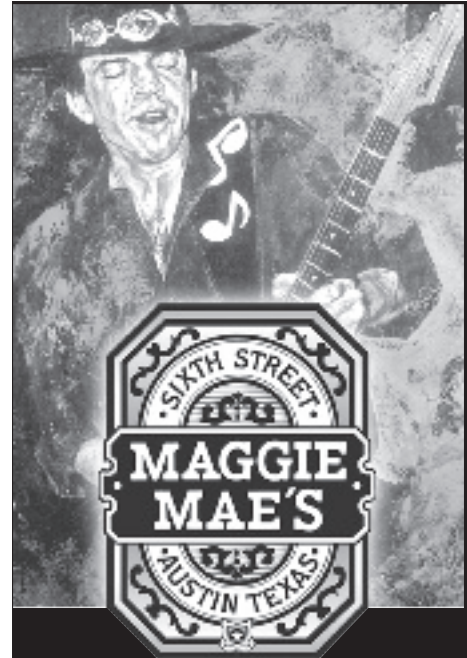
SAT JAN 6
SALLY CREWE AND
THE SUDDEN MOVES
WITH MIDGE TMEIN
AND JUST GUNS

SAT JAN 13
YOUNG MOND GRAND
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AND BRENT PALMER

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SAT JAN 20
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FRIDAY 12/15

10PM-CLOSE

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LIVE TEXAS BLUES, NO COVER

SATURDAY 12/16

10PM-CLOSE

TABOO

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FIRST DAY OF WINTER

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

SHAPES & SIZES ASTHMATIC KITTY
WEIRD WEEDS
THE LOVELY SPARROWS • BENKO
TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

INSIDE:
MOONLIGHT TOWERS
FALL COLLECTION • CASSETTE

LOUNGE:

BABY ROBOTS • 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 • THE CUF
JESUS CHRONIC • ZEALE 32
DARK WORLD CLERICS
WITH DIAMOND TIP
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

SUN.-MON., DECEMBER 17-18

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

UGLY BEATS
BELLFURIES
THE DEADLY COMPANIONS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

HIT SPACE EX-16 DELUXE
SCOTT ADAIR • TBA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE WINTER PARTY:

LIVE MUSIC BY

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ARTIFICIAL HEART

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PLUS ART EXHIBITS BY

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MANN-GARCIA / CASEY DUNN / JUSTIN COX / YADIRA BROWN / ROBERTO
AINSLIE / JAY SAUDE

SUN.-WED., DECEMBER 24-27

CLOSED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

THE NAUTICAL MILE • BAYTA DARELL
THE RIDE HOME • A FIVE AND DIME SHIP

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

1986 • FOR THOSE WHO KNOW
THE PAPER SOUTH • DIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30



HICKOIDS

CONCOMBRE ZOMBI • ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:

TIA CARRERA

OH BEAST • THE FLASH BOYS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

SPEND NEW YEARS AT EMO'S WITH
THREE SHOWS ON THREE STAGES!

OUTSIDE

THE OCTOPUS PROJECT
STARLIGHT MINTS
BLACK LIPSTICK
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

FLAMETRICK SUBS
WITH SATANS CHEERLEADERS
MIDWEST MONSTER

LOUNGE:

IV THIEVES

MOONLIGHT TOWERS

PLUS GUEST DJS FROM BOTH BANDS

COMING SOON: 1/2-1/7 EMO'S FREE WEEK

club listings

Thu 1 4

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)

BALLET AUSTIN STUDIO Ethereal Planes Indian, Tom Grzinich, Cory Allen (9:30)

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brent Adair (8:00)

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), The Foundation (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Abi Tapia (6:30)

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)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE X-Rated Presents

THE DETOUR BAR & GRILL Bike Night Open Mic w/ the Wildcards (8:00)

THE DIRTY DOG Texas Country Night w/ Kevin Myers, the Woods (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Django's Mustache, Ephraim Owens

Quartet

EMO'S Benko, the Lovely Sparrows, Weird Weeds, Shapes and Sizes

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.

FADÓ Patrick Fleming Power Duo (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Lila's Medicine, OHN (8:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Southpaw Jones, Slimpickenz, Coffee Sergeants

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)

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 14

Burden Brothers, Sparta, Antone's

Shapes and Sizes, Emo's

Slimpickenz, Flipnotics

Coffeespace

Bonnie Rideout, Paramount

Theatre

Shanghai 5, Red's Scoot Inn

Torrid Flesh, Room 710

FRI 15

Strange Boys, Beerland

Two Tons of Steel, Broken

Spoke

Miss Leslie & Her Juke-

Jointers, Cotton Club

Black Math Experiment,

Gravity Euphoric, Elysium

Buttercup, Emo's

Papa Roach, Hed P.E., La

Zona Rosa

Dan Deacon, Red 7

LA Guns, Red Eyed Fly

The Cheatin' Hearts,

Woody's South

SAT 16

Sons of Hercules, Beerland

Outside Later: Slick Rick, the

Cuf, Jesus Chronic, Dark

World Clerics w/ Diamond

Tip, Emo's

Lounge: The Burning Hotels;

Inside: Two Star Symphony,

Danny & the Nightmares,

Emo's

For Her & the Snow,

Flipnotics Coffeespace

Tha Fucking Transmissions,

Red 7

Bugs Henderson, Saxon Pub

SUN 17

Radney Foster, Randy

Rogers, Roger Creager,

Max Stalling, La Zona Rosa

Tha Fucking Transmissions,

Snake Eyes Vinyl

MON 18

Walt Wilkins, Antone's

Jo Hell & the Red Roosters,

Nuno's on Sixth

Mr. Gnome, Stubb's

TUE 19

Demonstrations, the Undoing

of David Wright, Flamingo

Cantina

Lourdes Perez, One World

Theatre

Mower, Ricketts, Red Eyed

Fly

WED 20

Voodoo Glow Skulls,

Against All Authority, Time

Again, Flamingo Cantina

28-200, Hole in the Wall

Amos Lee, Mutlu, La Zona

Rosa

THU 21

Drop Trio, Antone's

Banana Blender Surprise,

Continental Club

Alex Dupree, Shearwater,

the Parish

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

for your benefit

THU 14

Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Firekills, Sparta, Burden Brothers, **Antone's**

SAT 16

Christmas Extravaganza, Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Suzi Stern, Alex Coke, Rich Harney, & Chris Maresh; Austin Girls Choir; Elana James; John Arthur Martinez, Damian Green Band; the Hudsons; Mundi; Donna Hightower; Albert & Gage; the Hummingbirds; Boxcar Preachers; Texas Eastside Kings; W.C. Clark, **Central Market North**

Not So Silent Night Benefit for Leukemia w/ Toast, Mouse About, Shuttle Debris, Bee vs. Moth, Sound of Substance, Monster Sleeps Quiet, **Dirty Dog Bar**

Youth Sports Development Benefit w/ Natalie Zoe & Marilyn Rucker, **Merkaba Lounge & Grill**

VSA Arts of Texas Fundraiser, Ten Thousand Villages

Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ the Keys of Life Program, **Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

SUN 17

KOOP Radio Holiday Benefit w/ Thulsa Doom, Low Line Caller, **Ruta Maya**

MON 18

TXRD Lonestar Rollergirls Benefit w/ Little Bicycles, the Sweethearts, the Chalk Outlines, **Spiderhouse**

TUE 19

Ana Sissett Benefit w/ Illuminada, Lourdes Perez, **One World Theatre**

THU 21

A Very Parish Christmas, Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Loxsly; Zookeeper; Jeff Klein; Shearwater; Apha Rev; Alex Dupree; Zykos; Voxtrout; Tacks, the Boy Disaster; What Made Milwaukee Famous; Will Sheff, **the Parish**

Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Pamela Hart, Dr. James Polk, **Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**

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HEADHUNTERS

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THU 12/14 > BUS STOP STALLIONS, SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOM, THE TANGLE (P), SHUGEE, MOONDOG MATINEE, HADLEY (P)
FRI 12/15 > HIGH DIVERS, THE LIONS, GRINDING WHEELS (P), BLOWN FREE, 3 POT OFFY (P)
SAT 12/16 > RADITUDE, CAPITAL SCAM (P), SECULAR END, SCILENCE KILLS (P), LOS BONES, SOBER DAZE, RUBY'S JAZZ GARAGE (H-Hour)
SUN 12/17 > HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY, SLUM LORD, NATHAN PAYNE
MON 12/18 > THE GUEST, STARCHILD, UNDER THE GUN
WED 12/20 > LONESOME HEROS, THE DOWNLINERS, CHRIS BRECHT, SKAROKE KARAOKE, GRAHAM WEBBER
THU 12/21 > RUBY'S JAZZ GARAGE (H-Hour) FRI 12/22 > NEW DISASTER, THE OKLAHOMOS
SAT 12/23 > CHADD THOMAS & THE CRAZY KINGS, BEST LOVE IN TOWN

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THURSDAY-DECEMBER 14 OHMA EXIT THE SUN SCRAPS OF LIFE AIM YOUR RIFLES SATURDAY-DECEMBER 16 PREY FOR SLEEP KIDNAP TEAM BY A LONG SHOT TOMORROW'S TOO LATE STILL LIFE THIRTEEN SECONDS MUSIC LAB MONDAY-DECEMBER 18 PUBLIC OFFENDER LUCKY 7 C SHARP REIGN SUPREME WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 20 MIDNIGHT IN THE LOUNGE w/ ALLIGATOR DAVE OUTDOOR STAGE TOYS FOR TOTS CHRISTMAS SHOW w/ PERFORMANCES BY MEMBERS OF BROKEN TEETH, NEW DISASTER AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY-DECEMBER 22 THE IVORY CLASS WHITMAN DERBIN ANDICE	FRIDAY-DECEMBER 15 LA GUNS BROKEN TEETH NEW DISASTER SUNDAY-DECEMBER 17 THE MAJICCONTENT PARTY OF HEARTS & SHADOWS SET A FLAME WANT THE ANGEL SAIL JOSEPHINE A KILLER JIM FLETCHER TUESDAY-DECEMBER 19 MOWER WITHIN CHAOS POWDERBURN THURSDAY-DECEMBER 21 SATURDAY'S RADAR KITSCH AND START WEST SOLOIST FRIDAY-DECEMBER 23 LEAVING JULY FIREKILLS BETRAYED BY A KISS SOUNDS OF THE SILENT FINE FROM THE GODS
--	---

UPCOMING SHOWS

*12:30 AFTERLIFE PICTURES, WARM WINTER, DESPITE THE LOSS, FIRE BALLS DOWN
*12:30 BUILT BY SHOW, THE CIVILIANS, RIT LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS
*12:30 HONKY, THAT'S RIGHT TO YOU, THE PERSONALS
*12:30 DAWN OVER ZERO, THE ADDICTIONS, THE CIVILS, PRANIC MAYNARD
*12:30 THE STUMMLES, FAR FROM FINISHED, BORN TO LOSE
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THU 12.14

DEMONTUARY
TORRID FLESH
MISS CARRIAGE
THE BLOOD HORSE

FRI 12.15

GUN TOTIN'
MEATEATERS
DEVOLA
MARSHALL DYLAN
CONNIE'S CHUNG

SAT 12.16

PONG
THE ARAB LEAGUE
FARED SHAFINURY

SUN 12.17

CLOSED
SPINNING DRAYBELS

MON 12.18

HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

TUE 12.19

PROGRAM
THEM SHAKES
THE CUT-OFFS
STONED CITY CREEPS

WED 12.20

HIT BY A CAR
PRETTY PRETTY
RUBBER ROBOT
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT

UPCOMING SHOWS

12:21 Monop's Choice, Uick Lick, Sedum 12:22 The Action Is... The
Ugendas, Chalk Outline 12:23 Duke, Sabbath Crow 12:24 Dropkick

ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

THU LIVE! DEC 14

Turbo 350 12am
Shinola 11pm
A Crack in the Wall 10pm

FRI LIVE! DEC 15

Black Math Experiment 12am
Hipnautica 11pm
Gravity Euphonic 10pm

SAT HAVEN DEC 16

goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

SUN retro 80's DEC 17

REGRESSION
DJs AMERYKAH & BOBA FETT

TUE lesbian night DEC 19

SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & GUEST

WED NO COVER DEC 20

MID*WAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ THE GOTHFATHER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu Dec 21 * Electrocutation -
a "white night" of electronic music
Fri Dec 22 * Live! Distempered,
Morgue City
Fri Dec 29 * Nightmare After
Christmas - Benefit Party

21+ only, doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
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BEER LAND TEXAS

Who is RiO RiTA?

th 14 Dailys, Watching the Moon,
December to Dismember:
fr Those Peabodys, Strange Boys,
15 The Carrots, Yellow Fever
7pm Ugly Beats Happy Hour

sa Boh's Birthday-
16 Sons of Hercules,
Bad Rackets, Victims of Leisure
6pm Inconvenient Truth
w/ conference call w/ al Core

su Map of Hawaii, One Eyed Doll,
17 Sexy Finger Champs @10pm

mo Rock and Roll Karaoke
18 1000+ songs--no cover

tu Fire vs. Extinguisher,
19 Follow the Bird, MrandMrsMay,
Connie Ball
apeshits, Teeners
7pm Unknown Passage:
The Dead Moon Story

th david Israel's Birthday Show-
21 Cue, Woozyhelmet, David
Israel, Shrew

fr Winter Solstice
22 Soul Party
with DJ Tim Kerr

sa 23 Negatives reunion show
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FRIDAY, DEC. 15 **THE BREW** 9:30PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 **VELVET LOVE BOX** 9:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 **"SUNDAY SOCIAL"** 9:30PM

TUESDAY, DEC. 19 **TEXAS TUESDAYS JACKSON TAYLOR** 9:30PM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20 **LATIN WEDNESDAYS THE BREW** 9:30PM
FREE SALSA LESSONS @ 9PM

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calendar ► COMMUNITY ► ARTS ► FILM ► MUSIC

club listings ◀ ◀ FROM THURSDAY

GRUENE HALL Mark Jungers Mule Tide Party (7:30)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HEADHUNTERS Hadley, Moondog Matinee, Shugee, the Tangle, Suglasses & Mushrooms, Bus Stop Stallions

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 Damesviolet (10:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)

MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery

THE MOHAWK Low Line Caller, Sthil

MOMO'S The Hudsons, Weeden (8:00)

MOONRIVER Karaoke w/ Big Jim (9:00)

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 Phenologists (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROOM 710 The Blood Horse, Miss Carriage, Torrid Flash, Demontuary

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Cotton Inks

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)

SPIDERHOUSE PATIO BAR DJ Grab Bag (7:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

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)

UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen

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), Dinner with Danger (9:00)

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ McNeil High School Musicals, Rock da Spot (7:00)

Fri 1 5

311 CLUB Luke Cutchen, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)

ANTONE'S Tyrone Vaughan, Storyville (9:00)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Jimmy LaFave (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson

LIVE MUSIC
Thursday
Chadd Thomas & The Crazy Kings
10:30-1:30

Friday
Hi-Fi Scenery
9:00-10:45
DJ Honeycomb
11:00-close

Saturday
Meridian West
9:00-11:00
DJ Thibault
11:00-close

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RED FEZ

NIGHTLY MUSIC

THU Martin's New All-Stars 10:00-2:00

FRI DJ In/Vase 10:00-2:00

SAT DJ Karm 10:00-2:00

SUN DJ Knight 10:00-2:00

MON DJ Jeff Junger 10:00-2:00

TUE Twist Up with DJ Penny 10:00-2:00

WED The Reflex 10:00-2:00

THE REFLEX WEDNESDAYS 10:00-2:00

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downstairs

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exotic grooves by
world renowned beat makers

DJ Manny 9pm

Govinda 10pm

Carmen Rizzo 11pm

Mike Hiratzka 12:30pm

Champagne at midnight for everyone!

Countdown cameos

Seductive temptresses

Secret agent/Spy dress code encouraged

\$35 advance/ \$45 at the door

www.govindamusic.com for tickets

upstairs

HAVANA NIGHT

Live Salsa Music with

Cienfuegos

Complimentary appetizers

Party favors

Champagne at midnight

Doors open at 8pm -

Dress code encouraged

\$20 advance/ \$30 at the door

Triple Crown

San Marcos, TX

(512) 396-2236

www.triplecrownlive.com

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, Famby 10pm

Su 17 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate

Mo 18 Ray Cashman 6pm

Tu 19 Molly Hayes 6pm
Ricky Stein, Slowtrain 9pm

We 20 The Christophers 6pm,
Meatwood, Chief Fuzzer 10pm

Th 21 Eric Hisaw 6pm
San Marcos River Rat Brass Band 9pm

Fr 22 Los Gallos 6pm
Wasted Youth, Citadel 9pm

Sa 23 Buck Jones & the Haggards 10pm



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THUR 14 - The Coffee Sergeants • South Paw Jones

FRI 15
The Lennings
Chris Brecht



SAT 16
Infinite Partials
For Her
and the Snow

SUN 17 - Austin Family Jewels • Johann Wagner
MON 18 - Journey to the Center of the Sun • Trace Faulkner
TUE 19 - Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
WED 20 - David Hamburger
"\$2 Beer Humpy Hump Night!"

THU 21 - Johnny Goudie • Taylor Davis
FRI 22 - Elizabeth Jackson • Lee Barber • Ethan Azarian
SAT 23 - Brianna Sage (New York, NY)
Will T Massey • Mandi LeBlanc

directevents

directevents.net thebackyard.net theglennaustin.net austinmusichall.com lazonarosa.com



612 W 4TH ST & RIO GRANDE • AUSTIN, TX 78701

THIS FRIDAY



DEC 15 DOORS 6:30PM SHOW 7:30PM

THIS SUNDAY



DEC 17 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM



DEC 20 DOORS 8:00PM



DEC 28 DOORS 8:00PM



FEB 01 DOORS 8:00PM



FEB 02 DOORS 8:00PM



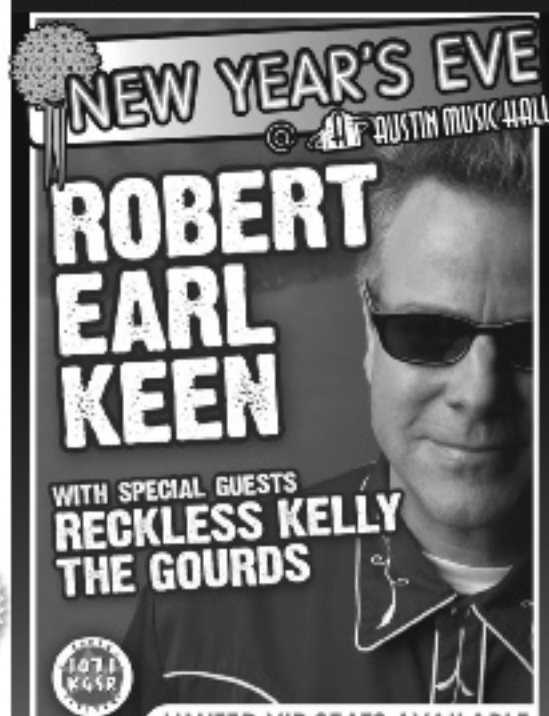
FEB 16 DOORS 8:00PM



MAR 24 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM



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LIMITED VIP SEATS AVAILABLE



JAN 12 DOORS 7:00PM SHOW 8:00PM

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WWW.DIRECTEVENTS.NET

club listings << FROM FRIDAY

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)
BEERLAND The Ugly Beats, Yellow Fever, the Carrots, Strange Boys, Those Peabodys
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BROKEN SPOKE Two Tons of Steel
CACTUS CAFE Ruthie Foster
CAFE CAFFEINE Ash Blaize (9:00)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Distant Seconds, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves
CEDAR STREET Shawn Phillips (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH John Arthur Martinez (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30), Grant Ewing (8:30)
CIPOLLINA Cienfuegos (8:00)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Elisa Ferrari, Ryan Anderson (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), the Lifters, the Skunks Reunion (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice
COTTON CLUB Miss Leslie & Her Juke-Jointers
THE DIRTY DOG Wide Open Sky, Loss Rayne (9:00)
DOMINICAN JOE'S No Show Ponies (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
EGO'S Bill Jerram, Nick Kraus & the Austin Torpedos, the Dirty Sound (8:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Alice Spencer & Her Monkey Butlers, Pete Rodriguez Quintet
ELYSIUM Gravity Euphoric, Black Math Experiment
EMO'S Inside: Buttercup, the Fall Collection, Moonlight Towers; Lounge: DJ Blip, Foot Foot, Horse + Donkey, Baby Robots
END OF AN EAR David Chenu Quintet CD Release (6:00)
FADO Mysterious Ways (10:00)
FINN & PORTER Benny Ignacio (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Final Catch a Fire w/ DJ RJ, DJ Jah Ray (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Chris Brecht & Brad Rice
GIDDY UPS Sam Bentley (9:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS 3 Pot Offy, Blown Free, Grinding Wheels, the Lions, High Divers
HI-LO DJ Honeycomb (11:00)
HILL'S CAFE Shelli Coe

HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Jaelyn Lucas (7:00)
JOVITA'S Sally Semrad; Clay, Kevin & Kevin; Macon Greyson (5:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Hed PE., Papa Roach (7:30)
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Kat Edmonson, Best Love In Town, DJ Avatar (5:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Johnny Goudie & the Little Champions (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S Slim Richey's Dream Band w/ Emily Gimble (8:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Carl Hutchens
THE MOHAWK Tah-Dahs, Happy Bullets, Haunting Oboe Music (10:00)
MOMO'S Red Line Riot, Bernie Calcote, Stephen Clarke, Ryan Holley & the Wartime Social (8:00)
MOONRIVER Swingin' Johnsons
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauer (6:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Nutty Idol Karaoke
THE OLD ALLIGATOR GRILL Rainravens (9:00)

SAUCE

GET SOME ON YA

Friday 9:30

CALICO KINGS

SATURDAY 9:30

	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINGS 9:30
THU 14	ANYTHING FOR TIPS	• PARLIMENT
FRI 15	SHAWN & PHIL	• SAUCE
SAT 16		• CALICO KINGS
SUN 17		closed
MON 18	HIGHLY LIKELY	• JUKEBOX HEROES
TUE 19	SEELA & FREINDS	feat. robert wagner
WED 20	TRENT DAVE	ORIGINAL COURTYARD SERIES
		8:30 Stefanie Fix
		10:30 Will Knaack
		• SPAZMATICS

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Contact Michelle for Reservations: 512.775.0077

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THU., DEC. 14

The 4 4 Thursday
 Beer Special
 Fireman's #4 for \$4

FRI., DEC. 15

Guinness Day
 \$3 20-oz. imperial pints
 ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT

SAT., DEC. 16

College Game Day
 ON ALL SCREENS

SUN., DEC. 17

Traditional Irish Brunch with brunch
 The Tea Merchants Noon 'til 3pm
 MON., DEC. 18

MATT POWELL & FRIENDS
 MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 7:30pm
 LIVE ON ALL SCREENS
 \$1 Hotdogs • \$3 Miller Lite 20 oz. pints

TUE., DEC. 19

JOIN US FOR
 the all new Tuesday Night Trivia Quiz
 Qualify for the finals & an opportunity to win
 FOUR ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO IRELAND

No cover. Over 21. Great Beer Specials.
 Mother Egan's covered deck is available for private parties on Wed., Thu., & Sat.
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The Hole in the Wall

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

UNRAVEL MARS 12AM
 KEVIN MCKINNEY 10:30PM
 ALICE SPENCER & HER MONKEY BUTLERS 8PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

THE LAST GASP 12AM
 RED LEAVES 11PM
 LA LA LAND 10PM
 BROOKS ALAN BRANNON 7:30PM
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
 HITSPACE 12AM
 DARLING NEW NEIGHBORS 11PM
 TINY ADVENTURERS 10PM
 LEO RONDEAU 9PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

SECRET WEAPONS 12PM
 IT'S OVER 11PM
 TJ HOOKER 10PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

WE MAKE ENGINE 12AM
 iKILLCaRS 11PM
 GOLDEN BOY 10PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

THE MESHBANES 12AM
 DAVE'S NOT HERE 11PM
 CHRIS HAMLETT 10PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS 12:30AM
 28-200 11:30PM

SHORTY LONG 10PM
 ROGER WALLACE 8PM

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M 2.75 Guinness & Murphy's Pints
T 2.75 ALL PINTS
W Free Pizza
TH 2.25 House Beers
F 2.75 Independence Ale
S Free Bratwurst
S 1.75 Domestic Pints

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Gospel SUN. 12/17 @ 11AM Brunch

BELLS OF JOY

BRUNCH STARTS @ 10AM; \$10.95 ADULTS/\$4.95 KIDS

OLD No. 1 6416 N. LAMAR BLVD. 512.451.5440 TUES. 12/19 @ 7PM No COVER

MARSHALL JONES

WED. 12/20 @ 7PM No COVER

AMY & THE BULLETS

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Tue 12/14, 7pm
ALESANA
 THUMBSCREW * UPON A BURNING BODY
 HOW TO SET FIRE * DEEP SEA DIVING

Fri 12/15, 7pm
BRENDALE
 SCREAMING AT THE SKY * TONIGHT IS GLORY
 THE ARTILLERY * ENDING SILENCE * SOMA

Sat 12/16, 8pm
ANew REVOLUTION
 DIVIDED BY TRAGEDY
 REMEMBER THIS * BLESSED AGONY

Wed 12/20, 8pm
SODALITY
 GATES OF ACHERON * THE LETTING GO PROCESS
 Lounge Nights

Fractured Sundays & Tuesdays with Frap
 Mondays & Wednesdays with Jason
 \$1 DOMESTICS * \$1 WELLS * NO COVER
 Special prices and no cover when there is no show.

Upcoming Shows
 12/22—JONNY DANGER * 12/23—GIRL IN A COMA,
 DEATH GOT KILLED IN ANOTHER LIFE, SEVEN

Cactus Cafe & Bar ★ across from the co-op

23rd & Guadalupe ★ all ages all the time

Thur & Fri ★ Dec 14 & 15 8:30pm both nights!

friday guest star **NAKIA**

RUTHIE FOSTER

Sat & Sun ★ Dec 16 & 17 live recording!

ELIZA GILKYSON  saturday guest star **ANDREW DUPLANTIS**

Mon ★ Dec 18 7:30pm

DYLAN THOMAS XMAS SHOW

ADAM CAROLL ★ SAM BAKER
ROMMIE MAYES ★ GURF MORLIX
SUZI STERN ★ ALEX COKE
RICH HARNEY ★ CHRIS MARSHE

Tue ★ Dec 19 7:30pm

cd release! **PAUL PEARCY**

GONE ICE FISHIN'

DEC 20, 2006 - JAN 11, 2007
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS Y'ALL!

2007@ THE CACTUS

★ WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/STUDENT/TXUNION/AE/CACTUS ★

1/12 ★ MONTE MONTGOMERY	2/17 ★ TERRI HENDRIX
1/13 ★ TOM RUSH	2/24 ★ RW HUBBARD
1/16 ★ GEORGE HARRISON	CHRIS KNIGHT
ANNUAL TRIBUTE	2/27 ★ JONATHAN RICHMAN
1/18 ★ AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'	3/01 ★ HAMMEL ON TRIAL
1/19 ★ RHETT BUTLER	3/03 ★ RICHARD THOMPSON
1/25 ★ JEFF DANIELS	3/23 ★ TOM RUSSELL
(ACTOR/MUSICIAN)	4/26 ★ SOLAS
1/26 ★ IAN MOORE	5/11 ★ ELLIS PAUL

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

FROM TEXAS' OLDEST INDEPENDENT BREWERY



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SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS



- 1) GUY CLARK**
Workbench Songs
- 2) DIXIE CHICKS**
Taking the Long Way
- 3) BOB SCHNEIDER**
The Californian
- 4) WILLIE NELSON**
Songbird
- 5) AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS**
The Drugs I Need
- 6) CARRIE RODRIGUEZ**
Seven Angels on a Bicycle
- 7) DON WALSER**
Texas Legend
- 8) SHAWN COLVIN**
These Four Walls
- 9) DEL CASTILLO**
Brotherhood
- 10) KELLY WILLIS & BRUCE ROBISON**
Happy Holidays



THERE'S *Nothing* FINER!



THURSDAY DEC 21, 2006
RUTA MAYA
WORLD HEADQUARTERS

FUNKYBATZ & NOLA SOUL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

PAPA MALI'S SOUL OF SOUTH AUSTIN HOLIDAY REUNION **BENEFIT FOR THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK**

PAPA MALI ★ THE GOSPEL SILVERTONES ★ IMPERIAL GOLDEN CROWN HARMONIZERS
 SHELLEY KING ★ LZ LOVE ★ LEEANN ATHERTON ★ MEAGAN TUBB ★ & VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

BRING YOUR CUSHIONS, BLANKETS & RELAX TO THIS UPLIFTING, SPIRITUAL & SOULFUL REUNION.
 ENJOY GUMBO & RED BEANS & RICE ★ BRING YOUR FAVORITE APPETIZER OR SIDE DISH TO SHARE
 TICKET PRICE \$15 BRING UP TO 3 CANNED OR BOXED FOOD ITEMS & RECEIVE \$1 PER ITEM OFF THE TICKET PRICE.

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THIS WEEKEND!
101X INDEPENDENT
 WORKFORCE
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BURDEN BROTHERS & SPARTA
 WITH FIREKILLS
 ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
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2 nights with
STORYVILLE
93.7 KLBJ
TYRONE VAUGHAN
ERIC TESSMER
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TEXAS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
 special guests
SUSAN GIBSON • WALT WILKINS
 also appearing: **THE GUNHANDS**

Blue Tuesday!
CHRISTMAS PARTY
 with **DEREK • MALFORD**
DAVID HOLT & MORE!
 ALSO **CARSON ALEXANDER**

THE FUNK OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE w/ **GREYHOUNDS**
GROOVIN GROUND
 special guest **DROP TRIO**

A Neville
FAMILY CHRISTMAS
 with **CYRIL NEVILLE & TRIBE 13**
GAYNIELLE NEVILLE • PAPA MALI
CAESAR BROS. FUNK BOX • MR. TRINIDAD
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SUN DEC 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
BOB SCHNEIDER
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05 JAN SOULHAT
SATURDAY JAN. 6TH • ANTONE'S WELCOMES
THE FLATLANDERS
 MORE INFO AT **SAVETOWNLAKE.ORG**
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BIRTHDAY PARTY & ROCKIN CHRISTMAS WITH
VALLEJO
 \$10/\$5 WITH DONATION TO TOYS FOR TOTS
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Christmas Night
 with a special evening with
MONTE-MONTGOMERY
BRIAN LEE 9PM

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SLAID CLEAVES
 with the **DEDRINGERS**
 & A LATE SET BY **HAYES CARLL**

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 a special holiday show by
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GRUPO FANTASMA
FRI 29 DEC

A SPECIAL PRE-NYE PARTY WITH
THE SCABS
 with **JOHNNY GOUDIE • LOVE COUNTRY**
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calendar ► MOVIES ► ARTS ► FILM ► MUSIC

club listings ◀ ◀ FROM FRIDAY

THE PARISH Future Clouds in Radar, Ian Moore & the Lossy Coils, Crawling With Kings
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Barnhill
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RED 7 Outside: Dan Deacon, Pack of Wolves, Assacre; Inside: Black Earth, Splithoof, Amplified Heat
RED EYED FLY New Disaster, Broken Teeth, LA Guns
REDRUM Ending Silence, the Artillery, Screaming at the Sky, Soma, Tonight Is Glory
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Lucky Strikes (8:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Brandon Raines, Karaoke w/ Billy D. (9:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Jesse Dayton
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Connie's Chung, Marshall Dylan, Devola, Gun Totin' Meat Eaters
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Chip Sneed
RUTA MAYA Quiet Company, Downliners (9:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Greg Klyma, Nathan Singleton CD Release, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Cross Check, Trey Stapleton Band (10:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Cameron Road (9:00)
SIX/TAP ROOM DJ Skot Kees (9:00)
SPIDERHOUSE PATIO BAR Family Blues (8:00)
STARDUST CLUB Go for Broke, Secondhand Rose
STUBB'S Adam White, Mice & Rifles CD Release, Texas Sapphires (10:00)
TAMBALEO DJ Jah Mighty (6:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Trip Hammer (9:00)
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Susanna Sharpe & Catavento (7:30)

TRIUMPH CAFE Stonecastle Family Band (9:00)
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
VENTANA DEL SOUL Jeff Metil (7:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Stayton Bonner
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Austin Family Jewels (10:00)
WOODY'S SOUTH The Cheatin' Hearts (7:00)
ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Metz Corba Choir (8:30)

Sat 16

311 CLUB Dwayne Davis, Joe Valentine and Lynn (9:00)
ANTONE'S Eric Tessmer, Storyville (9:00)

Will Evans Project
 LIVE PERFORMANCE
 Recording 7pm
 Music Lab Studios
 Sound Stage C
 No Cover
 Friday, Dec. 15
 500 E 5th St

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ the Resentments, Terri Hendrix, Van Wilks (12:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Lindsay Wynn
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Bees Knees Revue (8:00)
BEERLAND Victims of Leisure, Bad Rackets, Sons of Hercules
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BROKEN SPOKE The Derailers
BROKEN TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
CACTUS CAFE Eliza Gillyson
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Ugly Beats
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Christmas Extravaganza, Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Suzi Stern, Alex Coke, Rich Harney, & Chris Maresh; Austin Girls Choir; Elana James; John Arthur Martinez, Damian Green Band; the Hudsons; Mundi; Donna Hightower; Albert & Gage; the Hummingbirds; Boxcar Preachers; Texas Eastside Kings; W.C. Clark (10:00 am)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Doctor G. & the Mudcats (8:30)
CLUB 973 AJ & the Variety Band (9:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigan's B-3 Trio; In the Club; Porter Davis (3:00); Lou Ann Barton, Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Chili Cold Blood (9:30)
COOL RIVER CAFE Urbana
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Cotton Baron's Ball w/ Bobby Flores
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
THE DIRTY DOG Not So Silent Night Benefit for Leukemia w/ Toast, Mouse About, Shuttle Debris, Bee vs. Moth, Sound of Substance, Monster Sleeps Quizz (7:30)
DIZZY ROOSTER Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Marc Devine Trio (8:00)

BROKEN SPOKE
 PHOTO BY M. DAPRA
3201 SOUTH LAMAR • 442-6189
THU, DEC 14 8-9PM **COUNTRY DANCE LESSONS**
CHAPARRAL W/ JEFF HUGHES 9PM
FRI, DEC 15 **TWO TONS OF STEEL**
SAT, DEC 16 **DERAILERS**
TUE, DEC 19 **HARDCORE COUNTRY** NO COVER
JAMES M WHITE & ALVIN CROW
WED, DEC 20 **RICKY BROSSARD**

Riley's TAVERN SINCE 1933
THU 12/14 **MEATWOOD**
FRI 12/15 **JESSE DAYTON**
SAT 12/16 **LONNIE & TEXAS CONNECTION**
SUN 12/17 **OPEN MIC W/ GLENN ALLEN & KIM MCKENZIE**
MON 12/18 **BEVERLY HENSLEY**
TUES 12/19 **JORDAN MINOR & SHAWN LINE**
WED 12/20 **MARK JUNGERS**
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
 CELEBRATING 6 YEARS ON 6TH STREET
 THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

THURSDAY DEC 14
ERIC TESSMER BAND 10:30
JOIN US FOR OUR HOLIDAY GATHERING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
MUSIC! ♦ SGT. MAHONEY 6-9PM
JOE RICHARDSON EXPRESS 10:30
SATURDAY DEC 16
LINDSAY WYNN 10:30
 GREAT FOOD ♦ LIVE MUSIC ♦ NO COVER
 204 East 6th (at Brazos)
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★ **UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY** ★
 • THURSDAY • 10PM
PARIS 49
ART SHOW
ALL THAT GLITTERS
SUE ZOLA
 • FRI, SAT & SUN • 10PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S
B-3 TRIO

• TUESDAY • 10PM
EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE
 • WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL
AND FRIENDS

THURS
DEC 14
HAPPY HOUR
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

12:30AM
TAMMANY
HALL-MACHINE

11:15PM
LOMITA
ONE MISSISSIPPI
FRIDAY DEC 15
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

10PM
THE SKUNKS

11PM
JON DEE GRAHAM

12AM
JAMES MCMURTRY

10PM
THE LIFTERS

SATURDAY DEC 16
PORTER DAVIS

12:45AM
CHILI COLD BLOOD

3-7PM
BANANA BLENDER

FRIDAY DEC 22
H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS

12AM
ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS

10PM
IAN MCLAGAN

11PM
LOU ANN BARTON

9:30PM
TWO TONS OF STEEL

SATURDAY DEC 23
PAUL RAY AND THE COBRAS
ANNUAL HOLIDAY REUNION
LARRY LANG AND HIS LONELY KNIGHTS

SUNDAY DEC 17
WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND ERIK HOKKANEN

10:30PM
COMING SOON

DEC. 28 • PUDGE ZEPPLIN
DEC. 29 • BARFIELD • GARY CLARK JR

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IT'S ALL AT... **CONTINENTAL CLUB** www.continentalclub.com

MON DEC 18
CLOSED TONIGHT!!
SEE YOU TOMORROW...

TUESDAY DEC 19
HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE
+ DOAK SHORT
TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
WED. DEC 20
HAPPY HOUR
JAY MOELLER
AND THE SOPHISTICATES

Saxon Pub
 1320 South Lamar 448-2552
www.thesaxonpub.com

Thurs. Dec. 14
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm
George Devore 11pm
 HHr. Rob Roy Parnell 6pm

Fri. Dec. 15
GUY FORSYTH 11pm
 Nathan Singleton CD Release 9:30pm
Greg Klyma & guest 8pm
 HHr. The Regulars 6pm No Cover

Sat. Dec. 16 11pm
Jon Dee Graham 8pm
Bugs Henderson

Sun. Dec. 17 7pm
The Resentments
 w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman
 WALTER TRAGERT 10pm
 12am Jay Thomas

Mon. Dec. 18 8:30pm
Bob Schneider & Lonelyland
 7pm Matt the Electrician
JOSEPH KING 11pm
 Ricky Stein 12:30am

Tues. Dec. 19
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 8:30pm
 From Derek & The Dominos
Will Sexton 12am
 Phillip Gibbs
 HHr. Beth Black 6pm No Cover

Wed. Dec. 20
 HHr. Pauline Reese 6pm
MONTE MONTGOMERY 8pm
John Pointer 10:30pm
UNCLE LUCIUS 12am

COMING TO THE SAXON:
 Sat. 12/23 - Terry Allen
 Tues. 12/26 - Miss Lavelle White's Christmas
 Fri. 12/29 - Asylum Street Spankers

No Bad Days

Poodie's Hilltop ROADHOUSE

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Tuesdays
The Troubadillos
 Pool Tournament Night, No Cover

Wednesdays
Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones "the Singing Bartender"
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Thursdays
\$2.00 Longnecks
Ladies Night

Friday, Dec. 15
BARNHILL

Saturday, Dec. 16
PHILLIP GLYN BAND

Thursday, Dec. 21
HILLTOP CHRISTMAS W/ SANTA
HAPPY HOUR PRICES ALL NIGHT
WILL KNAAK

Friday, Dec. 22
PAULA NELSON & GEORGE DEVORE

Saturday, Dec. 23
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THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 9PM
PAT FLEMING
 FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 10PM
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
 SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 10PM
DJ GERRY
 SUNDAY, DEC. 17
 BRUNCH & BLOODY MARY BAR 'TIL 3
 MONDAY, DEC. 18
 SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT
 DRINK DISCOUNTS
 TUESDAY, DEC. 19
 WHISKEY TASTING NIGHT
 TEA MERCHANTS 8PM
 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20
 PUB QUIZ 8PM

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8-11PM \$5 PITCHERS OF ZIEGENBOCK
\$1 KAMAKZI SHOTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 15
7:30-10:30PM
\$1 WELLS & \$2 DOMESTIC BOTTLED BEER

SATURDAY, DEC. 16
OPEN TO CLOSE
\$5 PITCHERS OF BUSCH
8-11PM \$2 WELLS
PRIVATE PARTY IN BEER GARDEN 7:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 17
OPEN TO CLOSE
\$2 WELLS AND \$1.50 BOTTLES OF MILLER HIGH LIFE AND LONE STAR

MONDAY, DEC. 18
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - HERE
\$1 DRINK SPECIALS DURING THE GAME

TUESDAY, DEC. 19
8-11PM
\$2 WELLS & \$5 PITCHERS OF ICEHOUSE

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20
8PM ON GIANT SCREEN TV
SOUL CALIBUR III TOURNAMENT
COME BEAT THE REIGNING CHAMPION KITSUNE 8-11PM
\$1.75 PINTS OF BUD & BUD LIGHT & BUD ICE

SATURDAY, DEC. 30
ONE LAST SHOW ON THE BAND SIDE
WITH MEVYN MANIFESTO
THE AUGUST VALENTINE
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SHRAPNEL
\$5 COVER • DOORS 8PM
DRINK SPECIALS
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OPPOSITE DAY
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DANCEHALL REGGAE SOUNDSYSTEM
THE FINAL CATCH A FIRE
WITH DJ RAY AND JAHRAY

SAT 12/16 - 800 DOORS, SHOW 800
THE BIRTHDAY PARTY OF FACUNDO! WITH
YOUNG NICK & THE HAZE BOYS
C. VANDERSLICE, DJ MANNY,
CARABELAS COLLECTIVE (FEAT. CARVINAL & SERRATO)
VEHICULAR, MANY BIRTHDAYS, AFROFANTASTIC

TUES 12/19 - PUNK/HOUSE HANGAROW - 800 DOORS, SHOW 9
DMONSTRATIONS
THE ZOM ZOMS
THE TEENERS, THE UNDOING OF DAVID WRIGHT

WEDS 12/20 - PUNK ROADSHOW - 800 DOORS, SHOW 9
THE VODOO GLOW SKULLS
AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY
TIME AGAIN (HELLCAT REGS)

12/21 - From Mite: The Basing Lesson, The Authors, Paperwork, The Cobo Hellcase
 12/22 - Graham Milinson & The Underground Township
 12/23 - Grimsy Styles, Green Mountain Grass
 12/28 - SpoonFed Tribe, Slider
 12/29 - Grimsy Styles vs. The Grimsy Selectah Soundsystem - all night
 12/31 - Shantytown Underground, Meu Meu Chaplains
 01/06 - Jah Beats
 01/09 - Boss Therapy w/ McFulish & Friends - every
 local 01/11 - Demitris Ascent, Steepwater Band

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KARAOKE 8PM
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FRIDAY 12/15
CARSON ALEXANDER 7:30PM

ERIC TESSMIER 10PM

SATURDAY 12/16
HEAVY LOVE 11PM

SUNDAY 12/17
FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

TUESDAY 12/19
PETE BENZ & KEVIN HAVRON 8PM

WEDNESDAY 12/20
DR TODD 7PM

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calendar ► COMMUNITY ► ARTS ► FILM ► MUSIC

club listings ◀◀ FROM SATURDAY

EGO'S Damp Heat, Neal Kassanoff & the Infadels, Mr. & Mrs. Mays, Toof (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Kris Kimura (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, DJ the Gotfather
EMO'S Lounge: The Burning Hotels, Aux, the Lord Henry; Inside Early: Quiet Company, Leaving July, Furthest From the Star, Firekills; Inside Later: Jad Fair, Two Star Symphony, Danny & the Nightmares (7:00), Outside Later: Dark World Clerics w/ Diamond Tip, Zeale 32, Jesus Chronic, the Cuf, Slick Rick (10:00)
END OF AN EAR DJ Hobo D (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Facundo's Night Out w/ AfroFantastic, Christopher Vanderslice, Carabelas Collective, Many Birthdays, Vehicular, DJ Manny, Pop w/ the Kill, Element7d, Young Nick & the Haze Boys (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE For Those Who Know, For Her & the Snow, Infinite Partials
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE The Mockingbirds (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Billy Garza & Trouble No More
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Stepsiders (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Gary Primich (6:30)
HANOVER'S Carson Alexander Band, Eric Tessmer, Shelley King, Heavy Love
HEADHUNTERS Ruby's Jazz Garage, Sober Daze, Los Bones, Silence Kills, Secular End, Capital Scam, Raditude
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Woode Wood (6:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Holiday With the Neighbors: Tiny Adventurers, Hit Space, Darling New Neighbors (10:00)
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE David Kendrick (7:00)
JOVITA'S Melancholy Ramblers CD Release, the Rust Tones (7:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Band of Heathens, DJ Hannibal Beretta (10:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Mike Rosenthal (9:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Mysterious Ways (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Youth Sports Development Benefit w/ Natalie Zoe & Marilyn Rucker (8:00)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Carl Hutchens
THE MOHAWK The Unfaithfuls, It's Over
MOMO'S Binge, Wendy Colonna, Drew Smith, Nelo (8:00)
MOONRIVER The Gunhands
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (11:00 am)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Basil's Attraction
PALMER EVENTS CENTER Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos Farewell Party w/ Little Joe y la familia (5:30)
THE PARISH Xcella, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Maneja Beto, Lemurs
THE PARLOR Daughters of the Confederacy

PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Phillip Glyn Band
RADISSON Kent Mayhew
RED 7 Outside: Tha Fucking Transmissions, the Word Association, Studemont Project; Inside: Silenced, Stone Dakota, Junkyard Mary, Kinetic
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)
REDRUM Blessed Agony, Remember This, A New Revolution, Divided by Tragedy (8:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB All U Need (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Lonnie & the Texas Connection
ROMEO'S Kirk Hale
ROOM 710 Fared Shafinury, Arab League, Pong
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Francis McGrath & the Freeway Mods
RUTA MAYA The Nutcracker Suite w/ the Invincible Czars (2:00, 7:00), D-Madness (11:00)
SALVATION PIZZA Book of Shadows
SAM'S TOWN POINT Ramsay Midwood Band (9:00)
SÃO PAULO'S Phillippe Vieux w/ 3 Jazz Collective (7:30)
SAXON PUB Jon Dee Graham, Bugs Henderson (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Deejer (10:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Austin Echoes (10:00)
SPEAKEASY Velvet Love Box (9:30)
SPIDERHOUSE PATIO BAR Loy Bones, DJ Double E (7:00)
STARDUST CLUB Rip Loric
TAMBALEO DJ Kurupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES VSA Arts of Texas Benefit (5:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Lee Person
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Trés Lunas (7:30)
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ the Keys of Life Program (3:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE David Romero
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Texas Renegade (10:00)
WOODY'S SOUTH The Washingtons; Lick, Lick; LaMancha; Opposite Day (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Donna Hightower (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH John Fremgen & Mitch Watkins (12:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick & the Barefoot Boys (3:30)
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)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE DJ Alan B
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Monte Peck's Acoustic Night (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Amerykah
END OF AN EAR MC Terroristic (6:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Johann Wagner, Austin Family Jewels
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 Los Flames (3:00)
HEADHUNTERS Nathan Payne, Slum Lord, Hazard of Industry
HOLE IN THE WALL TJ Hookers, It's Over, Secret Weapons (10:00)
JO'S HOT COFFEE Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)
JOVITA'S Gibber Jabbers (7:00)
LA PALAPA Chris Syler
LA ZONA ROSA Christmas Songwriters Showcase w/ Max Stalling, Fred Andrews, Roger Creager, Randy Rogers, Radney Foster (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Everyday People (10:30)
MANUEL'S Boomer Norman (11:30 am)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS PJ Liles' Gospel Project (10:00 am), LZ Love (10:30 am)
MOMO'S Phoebe & the Heebies, Porterdaids, Homegrown
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Tea Merchants (9:00)
NUOVO 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
PLUSH Car Stereo (Wars)
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney (8:30)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (5:30)
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

Sun 17

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Cyril Neville, Marcia Ball, Mary Hattersley's Blazing Bows, Mother Truckers (12:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Kat's Meow (noon), Aimee Bobruk (7:00)
BEERLAND Sexy Finger Champs, One-Eyed Doll, Map of Hawaii
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
CACTUS CAFE Eliza Gilkyson
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)

THE OAKS
 MUSIC/BEER GARDEN

Thursday, December 14 • 7pm
SONGWRITER NIGHT
 HOSTED BY SHARON MAY & LEW ANDRE MATTHEWS,
 SINGER/SONGWRITERS WELCOME ALL NIGHT!

Friday, December 15 • 8pm
ZACH HUCKABE
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12/16 ALAN HAYNES, 10P
 8 BALL DOWN 7P

12/17 ZAK PERRY BAND 10P
 8 BALL DOWN 8P

12/18 OPEN MUSICIAN JAM 10P
 LITTLE STEPH & FRIENDS 8P

12/19 ALAN HAYNES, 10P
 SWAMP SAUCE 8P

12/20 ZAK PERRY BAND 10P
 LAKE SNAKES 8P

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4-8PM

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Central Park
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Sunday Music starts at 12:30 pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15
JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ
americana

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16
CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA benefiting THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK
1pm - A CHILD'S XMAS IN WALES
2pm - A CHILDREN'S CONCERT
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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17
DONNA HIGHTOWER
jazz legend

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 14
ABI TAPIA
singer-songwriter

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17
JOHN FREMGEN & MITCH WATKINS
jazz christmas

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20
ERIC HISAW & CRISSY FLATT
americana duets

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21
BOXCAR PREACHERS
bluegrass christmas

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Dec 27 - TX EASTSIDE KINGS
Dec 28 - MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

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club listings < < FROM SUNDAY

RUTA MAYA KOOP Radio Holiday Benefit w/ Thulsa Doom, Low Line Caller (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Dawn Over Zero, Proof of Life (4:30)

SNAKE EYES VINYL Damp Heat, Tha Fucking Transmissions (4:30)

SPIDERHOUSE PATIO BAR Gala Renaissance Duo (noon)

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Gospel Stars (noon)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Lee and Andy

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (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

WOODY'S SOUTH Austin Guitar School Reception, Jordan Price & Shad Blair (7:00)

ANTONE'S Brandon Rhyder Texas Country Christmas w/ the Gunhands, Susan Gibson & Walt Wilkins (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Austin Lounge Lizards (8:00)

BEAUTY BAR IV Thieves, DJ Mel, We Explode

BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ Nathan Black

BLIND PIG PUB Patrick Fleming (10:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline

CACTUS CAFE Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales" CD Release w/ Chris Mares, Suzi Stern, Alex Coke, Rich Harney (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)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

EGO'S The Nortons, Will Knaak, Burnin' Mike Vernon (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Ashen

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Journey to the Center of the Sun

FRIENDS Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Texas 42 Nite

HANOVER'S Jay Dirks Band

HEADHUNTERS Under the Gun, Starchild, the Guest

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/ Martin Woldman (7:00)

JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)

LA PALAPA CL Smooth

LUCKY LOUNGE Swells Wave (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic Night

MAGGIE MAE'S Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Textcellorators (8:00)

MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Rick Muir

MOMO'S Meagan Tubb, Free Radical Social Hour, Marshall Jones (8:00), Free Radical Social Hour w/ Stefanie Fix & Jean Synodinos (8:30), Marshall Jones (11:45)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Matt Powell & Friends

NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jimi Lee & the Unsung Heroes, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)

THE PARLOR That Damned Band

RADISSON Larissa Ness (5:30)

RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Tats

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Beverly Hensley

ROMEO'S Lisa Clark

RUTA MAYA Jammin w/ the All-Stars (8:00)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider's Lonelyland, Joseph King, Ricky Stein (7:00)

SPIDERHOUSE PATIO BAR DJ Manatee Man (7:00), TXRD Lonestar Rollergirls Benefit w/ Little Bicycles, the Sweethearts, the Chalk Outlines (8:00)

STUBB'S Mr. Gnome

TAMBALEO Open Mic w/ Calvin Russell (8:00)

TROPHY'S The Meshbanes

WOODY'S SOUTH Billy Dee, Honky (7:00)

ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Christian Choral Society of Austin (7:30)

Mon 18

Tue 19

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Graham Weber (8:00)

BEERLAND mrandmsmay, Follow That Bird, Fire vs. Extinguisher

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow's Hardcore Country Band

BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Brian

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes

CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Vela & Jordan Minor (5:30)

CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR The Audrey Hepburn Heroine (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, Bellevue Jubilee (8:30)

EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Kat's Meow (9:30)

ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah

EMO'S Cartwright, Mike Truth All-Stars, War Against Sleep, Pocketful of Deng (9:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Todd B

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Undoing of David Wright, Teeners, Zom Zoms, Dmonstrations

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)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Open Mic Night w/ Sergio Martinez (8:00)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Leo Stokes

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JOVITA'S Ethan Azarian, Little Mikey & the Soda Jerks (6:00)

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LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox (10:00)

MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery (6:00)

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club listings ◀◀ FROM TUESDAY

MOMO'S Jo Carol Pierce, Ernie C. Ernst, Kacy Crowley, Elizabeth Donihoo (5:30)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D

ONE WORLD THEATRE Ana Sissnett Benefit w/ Illuminada, Lourdes Perez (7:00)

PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)

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THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin

RADISSON Murphy's Inlaws

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED EYED FLY Powderburn, Ricketts, Mower

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RED'S SCOOT INN Flip for Real! w/ DJ Fil

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine Trio (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jordan Minor & Shawn Line

RIVERBEND CENTRE Austin Symphony Orchestra Holiday Sing-Along (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROOM 710 Stoned City Creeps, the Cut-Offs, Them Shakes, Program

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati

RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music. Open Mic, Open Stage w/ MCO Flong (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (9:00)

SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Beth Black (6:00), Bobby Whitlock, Phillip Gibbs, Will Sexton (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Joe Woods

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke, Open Mic (9:00), Karaoke (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Jackson Taylor (9:30)

TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)

THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1 Marshall Jones & the Frontier Preenologists (7:00)

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 Jelly Jar, Shotgun Party (7:00)

ZILKER PARK Trail of Lights w/ Forest Trail Elementary Show Choir, Sunshine Generation of North Austin, Waterloo Winds (7:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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FRI, DEC. 15, 9PM 	JOHNNY GOUDIE & THE LITTLE CHAMPIONS
SAT., DEC. 16, 9PM 	MIKE ROSENTHAL
SUN., DEC. 17, 10PM 	EVERYDAY PEOPLE
MON, DEC. 18, 10PM 	THE SWELLS
TUE., DEC. 19, 10PM 	WAVE
WED., DEC. 20, 10PM 	BOOMBOX
THU., DEC. 21, 10PM 	ALPHA REV FEATURING CASEY MCPHERSON
SUN., DEC. 31, 9PM 	PRIMM

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club listings << FROM WEDNESDAY

WOODY'S SOUTH Leo Rondeau, Richardson Seeds (7:00)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:00)

Thu 21

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ANTONE'S Drop Trio, Groovin' Ground, Greyhounds (9:00)
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Wendy Colonna, Elana James & the Continental Two (4:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Rust Tones
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brent Adair (7:00)
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Hummingbirds
CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY Celtic Christmas w/ Serge Laine & Mark Stone, Austin Police Pipe w/ Heather Gilmer, Gregory Grene, Ed Miller, Tea Merchants, Cluan, Schola Cantorum of St. Mary's (8:00)
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)
CHAIN DRIVE DJ A! Right
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), Texas Renegade (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Banana Blender Surprise (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)
EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith, Dr. Paul White Quintet CD Release (6:00)
EMO'S Deadly Companions, Bellfuries, the Ugly Beats
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Cobo Maltese, the Authors, Paperwork, the Boxing Lesson, Promnite (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Johnny Goudie, Taylor Davis
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)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HEADHUNTERS Ruby's Jazz Garage
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
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Christine Albert, Best Love in Town (5:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Pimm (10:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)
MESA RANCH STEAKHOUSE Jon Emery (6:00)
THE MOHAWK The Sad Accordions, Klier Channel
MOMO'S The Hudsons, Will Dunlap, Lovett & Mercado, Brass Bed, The Hudsons, Will Dunlap, Lovett & Mercado, Brass Bed
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
THE OLD ALLIGATOR GRILL Third Coast Songwriters w/ Jon Dee Graham, Michael Fracasso, Ron Flynt, Edge City (8:00)

THE PARISH A Very Parish Christmas, Capital Area Food Bank Benefit w/ Loxsly; Zookeeper; Jeff Klein; Shearwater; Apha Rev; Alex Dupree; Zykos; Voxtrout; Tacks, the Boy Disaster; What Made Milwaukee Famous; Will Sheff (8:00)
THE PARLOR Aspen Murder, Quiet Nancy, Endingsilence, Oh God, It's Back
PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Ryan Briggs
RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Sedium, Lick Lick, Manager's Choice
RUTA MAYA Papa Mali's Soul of South Austin Holiday Reunion w/ Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers, Gospel Silvertones, Shelley King, LZ Love, Leeann Atherton, Meagan Tubb (7:00)
SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy Dee
SPEAKEASY JJ Usher Band (9:30)
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER Festival of Trees, Carver Museum Benefit w/ Pamela Hart, Dr. James Polk (3:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sean Russell (6:30)
WOODY'S SOUTH Mike Cross & Natalie Zoe w/ Laura Mordecai, Tommy Holden (7:00)
Z'TEJAS Brewer Nation (6:00)

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COMICS

How to Be Happy

by Shannon Wheeler



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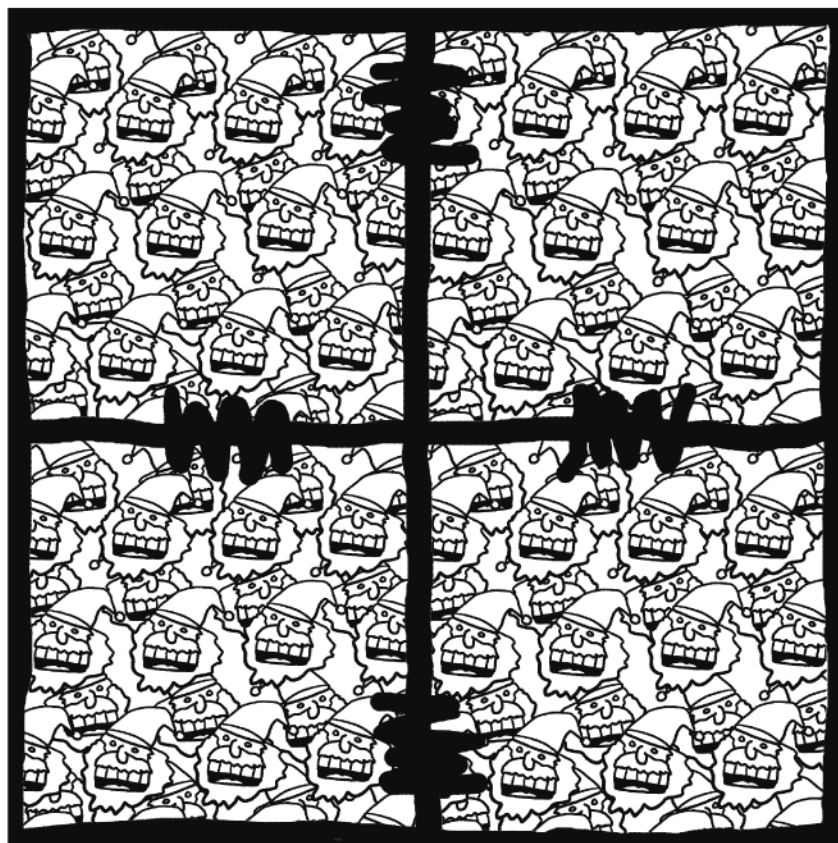
TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE



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FIND SANTA OR DIE



LITTLE PETEY MUELLER

BITTER YETI IN THE CITY

JASON STOUT
© 2006



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



The French didn't give women the right to vote until 1944.

NASA is thinking about a human mission to a near-Earth asteroid, gauging the scientific merit while testing out spacecraft gear and mastering techniques that could be useful if a space rock ever took aim for our planet.

It was Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham who started having lead singer Jagger call himself "Mick" rather than "Mike."

Tampons contain dioxin, a chemical used in bleaching the products, but which can also destroy body cells. The tampon industry is convinced that women need bleached white products in order to view the product as pure and clean.

The smallest perceptual time unit in music is called the "tatum" in honor of incomparable jazz pianist Art Tatum.

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

454-5767

austinchronicle.com/tradeup

CLASSIFIEDS

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 Activities
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

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

EMPLOYMENT

Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man? Well, we can't help you with that ... but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays. Austin Chronicle Employment section. It's a start.

125 GENERAL

ALL 30 individuals needed in campus area copyshop for various positions including copy clerk, binding, computer help, and cashier. From \$7/hr. Call 478-0871

ALL Computer literate individuals wanted for work beginning Dec 18th through late January \$8.00 and up based on experience. Call 478-3334

COPY OPERATOR High Speed Copier Operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 shifts available. Call 472-5353

COUNTER ATTENDANT with experience for Master Valet Cleaners PH:452-6772.

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\$1,000 Student Sign-On Bonus

Company-Paid CDL Training
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HOME BUSINESS Realistic \$250-500k first year potential. Call for free two min. msg. 800-897-8039

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-built, 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 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

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

LINE SERVER Night owls needed for restaurant in downtown Austin from 11p-4a approx. Please apply in person at 504 B Trinity (Between 5th & 6th). Must be friendly & outgoing!

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@outdoorhschool.com or call 1-800-696-3344ext. 239 or Check out www.outdoorschool.com

PART TIME



Children are our future.

Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-6:15 p.m. M-F. Starting pay \$9.00-\$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at 64 elementary schools. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org, or call 472-9929 x408.

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, 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

Looking for 10 people to work to replace 10 people who didn't.

\$680 per week - part-time.

Serious applicants only - don't waste my time.

Call Mr. Strong
512-420-9295.

TECHNICIAN TLC, LLC is looking for someone who has construction exp., is not scared of heights and can occ. travel. This is FT, with excellent pay. Please call: 512-444-5955, or send contact info and resume to: BATMANTLC@aol.com

130 HEALTHCARE

DENTAL PROVIDER RELATIONS

Ameritas Group Dental needs a self-motivated team player in the Austin area with excellent interpersonal skills. You will solicit, develop and maintain the high quality of our dental PPO networks. Position is based out of Austin and requires extensive travel. A 4-year degree or equivalent experience working in the managed care or dental field is pref. Detailed knowledge of dental procedures, dental and general insurance, excellent oral and written comm skills are required, in addition to typing and proficiency in MS Office apps. Send resume to: Lynette Moore, Ameritas Group Dental, 767 W. Tivoli Ln, Clovis, CA 93619. Fx :415-513-5317 lmoore@ameritas.com.

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.

LIVE-IN ATTENDANT for fun quadriplegic man; 50 yrs. Work half-week, room, board, \$1600/monthly. Lifting involved. No experience required. Call 4p-7p: 472-2432.

135 HOSPITALITY

ALL



FOOD SERVERS HOSTPERSONS

Please apply:
Monday - Friday
10-11am, 2-5pm.
2002 Manor Rd.

ALL



Are you in the know? Do you have what it takes to be a leader in the world's most global hotel company? If so, make it happen and apply now for a career with InterContinental Stephen F Austin Hotel, where a world of personal and professional opportunities exist. We currently have openings in **F&B, Guest Services and Housekeeping.** Apply online at www.careers.ichotelgroup.com.

The Inter-Continental Stephen F. Austin provides an excellent benefits package, which includes Health/Dental Insurance, 401(K), Short and Long Term disability, Worldwide Employee Discount, Free Shift Meals, and more. Drugscreen & Background checks required.

EOE, D/V, M/F

ALL POSITIONS



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



PLUCKERS IS NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS

Servers/Hosts/Cashiers/Cooks/Delivery Drivers welcome.

NO "FLAIR" REQUIRED

Apply in person at the following locations or online at www.pluckers.net

222 Rio Grande West Campus • 9070 Research #201-C Crossroads Shopping Center
300 N. Mays Crossing #300 Round Rock, TX

Pluckers is heading SOUTH for the winter!! Pluckers is currently hiring for our new upcoming SOUTH LAMAR location. Located at 3909 S. Lamar, we are looking to open in mid-February. We are looking to fill ALL POSITIONS before it's grand opening and will be training all qualified applicants at Burnet Rd. and Round Rock locations. In order to secure the best positions fill out an application at any Pluckers Wing Bar or apply online TODAY.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR WINGS, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE BIRDI

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
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 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 POSITIONS
Jason's deli
Are You Looking For A Job Where You Can Earn Great \$\$\$, Benefits & Shifts That Work Around Your Busy Schedule? IF SO, We Are Looking For you!!!
Interviewing for Hiring Delivery Drivers
(Start \$8/hr earning potential up to \$14 w/ tips) & **ALL other positions available!!**
401K, Health/Dental Insurance, & MORE! Drivers Must Have Valid DL, Current Insurance, Good Driving Record, Own Car & Be 18yrs or Older. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Apply in Person at one of the following locations:**

- Jason's Deli, 3300 Bee Caves Rd., Austin 78746
- Jason's Deli, 10225 Research Blvd., Austin 78759
- Jason's Deli, 1000 E. 41st, Austin 78751

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

BARISTAS
360 Uno, a unique Italian espresso and wine-bar, is now hiring barista. Great income!

3801 Capital of Texas N. Hwy. N. #G100. Apply at mail@360uno.com or call 512-327-5505

BARTENDER !BARTEND! Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

ALL
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)

COOKS AM/PM Line cook needed. Apply in person at The Dog and Duck Pub 406 W. 17th St.

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.

DOORMAN AND DJ Charlie's Austin now hiring exp. DJ and exp. doorman. For more information contact David 474-6811 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.

RESERVATIONS SALES Begin a career with Starwood Hotels and Resorts, a Fortune 500 Company. Reservation Sales Associates Full-time/part-time positions available You'll handle INBOUND calls on Starwood's 800 number, assisting travelers make worldwide hotel and resort throughout the eight different Starwood Hotel chains, including Sheraton and Westin. We offer: Excellent work environment, Great benefits and paid training. Starting pay is \$10.00/hour plus incentives Apply on line today! www.starwoodcareers.com EOE/M/F/D/V

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.

WAITSTAFF 360 Uno, an award-winning Italian cafe and wine-bar, is now hiring waitstaff. Great income!

3801 Capital of Texas Hwy. N. #G100. Apply at mail@360uno.com or call 512-327-5505

145
OFFICE/CLERICAL
ADMIN Front Desk/Admin Asst needed for Holistic Health center in Westlake. Responsibilities include greeting public, phone sales, appt setting, clerical duties, etc. Outgoing personality a must. Prefer MS Office and Quickbooks exp. Fax resume to 451-7434 or in person at 3001 Bee Cave Rd, Ste 210.

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)

150
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ACTIVISM
JOBS with the **SIERRA CLUB**
\$300-\$500/Week
• Stop Global Warming!
• Career opps & benes avail
• Work w/ Great People!

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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.

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YOU'VE DREAMED IT, MAKE IT REAL TODAY

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Classes start January 8, 2007

ON & OFF-LINE BRANDING

WEB APPLICATION PROGRAMMER
With a minimum of 5 years experience. Must have website and database driven skills.

Skills/Requirements.:

- Great communication skills with a focus on creating ecstatic customers.
- Enjoys doing things the right way vs the easy way.
- Expert at building web sites and applications using CSS/XHTML, PHP 4 & 5, APACHE, and MySQL and has strong optimization and production process skills.
- Open Source development experience.
- Experience with CMS and back end development (we use Xaraya).
- Experience with AJAX.

MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPER
Multimedia/Flash designer with a minimum of 3 years experience within an advertising agency, web development or interactive environment. Must have design/animation skills and an expert level in Action Script 2.0.

Skills/Requirements.:

- Great communication skills with a focus on creating ecstatic customers.
- Ability to convert Photoshop and Illustrator files to working HTML and Flash concepts, visual prototypes and motion demos to create the look and layout of the interface.
- Expertly build web sites and applications using Flash (ActionScript), CSS/XHTML, PHP, and has strong optimization and production process skills.
- Advanced Flash Experience with some design/animation skills and an expert level in Action Script 2.0.
- Has some experience with Streaming Media.
- Windows/Flash/QuickTime (and other) Media Encoding.

CONTACT
Please email resumè to pamela@blueclover.com with job title in subject line or fax it to 210.223.2581, thank you.

blue clover

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No Experience Needed!

3 Week Paid CDL Training

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Apply Online 24/7
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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

Holiday Jobs for Social Justice!!**Earn \$375/wk+ Bonus****Mon-Fri., 2PM-10PM**

Gain organizing, leadership, and campaign exp. by joining TX's leading citizen's group affecting progressive change. Full Benefits, Paid Training

Make a Difference & Get Paid!!www.texasenvironment.org

VOLUNTEERS HELP WANTED
VOLUNTEER IN AFRICA AIDS outreach, teach & community development. 14 mo incl. training in California. Teams start Feb & May! Fees/grants 510-637-9666 information@cctg.org www.cctg.org

155**PROFESSIONAL**

ENGINEER Associate Research Engineer - Conduct fluid dispense research activities to advance nano=imprint lithography technology. Send resume to Molecular Imprints Inc., Attn: Jerry DeVreugd, 1807 W. Braker Ln, Bldg C-100, Austin, TX 78758.

Advanced Micro Devices is recruiting for the following positions in Austin, TX:

- Design Engineer II (Job Code P28462)
- Device Analysis Engineer II (Job Code P23606)
- Device Technology Engineer II (Job Code P28607)
- Product Development Engineer II (P28504)
- Software Engineer I (Job Code P28485)
- Software Engineer II (Job Code P28518)
- System Design Engineer II (Job Code P28608)
- System Software Development Engineer II (Job Code P28601)
- Sr. Design Engineer (Job Code P28264)
- Sr. Device Tech Engineer (Job Code P28603)
- Sr. Process Development Engineer (Job Code P28602)
- Sr. Product Development Engineer (Job Code P28469)
- Sr. Software Engineer (Job Code P28605)

Submit resumes referencing the appropriate job title and code to IPTeam@amd.com. AMD is an EOE

160**RESEARCH STUDY****BIPOLAR DISORDER DO YOU HAVE THE SIGNS?**

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622<http://www.communityclinical.com>**GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER ALWAYS WORRYING?**

- Restless • Fatigued
- Tense Muscles
- Irritability • Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622<http://www.communityclinical.com>**HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED?**

- Sad or depressed mood
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622<http://www.communityclinical.com>**SCHIZOPHRENIA****CAN TEAR FAMILIES APART**

- Tendency towards isolation
- Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
- Problems with concentration
- Lack of energy and motivation

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622<http://www.communityclinical.com>

research STUDIES

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 _____ ✓
- Ascorbates _____ ✓
- Research Development _____ ✓

Jay H. von Bavel, M.D.
& Bernard L. Crosby, M.D.
3410 Far West Blvd. (at Monticello)
Ste. 140



For more information please call
512-349-0703



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



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

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- Sad or depressed mood
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

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Do you have the signs?

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Can tear families apart.

- Tendency towards isolation
- Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
- Problems with concentration
- Lack of energy and motivation

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

Always worrying?

- Restless
- Fatigued
- Tense muscles
- Irritability
- Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

165
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SOUTH

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Cedar Park/Leander (CL)

Leander

Cedar Park

Lake North (LN)

NW (N, NW, RN, 1N)

N (2N, 2)

NE (NE)

E (3, 3E, 5, 5E)

W (8E, 1B)

C (4)

S (6, 7)

SW (8W, 10, W, SW, LS)

SE (9, 11, SE, SC)

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263-7333 or 293-0276

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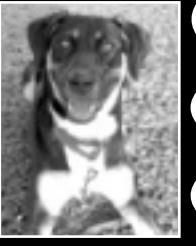
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455
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525 EVENTS

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FREE MOVIE SHOWING @ the Daily Grind - 16238 FM 620 - Every 2nd Saturday of each month. Come, relax and hang out!

530 GENERAL

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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

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

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF FRANCES LOUISE EARLY, Deceased, No. 85933 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

CHARLES EDMOND EARLY alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 11th day of DECEMBER, 2006, an Application for Independent Administration & Letters of Administration & 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 FRANCES LOUISE EARLY, 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 11th 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

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LORENZO "MIKE" FOWLER JR, Deceased, No. 85892 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

LAVERNE B FOWLER alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5th day of DECEMBER, 2006, an Application for Letters of Administration Determination of Heirs, and Declaratory Judgment in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LORENZO "MIKE" FOWLER JR, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Court-

house in Travis County, Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

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 5th 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

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-06-006141 To: DAVID WARREN PACHECO and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on DECEMBER 7, 2006, and said suit being number D-1-FM-06-006141 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF SOPHIA GRACE KOUNIADIS PACHECO AND DAVID WARREN PACHECO, ET AL, and In the Interest of HANNO ERASTUS PACHECO, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 07, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Becky Johnson, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
DAVID C WELLS
LAW OFFICE OF DAVID C. WELLS, P.C.

P.O. BOX 1907
AUSTIN, TX 78767
BUSINESS PHONE/FAX: (512)448-4330

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HERMINIA MACHADO BOTELLO, Deceased, No. 85894 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

MARGARITO MACHADO alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5th day of DECEMBER, 2006, a Combined Application for Letters of Administration and To Determine Heirship of the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of

the said HERMINIA MACHADO BOTELLO, 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 6th day of December, 2006.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
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

PARTICIPAL POSSE.
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, Chernoslav Subdivision No. 10, Plat No. 4/200 as Desc. In Vol. 9866, P. 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 County, 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 County, Plat No. 92/206, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described as being a portion as described in Volume 5019, Page 1681 and 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 aka 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 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, De Lorens (Dolores) Villatoro, and Texans Credit Union fka Texans 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,

AV1228 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 28, 2006 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

065062466	1992	LINC	4DR	P54CCC	TX	11LNLM81W0N733799
065062609	1994	STRN	4DR	K50B8H	TX	1G8ZG5590RZ342395
065062610	1986	HOND	2DR	N69ZXM	TX	JHMBAA5324GC059334
065062611	UNK	UNK	TRAL	53351Y	TX	8004
065063192	1995	BUIC	4DR	V76PHH	TX	1G4HR52L4SH403928
065063194	1990	BUIC	4DR	XWG639P	TX	1G4HR54C3LH428124
065063196	1989	CADI	4DR	W69MMP	TX	1G6KS511KU084655
065063198	1991	PONT	4DR	ZVX61C	TX	1G2HZ54C4M1230896
065063199	1977	LINC	2DR	755CRL	TX	7Y81A895532
065063201	1987	VOLV	4DR	954BDT	TX	VY1FA8840H1177127
065063203	1991	BUIC	4DR	R15SSJ	TX	1G4CW53L2M1645310
065063206	1988	BUIC	4DR	XWJ10V	TX	1G4AL51W5J6434047
065063208	1990	GE0	4DR	K35ZTD	TX	1Y1SK7164LZ050474
065063209	1987	FORD	4DR	M80YNX	TX	2FABP73F4HX220421
065063210	1992	PONT	2DR	X92YKZ	TX	1G2JC14H9N7536823
065063211	1992	MAZD	4DR	HFM91T	TX	JM18G2269N0433034
065063212	1988	MAZD	SW	SCZ39L	TX	JM18W622BJ0102219
065063214	1983	CHRY	4DR	802JXK	TX	2C3BF66P50R198654
065063216	2002	BIGT	UT	14YMMN	TX	4K8XN202021D80157
065063217	1993	ISUZ	VN	3JLR14	TX	JALB481A3P7007380
065063218	1996	FORD	4DR	T25PMZ	TX	2FALP71W1TX177219
065063220	1987	TOYT	4DR	N01BFX	TX	JT2AE83E7H4336858
065063223	1998	CHEV	4DR	C99GJC	TX	1G1NE52M4W6250103
065063910	1983	CADI	2DR	R17DYZ	TX	1G6AL578XD641754
065063920	1987	OLDS	2DR	993BCP	TX	1G3CW113XH4324829
065063944	1990	FORD	PK	71DDW2	TX	2FTJW35M1LCA52010
065063948	1989	GMC	PK	2BDM06	TX	1G1TDC14K3KZ552620
065063963	1986	TOYT	4DR	974HKP	TX	JT2SV12E7G0375962
065063971	1989	BUIC	2DR	C59NJM	TX	1G4EZ11C9KU417876
065063972	1996	DODG	VN	W76GDB	TX	1B4GP54L3TB225546

Guadalupe Mendez (In Rem Only), D.R. & L, Inc. aka 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 INTER-

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.

BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This column provides short responses to several sexual harassment questions received by "The Common Law."

I used to kid around and flirt with a woman friend at work. She recently asked me to stop and even used the phrase "sexual harassment." Can that really be sexual harassment?

It might be. It is tough to set out a bright-line rule, and much depends on the specific facts of each situation. Courts often decide exactly these kinds of disputes. It is very possible that while you thought "kidding around and flirting" was funny or flattering, your co-worker thought it was demeaning or offensive. Your co-worker has made you aware that your comments are unwelcome, so you should limit your conversations to only appropriate work-related issues.

Can a woman get in trouble for sexually harassing a man?

Yes. Laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace protect both males and females from unwelcome on-the-job sexual advances or conduct. Despite the perception that sexual harassment claims are only filed by woman, it is not uncommon for men to file sexual harassment claims. For example, 14.3% of all sexual harassment claims filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2005 were filed by men. Similarly, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that same-sex harassment (i.e., employee is victim of sexual harassment from other co-workers of same sex) is prohibited under federal law.

Can I get fired for making a sexual harassment claim?

No. The law prohibits an employer from retaliating against someone who files a sexual harassment claim or otherwise participates in a sexual harassment investigation. The U.S Supreme Court has traditionally applied a fairly broad view of "retaliation," which would include any action intentionally taken by an employer that would "dissuade" a "reasonable employee" from pursuing the sexual harassment claim. Anyone who believes they have been retaliated against in relation to a sexual harassment claim should contact the EEOC or a lawyer immediately.

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.

ESTS 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 An-

gelica 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

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 in 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 OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by the Travis County Sheriff's Office unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1) OWNER: UNKNOWN
1982 BUICK LE SABRE
VIN: 1G4AP37Y3CX127331
LP: 6163592 (IL)

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant of TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTHSIDE WRECKER, 4308 TERRY O LANE, AUSTIN, TX.
1987 CHEVY TRUCK CCL2482159423
1970 CHEVY PK CS140A139615
1978 FORD VAN E11BBBG1560
YAMAHA GOLF CART NO VIN #
YAMAHA MC JYARJ06EXTA032672
E Z GO GOLF CART NO VIN#

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle(s), the following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.

Garagekeeper:
A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC
2963 MANOR ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78722
(512)670-7578
1) 1993 Ford Escort
Plate # S06-94K Florida
VIN 1FAPP11J8PW360279
2) 1991 Mercury Grand Marquis
Plate # BLV-753 Oklahoma
VIN: 2MECM745MX653373
3) 1990 VW Jetta
Plate # 4FPM175
VIN: VVVWRA21GXLW506237
4) 1993 Toyota Tercel
No Plates
VIN: JTZEL4372RO4354136

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
53' RAPID TRAILER
VIN: 1GRAA0626TB021704
2)OWNER: GUADALUPE OCAMPO
1986 LINCOLN
VIN: 1LBNP96F6GY08197
3)OWNER: ISIDRO MIRELES
1990 MERCURY
VIN: 1MEPM604XLH618729
4)OWNER: ROBERT WINFIELD
1992 MERCURY
VIN: 1MEPM6043NH614220
5)OWNER: TANYA BOEHCK
1993 MAZDA
VIN: 1YVGE22A4P5160083
6)OWNER: JOSE JOCOBO
1992 TOYOTA
VIN: JTZEL46B2N0252829
7)OWNER: THOMAS TOUNGATE
1990 FORD
VIN: 1FACP50U8LA150340
8)OWNER: CLINTON PENA
1992 VOLVO
VIN: YV1AS880N1463987
9)OWNER: ELEANOR DALEY
1994 FORD
VIN: 2FAPP36XXRB105128
10)OWNER: BRADLEY NEVINS
1990 JEEP
VIN: 1J4FT58LXL108216
11)OWNER: HIPOLITO DE-RAMONA
1995 PLYMOUTH
VIN: 1B3ES47C1SD217528
12) OWNER: WILLIAM BALSANEK
1989 TOYOTA
VIN: JT2AE92E6K3250064
13)OWNER: CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
1988 HONDA
VIN: JHMCAS5540JC068011
14) OWNER: ALBERTO SI-FUENTES

1995 GMC
VIN: 1GTGC33F4SF008190
15) OWNER: JOSHUA PHELPS
1992 CHEVY
VIN: 1GNCS18W7N0152653
AUCTION: December 29, 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: FRANK & LINDA FAUCETTE
1994 HONDA
VIN: 2HGEJ1211RHS55414
2)OWNER: VALENTIN ROCHA
1991 LINCOLN
VIN: 1LNCMD83WOMY791309
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: 2HGED6356LH531473
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 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. GV502723, 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 233 and Volume 12096, Page 83 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas (Leander ISD Tax Acct# T261100000010050)
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# T219000000030051)

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# T21900000004A051)

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# T21900000004A051)

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 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 MARY BURGIVIN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters of Testamentary were issued on the 6th day of December, 2006, for the Estate of MARY BURGIVIN, Deceased, pending in Cause No. 85837 in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to: DIANE ENGLAND

Independent Executor
All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Based on the instruction of the Independent Executor that claims be addressed in

care of the Independent Executor's attorney, the address to which claims may be presented is:

DIANE ENGLAND
Independent Executor
Estate of MARY BURGEVIN, Deceased
c/o Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink
7793 Burnet Road #52
Austin, Texas 78757
DATED this 6th day of December, 2006.

DIANE ENGLAND
Independent Executor
Estate of MARY BURGEVIN, Deceased
by: /s/ RHONDA H. BRINK
Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink
7793 Burnet Road #52
Austin, Texas 78757
Phone: (512) 454-8400
FAX: (512) 454-2055
ATTORNEY FOR THE INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING A CLAIM AGAINST THE ESTATE OF VICTOR JAMES BOYCE, JR. Deceased, Cause No. 85,806; In Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. On December 6, 2006 David E. Soileau of Austin, Texas qualified as Independent Executor without bond and administration of the estate of Victor James Boyce, Jr. has commenced. All persons having claims against the estate of Victor James Boyce, Jr. are required to present those claims to Bradley Seals, counsel for the executor, at the address shown below before the estate is closed and within the time prescribed by law. Bradley Seals, Barron & Newburger, 1212 Guadalupe, Suite 104, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ALLISON DICK HEWITT, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that the original letters of independent administration without bond for the estate of Allison Dick Hewitt, deceased, were issued on December 8, 2006, in Cause No. 85704, which is being administered in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to James E. Davis, III as independent administrator. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law in care of the independent administrator's attorney at the following address: Thomas O. Barton, McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P., 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF KATHERINE M. KLAUKE On October 17, 2006, original letters of administration were issued to me by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, acting in Cause No. 85288, styled Estate of Katherine M. Klauke, Deceased, and in which court the matter is pending. I now hold these letters of administration, and administration of the estate of Katherine M. Klauke has commenced.

All persons having claims against the estate of Katherine M. Klauke are required to present those claims to me at the address shown below prior to the expiration of the limitations period on the claims, before the estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law.

Dated: December 4, 2006
Edward J. Klauke
Administrator of Estate of Katherine M. Klauke, Deceased
5326 Glenmere Lane
Spring, Texas 77379

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY T. BENNETT, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary

in the Estate of Jeffrey T. Bennett, Deceased, were issued on December 5, 2006, in Cause No. 85,771 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Elizabeth Ann Stathos, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:

Elizabeth Ann Stathos
Independent Executor, Estate of Jeffrey T. Bennett, Deceased
c/o Don E. Walden
7200 North Mopac, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78731
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 5th day of December, 2006.

/s/ Don E. Walden
State Bar No. 20672800
7200 North Mopac, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 349-9595
(512) 795-8079 Fax
Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Royce G. Brandt, Deceased, were issued on 12/6/2006, in Docket No. 85793, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Marlene P. Brandt.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims shall be addressed to: "Representative, Estate of Royce G. Brandt

c/o John W. Brodnax
John W. Brodnax, PC.
1202 Lakeway Dr., Suite 1
Lakeway, Texas 78734"
(512) 261-0101
DATED the 6th day of December, 2006.
/s/ John W. Brodnax
ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters testamentary for the ESTATE OF RONALD LYNN MILLARD, deceased, were issued on November 29, 2006, in Cause Number 85,780, ESTATE OF RONALD LYNN MILLARD, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to ELIZABETH ROSE MILLARD, Independent Executor. The address is: ELIZABETH ROSE MILLARD, Independent Executor, c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Texas 78750-1832. 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: December 11, 2006.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of L. Ruth Owens, Deceased, were issued on December 6, 2006, in Docket No. 85,623, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Diane Scroggs. The address of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, PC., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 6th day of December, 2006.
Scofield & Scofield, PC.
Attorneys for the Estate
By: /s/ Sam D. Colletti

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Anastacia Rodriguez Hipolito, Deceased, were issued on December 5, 2006, in Docket No. 85,816, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Pauline Beasley aka Pauline Beezley. The address of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, PC., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 4th day of December, 2006.
Scofield & Scofield, PC.
Attorneys for the Estate
By: /s/ Sam D. Colletti

**Preston J Inc,
Preston Dugas,
President, Preston
Dugas Jr, Director,
Jacqueline Dugas,
Director DBA Wine
Styles is Making
Application with
the Texas Alcohol-
ic Beverage Com-
mission for a Wine
and Beer Retailer's
Permit On the Ad-
dress of 4301 W.
William Cannon,
Big B Suite 190,
Austin, Travis
County, Texas.**

SECTION 00010 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work required for the construction of Steiner Ranch, River Dance Phase Four A Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements and South Quinlan Park Road Lift Station Improvements will be received at the office of: Bury+Partners, Inc., 3345 Bee Caves Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78746 until 2:00 p.m., January 16, 2006. Bids will be opened publicly and reviewed by the Owner. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with name and address of the BIDDER and the following words:

PROPOSAL FOR Steiner Ranch, River Dance, Phase 4A WATER, WASTEWATER AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND SOUTH QUINLAN PARK ROAD LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS.

The STEINER RANCH, RIVER DANCE, Phase 4A Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements and South Quinlan Park Road Lift Station Improvements proposal includes ±3,200 LF Right of Way Preparation; ±2,700 LF of 18"-30" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; ±4,000 LF of 8"-12" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; ±3,500 LF of 8"-12" gravity wastewater sewer lines with manholes and wastewater appurtenances; ±2,300 LF of 2"-8" wastewater force main, cleanouts, valves and associated appurtenances; 1 lift station with associated equipment; temporary erosion controls, improvements to the existing South Quinlan Park Road Lift Station and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drain-

age improvements. All work must conform to State of Texas, City of Austin, County of Travis and Water Control and Improvement District #17 rules and criteria.

Copies of the Plan, Specifications, and Bidding Documents will be on file at the office of Bury+Partners, Inc., 3345 Bee Caves Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78746, where they may be examined without charge. Copies may be examined or obtained from the ENGINEER on or after 1:00pm, December 28, 2006, for a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per set. Checks for Plans and Specifications, and Bidding Documents shall be made payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, LTD. A Cashier's Check, Certified Check or acceptable BIDDER's Bond payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the BIDDER will enter into a contract and execute bonds within ten (10) days of award of the Contract. Performance and Payment Bonds shall also be executed on the forms furnished by the OWNER and shall specifically provide for "Performance" and for "Labor and Materials Payment". Each bond shall be issued in an amount if one hundred percent (100%) of contract price by a solvent Surety company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to the OWNER.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive any and all technicalities and formalities in bidding. The OWNER reserves the right to determine which bids are lowers and best, and to award the Contract on this basis. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after opening of the bids. If a submitted bid is withdrawn within said period, bid guaranty shall become the property of the OWNER, not as penalty, but as liquidated damages, or OWNER may pursue any other action allowed by law. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on January 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Taylor Woodrow Office at 3405 Grimes Ranch Road, Austin, Texas 78732. Prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the project site.

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, where 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 Bell, 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 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

Lot 16, 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 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
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.

cat TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WIFE DRIVING LIKE A CLOWN MIGHT HAVE HARMED BRAKES

Dear Tom and Ray:

My wife drives a 1998 Subaru Outback Legacy with 110,000 miles on it. She recently had a dealer do a full brake job. Last night, when coming home from the circus, she forgot to take the parking brake off and drove home approximately 15 miles with smoke and a burning-brake smell trailing behind. I guess she had trapeze tricks and tumbling in her mind instead of proper auto care. My questions: How much damage did she do, and should I expect to have to pay for another brake job?

— Tim

RAY: No, you should only have to pay for another half a brake job, Tim.

TOM: Actually, you might not have to pay for anything. The '98 Outback came with two different brake configurations. The high-end Outbacks had disc brakes on all four wheels. Disc brakes make lousy parking brakes.

RAY: So in that car, there are separate drum-brake parking brakes on the rear wheels. On that model, even if you wore out your parking brake, your regular brakes would be fine. That's the best-case scenario.

TOM: However, many Outbacks came with disc brakes on the front wheels and drum brakes on the rear. And on those models, the rear drum brakes are also the parking brakes. So if you have drum brakes on your rear wheels, some damage might have been done.

RAY: If the parking brake was just on lightly, the drums might be fine. But since you say there was "smoke" involved, you need to investigate further. Typically what happens when the drums overheat is that they warp. In that case, you might notice a pulsing in the brake pedal when you come to a stop.

TOM: And if the brakes got really hot, the brake linings, which are glued to the shoes, may actually have come off. So have your mechanic take off the rear wheels and do a visual inspection.

RAY: And don't be mad at your wife for this, Tim. There's not a day that goes by that we don't hear about some clown causing problems on the road.

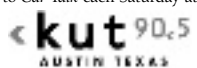
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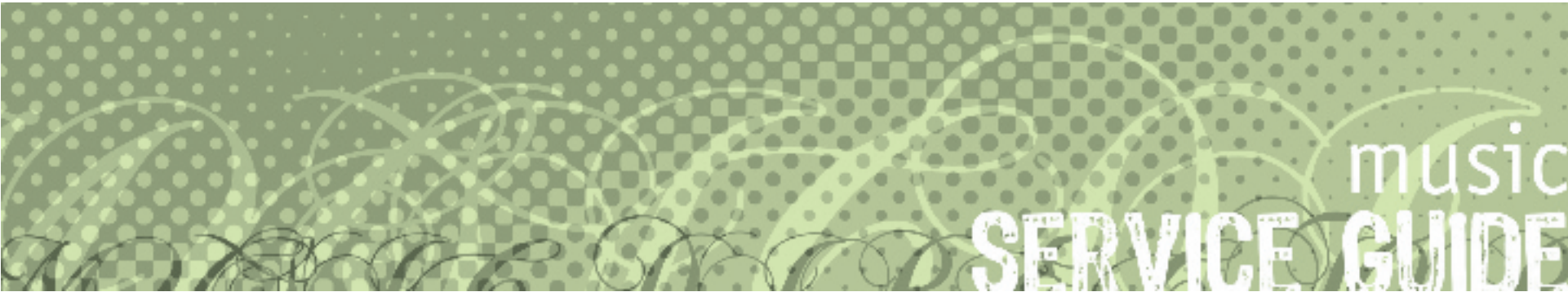
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▼ **Tx24u**

FUN AND ORGASMS

We're just your average couple who are completely in love with each other...we just want to add something extra...you. We're both open-minded, intelligent people who love to laugh. We like music (he's obsessed), eating out, cooking, and shopping. She's a BBW, so another smart, curvy girl would fit in perfectly. (Not a requirement) We also both have a fantasy of finding that special T-Girl to get to know and play with. Just take a chance and write us...we'd love to hear from you!

read the rest of **TX24U's** profile or
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THE LUV DOC

Merry F*king Xmas • Fri., Dec. 15**
10pm • Coldtowne Theater
4803 Airport Blvd • www.jermpollet.com

How can Christmas get you laid? Good question. A holiday predicated on immaculate conception doesn't exactly scream crazy monkey sex. Sure, there are elves, assorted jingly livestock, sprigs of mistletoe and hot toddlers throughout the season, but that doesn't necessarily mean you're going to end up in a Motel 6 with a grease gun full of K-Y and a combination of any of the preceding. You have to work for that kind of scenario. A lot of people like to rev up their mack at the office Christmas party. Why not? Getting drunk with co-workers is always a win-win situation right up to the morning after. And, as the song says, there has to be one, so you might as well do something that will earn you at least a year's worth of hushed murmurs as you walk by the water cooler. If there is one occasion where it's nearly appropriate to unleash a drunken, maudlin soliloquy about your undying love for the hot blonde in personnel, the OCP is it. Or, maybe it's time you let that stud in accounting know that loose lips may sink ships, but they perform some other pretty amazing feats as well. Don't hold back, nearly all questionable behavior is forgivable when you're drinking on the company dime, so if you get caught in the supply closet dry-humping the boss' wife, make sure to mention right up front that you are cursed with an alcohol dependency disability that is covered by your group health policy. Remember: The first step is admitting that you have a problem. The second step should be quick and to the right – to avoid your boss' wildly thrown right-cross haymaker. In the workplace it's always best to have a strategy for success, especially when you're drinking. Nonetheless, if you're one of those overly cautious types who doesn't like to shit where you eat, other opportunities abound. For instance, this Friday at the Coldtowne Theater, Jerm Pollet of the Sinus Show is hosting Merry F***king Xmas, a screening of Christmas-themed porn films with analysis and commentary by Jerm himself. Think of it this way, if you can't get laid this Christmas, at least you can watch. If you want to get drunk however, you'll need to BYO toddie.

YOUNG SEX FIEND

Just got out of a relationship and looking for some hot fun. Well endowed gentlemen a plus. I'm up for almost anything. Trust me, you'll keep cumming back for more. **missJ**, 19, **#119914**

YES PLEASE MASTER

Submissive woman would love to find an honest Master to help me become the submissive that i can only dream of. **subntx**, 53, **#119874**

BIG BREASTED BOMBSHELL

Looking for a man who appreciates an hour glass figure and big, beautiful all natural breasts for play, discreet encounters, or a relationship. Big, muscular guys are a turn-on! **DDarling**, 33, **#119360**

LIBRARIAN LOVER

In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 26, **#119103**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 21, **#119045**

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Masturbation is okay, but I miss sex. I like 'em tall, athletic, attentive, creative/romantic, intelligent/philosophical. I/you live centrally and exercise daily. Looking to enjoy life/safely satisfy my sexual cravings. Peace! **she_bop**, 38, **#118419**

ROMANTIC NERD

I am a big nerd, I enjoy intelligent debate, gaming and a little romance. I love cuddling and long makeout sessions. I am always looking for new adventures in bed. **AmbyRhodes**, 19, **#115371**

SECRET FUN

couple looking for a good time Looking for cute couples and hot girls. Disease Free Please!!! **2for1ismorefun**, 22, **#119940**

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**

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...

Waut_sum_fun, 27, **#118971**

COUPLE LOOKING 4FUN....

Fun-loving couple, confident in their relationship. Looking to expand our sexual relationship. She is bi-curious and ready to experience new things. He wants to come along for the ride. **nikki32aus**, 33, **#118935**

SEXY GUYS 4LADIES

Two sexy straight latin guys 33 and 31, Looking for, married, single or lonely ladies. Couples (man and woman) also, for 3some fantasies. We are proportionate, clean, and really discrete! **latinking**, 32, **#101212**

SUPER SONIC CHRONIC!

Hi, I'm looking for a submissive, beautiful, sturdy(hal) chick to cum play with my boyfriend and I. I prefer a swf 18-23 I'm 21. HAVE to be extremely submissive& willing. **Croniczonit420**, 21, **#118330**

FIESTY LITTLE THING

i may be fat but let me tell you i can **lilome**, 24, **#118488**

OH MY HEAVENS

We are an attractive, well-educated couple looking for bi-sexual women/couples (man and woman) for discreet encounters. We are relatively inexperienced, and seek attractive, height/weight proportionate parties interested in no-drama fun. **Pollette**, 25, **#117341**

BIMOMMIE

Discreet Like Minded Friend for occasional "Playdates". I have a man, but miss the touch of a woman. Someone has to be like me in Austin! MWFNSDD-expect similar. **Sophia**, 36, **#119909**

MOVE ME

I'm looking for a special girl who can help me get to the next level. I want a hot girl, more aggressive 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 satisfying me until i cant take it anymore.... **curiousblonde**, 23, **#119791**

SEXY, SASSY, SUBMISSIVE

like women, looking for playmates.... i like to roleplay,submissive, not shy...i am looking for a lady who wants 2 play with me and a friend, (male).he likes to watch. **lizziecreme**, 22, **#119622**

SHE'S A FREAK

I am mysteriously candid. Honesty is my best personality trait. I have never been afraid to speak my mind. I am not afraid to hear what people have to say. **LOTUS1983**, 23, **#119471**

MARRIEDBBW LOOKING FORFRIENDSHIP/FUN

I am 5'9, plus size married woman. 30 years old looking for another plus size woman. For ROMance and friendship. Age/Race not issue. Only serious people please. **BiWomanBBW**, 30, **#119088**

WANT ME?

im looking for some one to share secret fanciys and sexual dreams. I like to alk about what we would to to each other. e-mail me findout what i like. **sunflower**, 19, **#101035**

LOOKINGFOR SEXY FEMALE

Hi 19 yr old Blk/Cherokee looking for a discreet encounter ith another female, race, no issue. I havent really done anything with another woman.So Im willing to try anything. **xxxxbrexxxx**, 19, **#118251**

VOYEUR SEEKS COUPLE

SWF average build voyeur seeks mm or ff couple to view. Also seeks m or f for discreet sex/play. Disease free, please. **PantsConquistador**, 18, **#119714**

BI-GIRL WANTS PLAY

I'm looking for nice, fun, ddf & clean playmates. I'm friendly, chubby, fun, smart and very sexual. I'm not looking for a relationship, just friends. With benefits, of course. **miasola67**, 39, **#119279**

SMALL TOWN GIRL

small town girl looking for someone to show her the ways in the bedroom. Very curious and want to explore. **smalltown**, 24, **#118623**

WANTED: KINKY GIRL

I'm adorable and I hope you are too! I would be happy to cater to your kinkiest, darkest and weirdest fantasies. Would you help me with mine??? **KinkyDoll**, 19, **#117573**

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**

THEHEATISON

Looking to meet girls/guys(orgroups) to get together for dinner and drinks and see whats what. Basically attractive healthy people that want to have a good time, i'm up for anything! **mrcoffeeman81**, 25, **#116510**

UP4ALMOSTANYTHING

im very open minded and welling to try new things.. very well endowed n DDF,i have photos to exchange. **up4almostanythingg**, 26, **#116083**

HAPPY STICK

Hello, this is a laid back Bisexual male looking to make friends or just have a good time. Love to do many things. Looking for the same. **realmann77**, 28, **#115825**

KINKY, SUBMISSIVE, BI-MALE

Kinky 24-y/o bi-curious male seeks women, couples, and select men for discreet encounters, friendships and possible long term relationships. Prefer ages 18-40, healthy and clean. **mrk-bigglesworth**, 25, **#115729**

....

... **robison**, 21, **#119745**

F2M SEEKS FUN

married lonely f2m house boy seeks woman for sexy encounters.into music,nature and fun.must be discrete and clean.no fatties, druggies,or clingy chics. no strings attached.lets just explore and have fun. **saphira**, 30, **#117747**

SEXY TS

i'm a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. i'm 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. i'm very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. i'm 28 years old. **nicole_anais**, 29, **#115140**

NEW KINDA GIRL

For a New Year, "Take a walk on the wildside" with me. Im a hot Transexual interested in sexy fun with guys who like Chicks with something extra. no strings. **BlondeHottie**, 32, **#101055**

OLDER WOMEN LOVER

SWM 5'10" Well endowed seeks sexy older women/couples for fun. I'm mature, and very open minded. I understand being discreet is important. Older women are so sexy to me.

AnonymousGuy, 26, **#119986**

EAGER 2 PLEASE

Looking erotic explortaions in all fashions!!!! Open to almost anything!! Aim Am2 please indeed. **mnw1980**, 26, **#119970**

FANTASIES

i m looking for full fill my fantasies as well as yours..i m very dominating and love role play... **charmingaustinguy**, 31, **#119966**

FOR GOOD TIMES

I need to experience more women. Expand my horizons. I'm willing and ready to learn new things so ladies, teach. **Capn_Tim**, 25, **#119929**

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**

SARCASTIC, INTELLIGENT, TABOO.

Black sense of humor and openminded libido a must. I'm just a cynic with a lustful heart trying to find a woman to laugh at it all with. **Hobbsian**, 28, **#119799**

HOT LIPPS

white,south american,or asian women is what i'm lookin for.i'm extremely attracted to women with pouty lipps. I'm lookin for someone who is h/w/p, slender, or hardbody. **blade2112**, 34, **#119740**

ALL NIGHT LONG

im new in austin, looking for a girl who is willing to try new things, sometimes i let my imagination run wild, but who cares if your havin fun right? **bmull512**, 19, **#119729**

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Hi, if you are hot and looking for a discreet encounter look me up. I want to live out that "porn star" fantasy with you. **funboy**, 30, **#119596**

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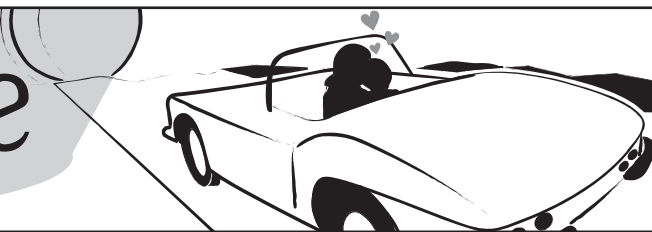
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women SEEKING men

FUN LOVING

I have been in Austin for about 4 years now and love it. I am looking to meet some nice, educated, down to earth people-who know how to have fun.

PatsGal, 28, #119984

SOUNDS LIKE FRANCE

I love Dorothy Parker, the pixies, teaching myself catalan, breaking rules, and reciting the lyrics to Regulators (warren g. and nate d. of course). **ladycake**, 28, #119941

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

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!! **ellis_star**, 20, #119894

SARCASTIC TWENTY-SOMETHING accompany to the dog park, to zilker, barton springs, etc. i'm pretty laid-back and looking for the same. **ilikemydog**, 24, #119858

DOWN-TO-EARTH MIDWESTERN GIRL

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

LOVE TO GIVE

I am looking for someone to give and share with as much as they will give and share with me. Love, laughter, life. **cedwacre**, 51, #118034

SOUTH AUSTIN GIRL

Im just regular person that wants to meet someone fun loving. My favorites thing to do is go to Alamo drathhouse 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**, 30, #119687

SEEKING SUGARDADDY

Make no mistakes, I'm seeking a wealthy, lonely man, preferably 50-65, for a mutually beneficial relationship. Absolutely no sex. Intelligent conversation and a thoughtfully appreciative/lovely ear provided on my end. **echinatebutloveable**, 22, #119655

men SEEKING women

COMPASSIONATE HUMAN MALE mellow, quiet, introspective, humble, artistic male in search of friendship/relationship with single, athletic, artistic, intellectual female seeking same. **voivod2001**, 39, #120000

U FOUND THE 1

I consider myself a charming fun loving person who is very down to earth and can make people laugh.I like to go out with friends&PartY but also like stay in. **texasniceguy**, 69, 25, #119996

FUN GUY LOOKING

Just ASK and i will tell. **shaun1021**, 27, #119725

COOL FUNLOVING ENERGETIC

Back in Austin and wonder why I left. Life is too short not to try and make new friends, and live life as if there is no guarantee for another day. **cabron**, 52, #119834

PUNCHDRUNKPOET SEEKS PARTNER

Looking for a sweet girl to spend some time with, who is honest,open, and interesting. I'm an artistic type,a little shy,love to laugh, music, movies.I plan to be a professor. **shawn_waits**, 29, #119815

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. **Monkey-fun**, 30, #119816

INTELLIGENT ADVENTUROUS

looking for someone who loves to go out for the night or stay in for a fine dinner and a bottle of wine. A soulmate or playmate, attractive and conscieus. **M007**, 47, #119770

women SEEKING women

IT'S TIME

I'm the- dreamer that keeps you awake love song you yearn to sing whisper who captivates thoughts pedestal who holds your fantasies Desire more Uncover treasures Loves scent never fade. **romanticheart**, 38, #119921

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! **TheWhitniss**, 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

Freespirted,easygoing, and laid back, I'm interested in meeting a woman who enjoys spontaniaty, outdoor life, and animals. You are soft tomboyish type, emotionally and financially free. hight/weight proportionate. Lets cock-tail. **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, BICURIOS

I am very open and honest, I want to find a nice girl, am bi curious and want a nice girl to casually date. **Spunkynm**, 20, #119558

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CUTE CREATIVE CHICK

Looking for someone who shares my likes: [all things cute] [bedtime stories] [boxer shorts] [caffeine] [cartoons] [day-dreaming] [fried rice] [hand-made gifts] [holding hands] [individualism] [knowledge] [quiet moments] [radical ideas] [words]. **Jezebel**, 34, #119646

LITERALLY LOSTIN AUSTIN

I am a music junkie, coffee addict, and insomniac. Fairly new to Texas and need a tour guide/ escort. **SMuDge**, 26, #119607

CURVY GAL SEEKING

Creative small BBW seeking man to make me laugh till I cry, dance in the rain and make general fools of ourselves while growing together. Surprise me. **SusieQ7855**, 22, #115413

STUBBORN, WITTY, PLAYFUL

Divorced. Looking for friends, lovers, activity partners. Would love to be part of a wine tasting party. Not a gym buff. Like to stay fit and active through life activities. **mary**, 41, #119521

SERIOUSLY CRAZY....

Looking for a unique man that will appreciate my strong will without trying to quench my passion-if you are a crazy, secure, worldly MAN -I can't wait to meet you. **Kali**, 34, #119518

PROM QUEEN WANTED

I enjoy Harley rides and seeing the Longhorns lose.Love good steak and a good bourbon.I support the President and the war on teeror.That should make the left wing wackos cringe. **maidenfan**, 40, #119992

MR. WRONG

I'm a drummer / graphic designer / light-ing designer that just recently moved to town. I wanna go out and explore the town. **Cbyars**, 25, #119965

BRAINY HARD-BODY

I'm active, super-fit physically and mentally, and looking for someone with whom to share my interests. I'm a great lead - want to dance? **dbs**, 34, #119949

CHECK IT OUT

I currently am in the home business opportunities industry, with the rest of my time I relax. If i wanna know more shoot me an e-mail here. **kilgorekyle**, 22, #119902

ART/MUSIC LOVER

Love to meet someone for a fun date and let fate take its course. **Thunder-bird**, 29, #118084

JAZZZZZZZZZ...

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

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. **sun-nyafternoon**, 36, #119847

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

OUTSIDE THE BOX

No one but you can create the state of mind that you are in at any given moment. Each moment is in essence, eternal. Spend a minute with me. **simplyfree**, 45, #119315

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

SEEKING SERIOUS SOULMATE

I'm a butterfly with feet firm on the ground, An eagle with eyes on the future, a tiger with a search for excitement and a survivor with a forgiving heart. **GypsylnGlitter**, 49, #118972

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. Wittytness is key.Must be sexually confident.Lets play,shall we? **Mind-spank629**, 39, #118416

JINGLE BELLS

Do you enjoy hanging out, cooking, movies, plays, coffee, walking the dog? Holidays can be lonely. Let's make them fun! **Rascal**, 51, #117872

men SEEKING men

LIKE TO WATCH

Looking for younger guys for an occasional hook-up, dining partner or cuddle buddy. Very straight acting, not out. Enjoy videos. Love to watch others. **Trebor1159**, 39, #120022

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

BOOT-SCOOTIN' COWBOY

Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 50, #119526

SEEKS UNLOVED "SON"

Have you ever felt unloved or appreciaed? Daddy type seeks worthy young man for companionship. Please, no drugs, total honesty, no criminal activity, unless minimal as a minor. Your interest? **Classic**, 55, #119308

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY

I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 23, #118639

SHOW STOPPER

I'm a young adult. I'M a freshman at ACC planning on transferring to Texas Tech. I'm 5'11", weight 180, brown hair and brown eyes. I'm mixed with white and mexican. **derrick2006**, 18, #119156

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.Yyrs celibate and ready to come out of my cave. more fun than you can shake a stick at. **riotchild**, 41, #118067

TALL, BLOND, HANDSOME

My name is Greg, I am 48 y.O. very down to earth. very health conscious, love the outdoors. Am looking for serious loving man looking for long term relationship. **Greg**, 48, #117595

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

IT'S ALL GOOD!

Looking for a boyfriend? I am Hispanic with a lot to offer.I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest,no drugs,is that you? Let me know. **Hus-bandMaterial**, 49, #115672

ON THE MARKET

I am an honest professional person looking for the same. Love hairy beefy guys and want to meet that special one for intimate times. Let's end the year positively together. **ronintex**, 55, #115402

PLAYS WITH CARS

Lookin' for a masculine guy from mid 20's to early 50's to get to know and hang out with in Round Rock. See online loverslane ad for more on me. **freshsteeds**, 48, #115162

Ladycake

SOUNDS LIKE FRANCE

I dance around my apartment often, run everyday, throw ridiculous themed costume parties.

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JUST friends

SOUTH AUSTIN BABE
I'm looking for someone to sing songs to me and cuddle me after. I love music and have had music in my life in the past and miss it. **Looking4SomeoneNew**, 24, [#119657](#)

DARE TOBE REMARKABLE!
I am a shy, but easy going femme. Looking for friendship. Looking for females to join me for games, movies, foot rubs, and dinner. Please be open, honest and funny. **Looking4SomethingNew**, 24, [#119938](#)

KRAZY SEXXY KEWL
I'm from SC,I like Austin.I haven't met young ppl 2 hang w/ I like to be honest and upfront with people that's what I would want. **JelliaSC_ATX**, 19, [#119924](#)

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](#)

PASSION FOR DANCE
Intelligent, attractive, outgoing, witty female ISO occasional dance partner on weekends. No heavy drinkers. Please be sincerely interested in dance. Please have social grace and manners. **passionfordance**, 46, [#119832](#)

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. **ThelCW**, 25, [#119720](#)

messages

MERRY XXX-MAS TO my sexy wee lovely.i love you sweetheart. -BIG STINKY

SUGAR PIE, IT'S all good! Your Sugar Bean

MY FANTASY BECAME a reality one steamy night. And now it's a fading memory.

IF I HAD to bet on Humanity I'd never cash a ticket.

DOES ANYONE KNOW JOHN C. COOK and how to contact him, old bandmate

NASTY HABIT, I really do like that shirt. 6 weeks

KATIE IS SORRY she forgets things. here is a message.

I LOVE YOU, Vicki...

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?

AZTEC MEXI-CAN: I can't wait to be with you each and every day!

LOOKING 4 AUSTINIDNEZ-MAN in Austin Tx. My Handle has something to do with the animal family.—hint hint.

JB-I LOVE YOU more than ever lets forget the past and embrace the future-MD

HOPE YOUR HAPPY from the bottom of my heart I will always Love you. Love Dylan

THIS IS FOR Ariels of the sea waiting for the ship to set sail Love Dylan

a Shot in the Dark.....→

WHOLE FOODS LUNCH
I was the girl with red hair, eating lunch outside. You were the cute guy meeting with your friend who works there. Yes, you caught me checking you out. **When: Tuesday, December 12. Where: Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901307](#)

I FIGURED OUT...
my favorite word: coffee. we could brew our own and take it to the trail of lights and have a roaring good time with scarves and everything, if you like. **When: Tuesday, December 12. Where: the hideout. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901306](#)

ACC RGC FREETIBET
No idea who you are- man or woman. You posted a "Boycott Made in China" sign on the bulletin board in the annex. I'd like to meet you. **When: Tuesday, December 12. Where: ACC RGC. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901305](#)

MET ABOUT 1988
i lived in austin we met in a way that was different i said you want to get married.been trying to find you **When: Tuesday, June 5, 2001. Where: back in 1988.at red lion. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901304](#)

DANIEL FROM (910)
You had just moved to town. You gave me your number. It took me a YEAR to get up the nerve to call. Of course, you've changed your number. **When: Wednesday, December 21, 2005. Where: Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901302](#)

HALCYON - BRADFORD
I bruised my chin when my jaw hit the ground at the sight of you. Grind my beans Braaad-boy. Llama me. Santiago. **When: Thursday, December 7. Where: Halcyon. You: Man. Me: Man.** [#901285](#)

CARLOS/CHARLIES 12/8
You served my friends i margaritas. I was the network engineer playing in the cover band downstairs. come to my real bands show, or dinner and a movie sometime. **When: Friday, December 8. Where: carlos and charlies. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901301](#)

COSMIC CAFE WAITRESS
You: Soft-spoken Cosmic Cafe waitress with a beautiful aura. Me: Cosmic Cafe first-timer that was sold on the stir fry. Grab some veggies sometime? **When: Monday, December 11. Where: Cosmic Cafe. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901300](#)

BOOKSTORE
i rang up your outrageous film magazine bill **When: Wednesday, December 6. Where: bookstore. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901295](#)

HIPSTER, RED JEEP!
Sometimes you're with your dog, sometimes you're drinking your coffee with a NYTimes, wearing those glasses you wear far too rarely, sometimes I want to tell you I adore you. **When: Sunday, December 10. Where: Cruisin' in your red jeep. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901299](#)

HERBOLOGIST AT HAI-KAI
I..was..shy..but..couldn't let you get away. Didn't get your number, forgot your name but thoughts of your beauty still linger in my minds eye nostalgically. What herbs have you..for..an..aching-heart. **When: Monday, December 11. Where: Hai-Kai off of Oltorf. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901303](#)

SALVATION ARMY S.LAMAR
we both had on woolblazers. You had troublewith the bottoms; I helped. You: brown-red hair with a friend Me: brown ponytail, blackpants, blackshirt.Meant to say something. Here's my second hello. **When: Monday, December 11. Where: Salvation ary. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901298](#)

HORSESHOE LOUNGE SHUFFLEBOARD
Great chance game playing against you. Too bad we couldn't chat more. Guess the Olympic training wore off. **When: Sunday, December 10. Where: Horseshoe Lounge. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901297](#)

SOCIONICS ON BUS
You: reading a book about a parachute on the bus. I was on my way to DWI class. You acted wierd but cute. Write to me for more personality theories. **When: Wednesday, December 6. Where: on the bus. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901296](#)

ALAMO VILLAGE SUNDAY
You: girl seeing Holiday, reddish coat. I offered the free ticket outside, but became dumbstruck at something to say after the show so i smiled instead. Has the opportunity passed? **When: Sunday, December 10. Where: alamo village. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901294](#)

RUN-TEX RAPTURE
You: dark burgundy flannel shirt, gym pants; enlightened eyes, stunning smile; grace, presence. Me: smitten. I came back with a flower for you. Where'd you run off to? **When: Saturday, December 9. Where: Run-Tex Riverside. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901293](#)

JUDO GIRL
We talked about Mexico, judo, drunk coaches. Was going to ask for your number but got interrupted by a customer. I warmed up your muffin, you warmed up my day. **When: Sunday, December 3. Where: Cimmanons Bakery. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901292](#)

A CHRONICLE CHRISTMAS
You: Short black haired girl in light-green dress. Me: Long black haired guy in black jacket and CBGB shirt. Sat on benches out front. Shared smiles. Want to share more? **When: Friday, December 8. Where: Chronicle Christmas Party. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901291](#)

CUTEST CAFE GIRL!
You: tall, curly hair, and work mornings during the week. Me: 6'3", wear glasses, and order chai twice a week. I just can't muster the courage to ask you out! **When: Thursday, November 30. Where: Food for Fitness (Castle Hill Gym). You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901290](#)

711 KOENIG/BURNET
it's still cold in there - don't freeze. but you do seem warmer when i come in. hm? **When: Saturday, December 9. Where: 7/11 koenig/burnet. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901289](#)

LETICIA@WELLSFARGO
You are the most gorgeous thing I have ever seen in my life. You are my long lost love. Even after all this time, you still have my heart. **When: Wednesday, November 15. Where: Umi Sushi. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901288](#)

NORTHCROSS/ NOWALMART MEETING
You: standing near door. Blazer, dark shirt, warm eyes. Me: jeans, red wool coat. Sitting on floor to left w/girlfriends, acting punchy. Coffee/lunch at one of our fine neighborhood establishments? **When: Thursday, November 30. Where: Northcross / No Walmart Meeting. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901287](#)

TECHRIDGE HEB 12/04
You in the household cleaners aisle, with brown hair, jeans and flannel shirt, me in jeans and sweatshirt with salt/pepper hair, we smiled in the aisles...can we talk? **When: Monday, December 4. Where: Techridge HEB. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901286](#)

SUPER-CEREBRAL, PASSIONATE, SILLY...
I was hopelessly enticed by your craigslist post. I think our frontal lobes would get along splendidly. Hit me up so we can share our massive brains (and maybe more)! **When: Wednesday, December 6. Where: craigslist. You: Woman. Me: Man.** [#901284](#)

THUNDERCLOUD BIKE BUILDER
Wed. Dec 6-lunch. Thundercloud S.lamar and treadwell. you: build bike frames were wearing a green sweater. i have a flat tire and wish i would have talked to you longer. **When: Wednesday, December 6. Where: Thundercloud S.Lamar and Treadwell. You: Man. Me: Woman.** [#901283](#)

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](#)

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FREE WILLASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for December 15 - December 21

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): “The thing that makes you exceptional is inevitably that which must also make you lonely,” said playwright Lorraine Hansberry. I agree. That’s why my exuberant advice for you this week is also cautionary. According to my reading of the omens, in 2007 you will have unprecedented opportunities to cultivate and express the special talents that make you so unique. To get to the root of them, though, you’ll have to be willing to get less of the approval and appreciation you’d ideally like to have. You may not have to be relentlessly solitary, but you will have to be vigorously independent.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): “Harper’s Index” says the U.S. government spends more than twice as much on military defense than do Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran combined. The aggregate population of those four countries, on the other hand, is five times larger than America’s 300 million people. One might reasonably conclude, therefore, that while the U.S. has a right to safeguard itself, its glut of weaponry is absurdly extreme. I’m not definitively asserting, Capricorn, that you, too, are overinvested in defending and protecting your interests, but the astrological omens suggest it’s a possibility. Please look into it. In any case, consider freeing up some of your contracted, fearful energy and directing it toward more pleasurable and constructive goals.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Some Christians believe Jesus will come back to fix this corrupt world. Certain Jewish sects propose that the messiah will soon appear on earth for the first time. Among Muslims, many predict the legendary 12th Imam will return and bring salvation to humanity. In India, devotees of Vishnu expect the avatar Kalki to arrive on the scene and carry out a miraculous redemption. Even the Buddhists prophesy Maitreya, the chosen one who’ll establish universal peace. Personally, I suspect that the whole point of our spectacularly confounding moment in history is that each of us must become our own savior. The coming year will be an excellent time, Aquarius, for you to master the art of doing just that: being your own savior. And it all starts now. (p.s. You can perform a great service by being a role model for those who haven’t yet figured out how to be their own saviors.)

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): In Cracker’s hit song “Where Have Those Days Gone,” singer David Lowery recounts a road trip he made through his old haunts in California. “In Mendocino County, I thought I saw Thomas Pynchon at the end of the bar,” he croons. “No, that’s just Rob Breznsy writing his astrology column.” While in the past I’ve been confused with David Duchovny, Peter Coyote, and Ry Cooder, this marks the first time I’ve been mistaken for the great novelist Pynchon. Thanks, David. Now it’s time for you Pisceans to find out what celebrity you resemble. The omens say it’s the perfect moment for you to identify with a hero, role model, or famous mover and shaker. To do so might help free your self-image from the unheroic confines it has gotten stuck in. Go here to investigate: www.tinyurl.com/c4x23.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): “Listen! I will be honest with you. I do not offer the old smooth prizes, but offer rough new prizes.” Walt Whitman wrote that in his poem “Song of the Open Road,” and now I’m saying it to you. If you expect the events of 2007 to bring you old smooth prizes, you’ll be disappointed. But if you can figure out how to change your attitude in such a way as to actually yearn for rough new prizes, you will be rewarded beyond anything you can imagine. The first hint of how true this is will arrive soon.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Drugs and alcohol need play no role in activating this week’s potentials. Your mind will just naturally inhabit what we in the consciousness industry call an “altered state.” This is very different from being sick or crazy, and it could turn out much better than being merely healthy. My advice to you? Break taboos that are no longer necessary to observe. Wander uninhibitedly in zones that have previously been off-limits. Explore the frontiers of fun. (p.s. If you try what I’m suggesting, chances are good that you’ll finally be able to scratch an itch that has been maddeningly inaccessible. But be sure you know when you’ve scratched enough.)

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): “God was a little too busy to do anything about the genocide in Darfur last weekend,” reported Fark.com a while back, “but did manage, during a snowstorm in Buffalo, to leave fallen tree limbs in the form of a crucifix on a statue of Jesus.” That’s a mean-spilled interpretation of the Divine Wow’s behavior, although it’s funny in a snarky kind of way. Your assignment in the coming week, on the other hand, is to joke about spiritual matters with a more generous attitude. It’s the prime time for you to be humorously amazed by the tricky enigmas of creation. (To see the miracle in Buffalo, go here: www.tinyurl.com/ub23.x.)

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Imagine you’re with a team of explorers in Antarctica. You’re climbing the 2,000-foot granite spire called Rakekniven that thrusts up out of the ice in Queen Maud Land. The temperature is 10 degrees below zero. There’s not a plant or animal in sight. The blinding white emptiness of the wasteland beneath you fills you with desolate reverence, alienated awe, and soaring gratitude. As far as you are from everything that normally gives you comfort, you’ve rarely felt stronger or more alive. Got that scene in your mind’s eye, Cancerian? Though you won’t experience it literally, I bet you’ll experience emotions similar to those you’d have if you did.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Your face alternately contorts with strain and breaks into beatific grins. Your body language careens from garbled jargon to melodic poetry. Your clothes make a fool of you one day and show off your inner beauty the next. Are you becoming bi-polar? Probably not. The more likely explanation is that you’re being convulsed by growing pains that are killing off bad old habits as fast as they’re creating interesting new ones. This is one of those times when you should be proud to wear a badge that says “hurts so good.”

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Here’s the bad news. Sometimes your perfectionism verges on being a sophisticated death trip – a manic compulsion to trap life inside a tight little cell where no change is allowed. Here’s the good news: You now have the power to strip away the pathological part of your perfectionism and liberate the healthy core of it. Please swear to me that you’ll figure out how to be more fluid and playful with your zeal for excellence. Spend less time running your mind in vicious circles and more time running your mind in upward spirals.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): There are three kinds of darkness: 1) pathology and evil; 2) the mysterious unknown; 3) the shadowy, unripe parts of our psyches that are on their way to becoming more interesting and useful but are still awkward and inarticulate. I believe that you can help prevent outbreaks of the first kind of darkness by developing a closer personal relationship with the second and third types. This would be a good time for you to do just that, Libra.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Scorpio actor Leonardo DiCaprio is not a big fan of looking lips. “When you think about it, kissing is pretty disgusting,” he told Britain’s *Eva* magazine. “The human mouth is one of the dirtiest things on this planet. There’s so much bacteria, slime, and trapped food.” I hope that you will not only ignore DiCaprio’s opinion in the coming months, but that you will launch a campaign to increase your commitment to kissing and all related pursuits. In my opinion, the potentials inherent in 2007 should inspire you to raise your mastery of the oral arts to a very high level. And it starts now.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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